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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, (1890.)

No. 405

## OUR GREETINGS

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ALBERT VICTOR  
OF WALES.

HAIL, Albert Victor! to this sunny land—  
In God's own time thy heritage to be!  
From mount to cape, all round from sea to sea,  
Have thy fill of the beautiful and grand.  
For, these are limned by Nature's loving hand  
O'er India's beauteous face so skilfully,—  
In hill and vale and wood-land scenery,  
It seems that here her choicest works were planned!  
The Himalaya with its crown of snow;  
And cities famed in classic song and story;  
And forests rich in sport and floral glow;  
And hoary ruins of a vanished glory;—  
All these thine eye and plastic mind invite,—  
See them, mark them—regale thy soul and sight!

Thy advent, Prince! recalls to memory  
A wizard scene: It seems but yesterday,  
Though fourteen winters since have rolled away,  
That thy illustrious sire, midst mirth and glee,  
Journey'd through Bharat's land right royally;  
And there were then such festal sights and gay,  
Such burst of love as, in his proudest day,  
Save Akbar's self, the Mogul ne'er did see!  
A splendid crown is destined to be thine,  
Of which dear India forms the brightest gem;  
And thus her hopes all fondly round thee twine,  
O Prince! whose brow will wear that diadem!  
But think who held of yore her pow'r in trust:

We greet thee, Albert Victor! and in thee,  
Thy sire and her,—fair England's Sovereign dear,  
And idol of her countless subjects here.  
These, though in faith and hope apart, agree  
In faith and hope in her most perfectly,—  
In her, the Queen of queens, with scarce a peer—  
Both in her regal and her household sphere—  
Her sex's pride, and crown of royalty!

The highest type of Woman true and pure—

A soul of goodness—noble, spotless life,  
Victoria's name through ages will endure

As paragon of Monarch—Mother—Wife:—

All true to Truth like Sita, Rama's queen,  
Nay, Truth herself in human form unseen!

We greet thee, Prince! with loyal hearts sincere!

O royal Visitor! O welcome Guest!

We press thee fondly,—press thee breast to breast,

As we embrace our nearest—dearest here!

These visits to our shore but more endear

The Throne to us; they're tokens manifest—

Sweet flow and effluence supremely blest—

Of Victoria's Imperial love and care.

The personal Majesty of England's power—

The living grace of England's throne,

Are, like the fabled *parijata* flower,

To us a hundred things to sight unknown:—

We only reek at pow'r and grace

When Royalty's own meet us face to face!

Once more we bid thee hail! O hail once more!

In thee, O Prince! thy Mother-land we greet,

Home of stern virtues as of graces sweet!

Land of the Brave! from Arthur's days of yore!

Land of the Wise! where Art and Science pour

Their richest offerings at its children's feet!

Land of the Free! where from her isled seat

Liberty guards its sea-encircled shore!

O England! mightier than Imperial Rome,

And destined still to act a nobler part,

Thy loving care has lightened India's gloom,

And breathed new life into her wither'd heart!

Let sound thy Prince's brow, and fondly twine

Our gorgeous Lily with thy Rose divine!

RAM SHARMA.

*Holloway's Pills.*—The Great Need.—The blood is the life, and on its purity our health as well as our existence depends. These Pills thoroughly cleanse the vital fluid from all contaminations, and by that means strengthen and invigorate the whole system, healthily stimulate sluggish organs, repress over-excited action, and establish order of circulation and secretion throughout every part of the body. The balsamic nature of Holloway's Pills exercises marvellous power in giving tone to debilitated and nervous constitutions. These Pills dislodge all obstructions, both in the bowels and elsewhere, and are, on that account, much sought after for promoting regularity of action in young females and delicate persons who are naturally weak, or have from some cause become so.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND COMMENTS.

THE following programme for the reception of Prince Albert Victor appeared on Monday from the Foreign Department as a Gazette Extraordinary :—

### "NOTIFICATION.

Fort William, the 30th December, 1889.

His Royal Highness the Prince Albert Victor of Wales is expected to arrive at Calcutta on Friday, the 3rd January 1890, between 3-30 and 4-30 P.M. A Royal Salute will be fired from the Ramparts of Fort William as soon as the vessel upon which His Royal Highness is embarked arrives off Prinsep's Ghât.

At 4 P.M. a deputation, consisting of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the Military Secretary, and an Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy, will wait upon the Prince Albert Victor of Wales.

At 4-30 P.M. His Royal Highness, attended by his Suite, will land at Prinsep's Ghât, under a Royal Salute from the Ramparts of Fort William. The Salute will be fired as His Royal Highness steps ashore.

A Guard of Honour, furnished by the Calcutta Volunteers, will be drawn up at Prinsep's Ghât, and a Guard of Honour of Native Infantry will be drawn up outside the Colonnade. The Pontoon will be lined by the Calcutta Naval Volunteers.

The Viceroy, attended by His Excellency's Personal Staff, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, attended by His Honour's Staff, will receive His Royal Highness on the Pontoon.

The Commander-in-Chief, the Chief Justice of Bengal, the Bishop of Calcutta, the Members of Council, the Puisne Judges of the High Court of Bengal, and the Officers noted in the margin, (i.e., Additional Members of the Council of the Governor-General, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the Bengal Legislative Council, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, Secretaries to the Government of Bengal, the Head-Quarters Staff of the Army in India, Brigadier-General Commanding the Presidency District, the Deputy Director of Indian Marine, the Commander-in-Chief's Personal Staff, the Chairman of the Corporation of the Town of Calcutta, the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, the Sheriff of Calcutta,) will be in attendance at the landing stage. The Foreign Consuls in Calcutta will also be invited to attend at the same place. The Commander-in-Chief, the Chief Justice, the Bishop, the Members of Council, and the Brigadier-General Commanding, will be presented to the Prince Albert Victor of Wales by the Viceroy.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kuch Behar, G.C.I.E., Nawab Sir Sayid Hasan Ali Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Murshidabad, Premier Noble of Bengal, and Maharaja Sir Jotintra Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I., President of the Reception Committee, will be introduced to His Royal Highness by the Viceroy.

The Prince will then receive an address from the City of Calcutta. Tickets will be issued by the Commissioner of Police to admit ladies and gentlemen to the enclosure, in such number as the space available will permit.

The route of the procession from Prinsep's Ghât to Government House will be across the Maidan by the Ellenborough Course, to the top of the Red Road, and thence to the North-East Gate of Government House. It will be lined throughout by troops under the orders of the Brigadier-General Commanding the Presidency District.

A procession will be formed at Prinsep's Ghât in the following order :—

### PROCESSION.

A Staff Officer, Presidency District.

A Troop of Native Cavalry.

The Officers of the District Staff on horseback.

The Calcutta Mounted Volunteers.

A Troop of the Viceroy's Body-Guard.

The carriage containing—

His Royal Highness the Prince Albert Victor of Wales.

His Excellency the Viceroy.

An Equerry in immediate attendance upon His Royal Highness.

An Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Viceroy.

A Troop of the Body-Guard.

The Commissioner of Police will ride at the side of the Prince's carriage.

The Viceroy's carriages containing—

Sir Edward Bradford, K.C.S.I., and others of His Royal Highness's Suite.

The Viceroy's Staff and Guests.

A Troop of Cavalry.

The procession will enter the North-East Gate of Government House. A Guard of Honour of British Infantry will be drawn up opposite the Grand Staircase of Government House.

The Body-Guard will form up on the north side of the road between the Grand Staircase and the North-West Gate.

When the Prince Albert Victor of Wales enters the North-East Gate, a Royal Salute will be fired from the Ramparts of Fort William. His Royal Highness will enter Government House by the Grand Staircase, and the ceremony of reception will be at an end.

Officers and Gentlemen wearing uniform will appear in Full Dress. Gentlemen not wearing uniform will appear in morning dress.

By order of the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council,

W. J. CUNNINGHAM,

Off. Secretary to the Government of India.

Four days after, that is on yesterday, it was carried out, in the cabalistic language of the counting house, "E. & O. E." It is a pity that the E. & O. had escaped the Argus-eye of the Master of Ceremonies.

One item of the programme forcibly reminded the public of the

classical bull of the stage direction "*Enter king and two fiddlers solus.*" Luckily, the mistake was discovered in time, and there was a strong representation of the historic element and the territorial interest on the occasion, and the great Maharajas were presented to the Prince.

THE Requisition Meeting of the Commissioners to vote Rs. 10,000 as a contribution to the Fund for the Reception and Entertainment of H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor fell through. Mr. Gasper who had given notice of the motion was not present, and the other Requisitionists who were present would not move. There was a proposition to postpone this item of business with others on the day's list, but the Chairman ruled that the business for which the meeting was specially called could not be postponed, and it must accept its fate then and there. He, however, explained that he had received intimation from a third party that the motion would not be pressed, ample funds having been raised by public subscription. The Chairman kept the meeting waiting for quarter of an hour for Mr. Gasper's appearance who was reported to be coming. But he did not shew himself at the meeting, though he could be found downstairs laughing like the boy in the fable who raised a false alarm for sport.

AS a *Fête* in honor of the Prince, Bombay will, in March next, when H. R. H. will be in that city on his way home, hold a show of the best horses in the whole of India. The classes have been divided into English through-breds; Australians and other Colonials; Arabs; Persians and Country-breds; and all sorts of Harness Horses, Hunters, Chargers and Hacks.

THE following bar anecdote is going the round :—

"The other day at the Calcutta Sessions Mr. Justice Norris addressing a boy in the dock, who had been acquitted of a serious charge observed: 'You are a nasty dirty little boy. I hope I shall never see you again.' 'Ditto' replied the urchin *sotto voce*."

We are told that the poor boy protests against the soft *sotto vocal* impeachment. He, plain little boy as he is, lays no claim to the wit and is afraid of the consequences, to himself and his kind, of the irreverence imputed to him. In point of fact, he simply mumbled, Thank ye for the appreciative compliment and the kind aspiration.

THE specially favoured of Heaven are great *ab initio*—by birth. Others manage to acquire greatness, or at least the honours and distinction and the good things of the world,

With toil of sprite, which are so dearly bought.

Others still have greatness thrust on them. These lucky ones often stumble on honours, as they feed angels, unawares. The luckiest of these adopted sons of Dame Fortune in Behar is doubtless Lala Jai Prakash Lal. For once, the frisky matron has changed her very disposition in his favour—for, during his long career, she has not changed at all. From Meaji to Manager-in-chief of a large Raj and factotum sole of a great Maharaja, is a long step—as long perhaps as the proverbial one. And he has not only maintained himself in the graces of his master, supreme over the intrigues of a court in miniature, but has advanced himself in the eyes of the rulers of his master and the country, until they raised him to the dignity of an ornamental Legislator. But the gracious Mother had not yet exhausted her marks of endearment on him. The last and queerest surprise was reserved for him by his own Province. They actually went to the extent of inventing for his special behoof a title unknown to the heraldry of aristocracy or of administration. He is now "Rai Jaiprakash Lal Bahadoor, Dewan of the Dewan of Mozufferpore." We do not know when the investiture took place, but he is reported under that name and those titles as having figured at the late meeting of the Landholders' Association at Bankipore.

THE Lieutenant-Governor proposes to exempt from assessment Beali lands in a five-year lease, if not irrigated with water from the Orissa Canals, when "Beali" is not followed by "Sarud" or any other irrigated crops in the same year.

FROM the first day of April 1890, hospital port dues, at the rate of one anna per ton, will be levied at Chittagong on all ships manned by European crews.

THE subject for Brajamohan Dutt's Prize of Rs. 40 for the year 1889-90 is "The present condition of Bengali Women." The Prize is open to all Bengalis without restriction to age. A Past winner is competent to compete—for honorable mention but not the Prize.

THE postal card first came into vogue in America in 1873, and the year's supply was 100,000,000. The Postmaster-General, U. S., has now given the contract for a four years' supply, namely, 2,000,000,000 costing 800,000 dollars. The Government makes a profit of 19,200,000 dollars for the cards will sell for 20,000,000 dollars. The cost of production now is 70 per cent. less than what it was in the year of introduction.

HARTJE BROTHERS, paper-makers, are displaying at the Pittsburg Exhibition a monster roll of paper 96 inches wide, 14 miles long and weighing 2,658 pounds. The bundle is unbroken and without a hole.

SHEIKH Hafiz Abdul Karim of Meerut has agreed to bear the cost, not exceeding Rs. 10,000, of the Mahomedan ward of the Agra Lying-in-Hospital, provided it be called after him. Here is a hint to the Disloyalists to raise enough funds for their asylum.

ACCORDING to the *World*, health is failing the Prince of Wales, and the increasing weakness depresses him the more. The *I. D. N.* knows more. It hints at other causes, unnamed.

A TECHNICAL journal gives the different theories about the production in Nature of diamonds:—

"It has been suggested that the vapours of carbon during the coal period may have been condensed and crystallised into the diamond; and again, the itacolumite, generally regarded as the matrix, was saturated with petroleum, which, collecting in nodules, formed the gem by gradual crystallisation. Newton believed it to have been a coagulated unctuous substance, of vegetable origin, and was sustained in the theory by many eminent philosophers, including Sir D. Brewster, who believed the diamond was once a mass of gum, derived from certain species of wood, and that it subsequently assumed a crystalline form. Dana and others advance the opinion that it may have been produced by the slow decomposition of vegetable material, and even from animal matter. Burton says it is younger than gold, and suggests the possibility that it may still be in process of formation, with capacity of growth. Specimens of the diamond have been found to inclose particles of gold, an evidence, he thinks, that its formation was more recent than that of the precious metal. The theory that the diamond was formed immediately from carbon by the action of heat is opposed by another, maintaining that it could not have been produced in this way, otherwise it would have been consumed. But the advocates of this view were not quite on their guard against a surprise, for some quick-witted opponent has found experiments that the diamond will sustain great heat without combustion."

RAJA Sir T. Madhav Rao has addressed the President and members of the Social Conference of 1889, Bombay, in these terms:—

"Dear Sirs,—I earnestly hope that this Social Conference will not disperse without effecting at least one most important Social Reform.

I strongly recommend the concentration of attention on what I have no hesitation in saying is the most important, the most urgent and happily the most practicable reform.

I will proceed to state what it is and offer a few remarks on it.

My knowledge, experience, study and reflection have convinced me that marriages of girls before they attain the age of 10 years should be prohibited.

That the best method of effecting the prohibition is by legislation.

The law should declare that marriages of girls before that age will not be recognised by the Civil Courts of the country unless ratified by subsequent consummation.

Many serious evils would thus be got rid of or greatly reduced.

Health and happiness would be increased and premature widowhood would be diminished.

The proposal is on the line of the least resistance. There is nothing in it contrary to the *Shastras*.

There is nothing in it contrary to custom.

It is also recommended by natural reason.

It also conforms to the natural tendency of the times.

Any hardship that the proposed law may produce would be limited to that small proportion of cases in which the marriage takes place before 10 years and is not ratified by subsequent consummation.

Even in this small proportion of cases a hardship which may arise may be expected to be mitigated by the momentum of the custom.

Any small residue of hardship must be regarded as a necessary and unavoidable evil which must be borne by a few for the benefit of the majority.

Even this residue will be a diminishing quantity.

The educated community ought to get such a law passed by making strong application to the legislature.

It would be utterly hopeless to get the uneducated masses to consent to it because they are incapable of forming a correct judgment in so important a matter."

AN architectural colossus is being raised for the accommodation of a Colossus of the Press, the *New York World*. It is to be 18 stories in height. It will house the staff, with 150 suites of splendid offices. From the pavement to the flagstaff the height is 350 ft.—or within 20 ft. of the distance from the pavement to the top of the cross of St. Paul's. In 1883, Mr. Pulitzer was almost unknown in New York. In six years, he rose to be the proprietor of the best and grandest newspaper property in the New World.

YOUNG Spirits in the guise of reeling Democritos has, we see, risen against Old Drug.

## NOTES AND LEADERETTES.

HIS Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor attends divine service to-morrow at St. Paul's. On Monday, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar entertains the Prince at dinner. Thence the royal guest crosses over the road to Belvedere, to the Lieutenant-Governor's Ball. On Tuesday, the 7th, comes off the Public Entertainment on the maidan.

THE New Year dawned in Europe with messages of peace. At the reception of the foreign diplomatic body, President Carnot took a leaf out of the book, or at any rate an epigram out of the portfolio, of the Emperor Napoleon III. He proclaimed in effect, if not in terms, the Republic is Peace: And it has work enough of a civil kind on hand. King Humbert, in his reply to the Congratulations of the two Legislative Chambers, remarked that there was a time when nobody could guarantee the peace of Europe for a fortnight, but that now he was happy to say that it was assured, the rapprochement of Germany and Russia having tended to help in the maintenance of peace.

As an earnest of peace, the deputation on leaving the Quirinal was welcomed by a lighted bomb thrown by a man from the crowd in the streets. The thrower was arrested.

THE Influenza still rages. It is spreading in all directions in Germany and Austria. Many suffering from pulmonary complications have fallen victims to the epidemic. The disease has crossed over and taken Malta. London is alarmed. Lord Salisbury is confined to bed. It is satisfactory, however, that he has passed the worst stage. An unnamed donor has contributed one hundred thousand pounds for a convalescent hospital near London.

THE prophet is not honored in his own country. At the Consistory held in the Vatican on the closing day of the year just closed, Pope Leo, in his Allocution to the Cardinals, spoke of the prosperity of the Church in tolerant Canada and America and the bitter and increasing persecution she suffers in Italy. His Holiness rested the Papal claim to temporal power not on human motives but the divine purpose of preserving the Catholic faith.

THE Empress of Brazil has not long survived the turn of the wheel in the fortune of the Imperial family. She died of the gout, which at last reached the heart. The iron had already reached it.

FIREY reports come from Brussels. The palace at Lacken has been burnt down. The gallery containing invaluable pictures by the best masters, Gobelin tapestry and a fine library are all reduced to ashes. Only the royal apartments have been saved. Princess Clementine had a narrow escape, but the Governess has perished in the flames.

MR. PARNELL now figures as a co-respondent in the Divorce Court. Captain O'Shea has served a citation on him. The Agitator has been complaining like a schoolboy that the *Times* people had instigated the injured husband. Well, if he delights in the sweets of revenge, he has been amply compensated by the death of the most valuable of his enemy's men, Mr. Macdonald. The brave old Manager succumbed under the strain and worry, long continued, and, last not least, the humiliation of the collapse of the Inquiry. His office will be taken up by one of the Walters. But the vacancy caused by his death will, in a great measure, still remain.

MR. STANLEY sailed for Egypt. Emh. Pasha has had a relapse which has made the doctors exceedingly anxious.

WE read in the Gazette that

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, the Governor-General in Council exempts from the export duty to which it is liable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1882, all rice exported by sea and entered outwards for either of the French ports of Pondicherry and Karikal, or passing by land into either of these settlements.

This exemption shall commence on the 23rd day of December 1889, and shall continue in force until the 31st day of March 1890, inclusive.

(Sd.) J. F. FINLAY,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India."

The annexed letter, dated 23rd December 1889, from the Viceroy and Governor-General of British India to the Governor of the French Settlement in India, explains the reason why:—

"Your Excellency,

I have received and considered in Council Your Excellency's telegram of the 7th December requesting that, in consideration of the prolonged drought and insufficient supply of rice, the Government of India will sanction the exemption from export duty of rice shipped from British India to Pondicherry and Karikal.

I have had much satisfaction in complying with this request, and I enclose for Your Excellency's information copy of a notification No. 3023 dated the 23rd instant giving effect to this decision.

I have caused instructions to be issued to the Collectors of customs at ports in British India to supply Your Excellency's Government with notice of all rice shipped for French ports without payment of duty. I have the fullest confidence that the necessary measures will be taken under order of Your Excellency to prevent rice being shipped or transhipped at Pondicherry or Karikal without payment of duty.

Accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Sd.) LANSDOWNE."

SIR R. B. D. Morier, Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has warned English workmen and other persons against taking employment in Russia without formal written agreements with their employers. The documents should be executed before a notary, whose signature ought to be certified by a Russian Consular officer; an attestation as required by Article 485 of the Russian Code of Judicial Procedure, made by a Russian Consular or diplomatic authority, to the effect that such agreements are drawn up in accordance with the law of the country where they are executed, should in each case be attached.

Unless the precaution is taken to observe strictly the formalities required by Russian law in these matters, foreigners may be unable to enforce their rights in Courts of Justice in Russia, should a necessity arise for recourse to legal proceedings.

BY a Convention between Her Majesty and the President of the French Republic for the Exchange of Postal Money Orders between France and certain British colonies, signed in Paris on 21st September 1887, and ratifications being exchanged in Paris 29th July 1889, remittances of money may be made by means of Post office Money Orders between France and Algeria on the one hand, and certain British Colonies on the other; the postal administrations of the United Kingdom and France having power to determine by mutual consent the list of British Colonies to which in their relations with France the provisions of the present convention shall be applicable.

The convention provides that no Money Order may exceed the limit of amount fixed for the exchange of Money Orders between the United Kingdom and France.

A GENTLEMAN of experience, who recently visited the Colony of New South Wales, estimates that about 38 million odd sheep, or a million more than in the year previous, will be shorn during the present season, but that there will be a large falling off of lambs shorn. The total clip is expected to be about equal to that of the year 1888.

AN official report from the Cape of Good Hope shews that the exports of rough and uncut diamonds from the several divisions of Griqualand West during the month of August last were as follows:—

From the division of Barkly West, nil; from the division of Kimberley, 240,638¼ carats, of a declared value of £387,886 7s. 5d.; and the divisions of Hay and Herbert, nil.

A LAW has been passed in the Colony of Natal, for the admission into the Colony free of customs duty of the following articles:—

Materials required for the construction and maintenance of railways, telegraphs, bridges, and other public works in the Orange Free State and the South African Republic. The term materials for the maintenance of telegraphs shall be held to include printed forms for telegrams.

Artillery required for the use of the Government of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic.

LORD LANSDOWNE has made up for the silence with which Government has accepted the retirement of Justice Romesh Chunder, Mitter from the Bench of the High Court. In a handsome autograph letter his Lordship regrets the loss of the Baboo's services and the reasons which had enforced the severance. He had hoped that the furlough would set him right. He had delayed writing, pending the receipt of orders from Home regarding the knighthood which he had recommended.

MR. J. H. S. COTTON retires before his time from the commissioner-ship of the Calcutta Municipality, retaining such control over it as his position in the Secretariat allows. Sir Henry Harrison's reign is also drawing to a close.

THE legislative session in Bengal will be a short one. Would that it might be a sweet one, into the bargain! The only measure of any importance is the amendment of the Calcutta Port law. Whether there is to be any new cess or not, there is no mention of it in the President's statement of the course of business. We hope no mine will be sprung. The Maharaja of Durbhunga has already sounded the note of alarm.

THE Magistrate of the 21-Pergannahs notifies that the Zemindari Dāk Tax in the district for the year 1890-91 has been fixed at the rate of eight annas per cent. per annum on the sudder jumma of estates paying a revenue amounting to Rs. 5 and upwards, and payable in two instalments—on the 1st June and 16th December 1890. With the modern development of the Post office, is the tax still needed? Does the tax now yield any return to the Zemindars? When rents and revenues can be paid through the Post office, is it not time to do away with this tax?

THE *Deccan Standard* reminds the public of the antecedents of Mr. Seymour Keay in Hyderabad politics. Before he helped Salar Jung the father in bringing the Nizam's claims to the Berars forward, Mr. Keay had unearthed the Commercial Treaty of 1802 between the East India Company and Asuf Jah. The first article of that treaty cedes to His Highness the free use of the seaport of Masulipatam, with the privilege of establishing a commercial factory and agents at the place. Article 3 provides for free transit between the territories of the high contracting powers of all articles being the growth, produce or manufacture of each respectively. That treaty had never been abrogated, but in the absence of commercial enterprise it had lain a dead letter. Mr. Keay attempted to promote commerce and do himself good under its terms. He purchased the buildings of the old Hospital and Workshops of Masulipatam and imported a cargo. But he was not allowed by the British Collector to land his goods duty free. At last, he paid under protest. Mr. Keay doubtless appealed to the Government of India, and we believe some correspondence took place between the two States, without any relief. Now the baffled merchant is a member of Parliament, he will doubtless bring his grievance before the House of Commons.

THE Raja of Faridkot criminally sued the proprietor and editor of the *Delhi Punch* for libel, the said *Punch* having called the Raja an adherent of Dhulip Singh and otherwise abused him. After the laying of the information, the proprietor-editor apologized, laying his turban at the Raja's feet, and published the apology in twenty different newspapers in the Punjab. The Raja, however, would not accept it, and the Assistant Commissioner of Lahore has imposed on the luckless journalist a fine of Rs. 1,000 with the alternative of three months' imprisonment. The fine was paid down. Was the Raja too anxious to prove that he was no *Arkan e-Daulat* of Dhulip Singh? Whatever he may be or may not be, he is a trifle too litigious for a Sikh ruler.

WE are sorry to hear that warrants have issued against the *Phoenix* of Karachi to answer a charge of libel against the Superintendent of the Shikarpore Jail. The *Phoenix* is one of our best papers, not only for ability and independence and courage, but also for temper and moderation. Such a journal is a possession and a power on such straggling frontiers and in such obscure provinces. We are all liable to err, specially under the difficult conditions on which the Press is conducted in this country. But if it has unwittingly done any injustice, we are sure our contemporaries will be ready to make the *amende honorable*. If it decide to fight the matter out, we trust it will be supported by the public, not only with funds if required—but also and above all with reliable evidence.



In the list of engagements of the Royal guest given at the outset of our Notes, &c., we forgot to add that on Wednesday the Lieutenant-Governor gives a Garden Party at 4 o'clock "to have the honour of meeting their Excellencies the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne and H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor of Wales." The same evening there will be a ball at Government House.

HIS Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales had an easy passage from Rangoon. He came in one of Mackinnon Mackenzie's steamers, the *Kristina*. He had arrived at Bombay in an ordinary despatch crowded with other passengers. But in these Eastern waters from the Coromandel to the Irrawady he has been sailing like a Prince indeed, thanks to old Mr. Mackinnon and the British India Steam Navigation Company. It is said that in return for his baronetcy, and possibly with an eye to the future, that gentleman had ordered one of the Company's steamers to be overhauled and newly done up, with fittings and furniture to match, suited to the convenience and comfort of a European Prince and filled with provisions and wines and stores, and placed free at the service of His Royal Highness. The P. and O. had better look out. It is this vessel that conveyed the Prince from Madras to Burma and that brought him over on Friday afternoon.

The Reception of the Prince was enthusiastic and impressive. The whole country went out to meet the Sovereign's grandchild. The scene at the Landing at Prinsep's Ghat was brilliant in colour and dazzling with jewels. Under cover, it might have been more imposing and certainly kind towards the loyal magnates and men assembled. As it was, all who did not carry a pavilion of sola or felt on their heads were baked under a slow fire. The Police arrangements were good, and no complaints have reached us of the behaviour of the Police.

Everything was very near being in peril from the blunder in the Foreign Office arrangements announced in a *Gazette Extraordinary* on Monday. In those arrangements, the chief contributors to the scenic effect and political significance of such occasions had been forgotten. As well might you eliminate the part of the Prince of Denmark from the play of Hamlet! Such a thing could occur only among rulers who live islanded in a sort of hostile camp in the midst of the subject population. Perhaps they are lucky for being isolated; they therefore have missed some very unpleasant articulate sounds during three or four days. And no wonder that comments more forcible than parliamentary should be made when the highest in the land were formally excused and disgraced by a public Bull—bull indeed in every sense. That programme was an insult on the country through its hereditary Chiefs. It was preposterous, and creditable to neither side, that at the first reception of the Royal guest at the metropolis of the British Empire in Asia, there should be no more than three native magnates to lend weight to the occasion and be presented to His Royal Highness. The pointed exclusion of great Chiefs—representatives of Houses which were powers before the British leaped from their factory to the throne and which, from their revenues and their influence over the people, are still political factors not to be despised—justly caused them pain and amazed the country. It was a sorry return for the active loyalty with which, at no small sacrifice of time, ease, even in some cases health, as well as money, they came to the capital and initiated or supported the measures for giving a fitting welcome and entertainment to the illustrious visitor. And to be left in the lurch by those who are ever ready to advance new men and to hug to the bosom adventurers and intriguers, that was the most unkindest cut of all. But all's well that ends well. The grievance was removed just in time, and the threatened *piasco* prevented.

We hope the Entertainment Committee will be warned by the past. We see their invitations are not yet out, while rumours are afloat that these will be confined to subscribers or offered for sale. There should be no nonsense of the kind. The wellknown families and men of respectability and position in town and country now present should all be invited.

THE Tipperah Prince's Evening Party on Monday was a remarkable success. The arrangements were wise, and no expense was spared. We had been apprehensive only on the score of accommodation, but the invitations were judiciously limited and the unapologised for absence of the Calcutta upstarts—the Baboos and Raja-Baboos and Baboo-Rajas—still farther lightened matters, and allowed those who attended ample space to move about and breathe. Then there was no end of champagne spilled to put the guests at their ease and in an enjoying frame of mind. Sir Stewart Bayley was punctual to the

minute and remained for more than an hour. The Europeans present included such men as the Hon'ble Messrs. Scoble and Hutchins, the Hon'ble Sir Charles Paul, Sheriff Turner, Secretary Cotton, Private Secretary Lyon, Major Shadwell (Secretary to the Board of Examiners) Capt. Petley, (Port Officer), Mr. Underwood, Mr. Sandys, and Mr. Caddy. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar, attended by his Private Secretary, Mr. Bignold, the Maharaja of Durbhunga, the Maharaja of Bettia, and the Maharaja of Soosung with his heir, came and enjoyed themselves. The Maharaja of Vizianagram sent his Private Secretary to say how he could not come. The pick of the House of Oudh headed by Prince Jehan Kudr, and of the descendants of Tipoo Sultan headed by Prince Rohimooddeen and Prince Buktiyar Shah, Prince Iskandar Kudr (son of the late Nawab Nizam), Nawab Syedooddeen Ahmed Khan of Loharoon, and Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadoor strongly represented the Mahomedan element. The Ghosals of Kidderpore, the Tagores of Jorasanko, the Dutts of Wellington Square, and other families in town too were represented. There were such men as Lala Bun Behari Kapoor, Mr. P. L. Roy, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, Mr. R. D. Mehta, Mr. A. C. Chowdry, Babu Nirunjun Mookerjee, Moulvi Serajool Islam Khan Bahadur, and others. The Natches given were of the best, but the Europeans understood the conjuring tricks better. The guests all enjoyed themselves, the more enthusiastic sitting up at the singing and dancing till morning.

#### THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

##### ORDER OF THE BATH.

The Queen has been pleased to give orders for the following promotion in the Most Honourable Order of the Bath:—

To be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders of the said Most Honourable Order, viz:—

The Honourable Lieutenant-General George Tomkyns Chesney, C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E., Royal Engineers, Member of the Council of the Governor-General.

##### STAR OF INDIA.

His Excellency the Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India is pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India has been graciously pleased to make the following appointments to the said Order:—

##### To be Companions.

William Mackworth Young, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, Second Financial Commissioner in the Punjab.

Colonel George Edward Langham Somerset Sanford, C. B., Royal Engineers, Inspector-General of Military Works.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Warburton, Bengal Staff Corps, Political Officer in the Khyber.

##### INDIAN EMPIRE.

##### To be a Knight Commander.

Sir Roper Lethbridge, Knight, C.I.E., M. P.

##### To be an Extra Knight Commander.

Major-General Sir George Stewart White, V.C., K.C.B., Commanding the Quetta District.

##### To be Companions.

Sardar Bhagat Singh, Member of the Kapurthala State Council.

Colonel William Merriman, Royal Engineers, Superintending Engineer, West of India Coast Defences.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Percival Tomkins, Royal Engineers, Superintending Engineer, Military Works, in Beluchistan.

Colonel William Arthur James Wallace, Royal Engineers, Director of the North-Western Railway, and Commandant of the 3rd Punjab (North-Western Railway) Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Henry Bidewell Grigg, Esq., M.A., Madras Civil Service, Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Berthold Ribbentrop, Esq., Inspector-General of Forests.

Brigade Surgeon George King, M.B., F.R.S., Indian Medical Service, Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta.

Langton Prendergast Walsh, Esq., Acting Second Assistant Political Resident at Aden, lately Assistant Political Resident at Zaila.

Henry Paul Todd-Naylor, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, Deputy Commissioner of the Magwe District, Burma.

##### KNIGHTHOOD.

Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on the undermentioned gentlemen:—

The Hon. Frank Forbes Adam, C.I.E., Additional Member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay for making Laws and Regulations, lately Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

Romesh Chunder Mitter, Esq., lately Puisne Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

##### MAHARAJA BAHADUR.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General is pleased to confer the title of Maharaja Bahadur as a personal distinction upon:—

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I.

Maharaj Kumar Khittish Chunder Roy, of Kishnaghur in the Nuddea District.

##### MAHARAJA.

Raja Mohendro Deo Saont, of Athmullik.

##### RAJA.

Babu Run Bahadur Singh, Zemindar of Ticcarea, in the district of Gya. Babu Jyoti Prosad Gorgu, Zemindar of Maisadul, in the district of Midnapore.

##### RANI.

Srimati Bhagai-priya Barua, widow of Raj Protap Chandra Barua, Bahadur, Zemindar of Gauripur, Goalpara district.

##### NAWAB.

Sardar Mehrulla Khan, Chief of the Marri tribe. Sardar Shabaz Khan, Chief of the Bugti tribe.

## SHAMS-UL-ULAMA.

Khan Bahadur Hoshangji Janaspji Dastur, Professor of Persian in the Deccan College, Poona.

## MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA.

Pundit Ayodhya Nath Miser Samavedi, of Pota, in the district of Mozufferpore.

Pundit Krishna Singh, Thakur of Bhoar, in Tirhoot.

Pundit Kanhai Lal Jha, of Mangrauni, in the district of Darbhanga.

## KHAN BAHADUR.

Mirza Muhammad Ismail Sahib, Agent for Her Highness the Begum Sahiba, widow of the late Nawab of the Carnatic.

Maulvi Ahmad, Municipal Commissioner for the Town of Calcutta.

Sayid Muhammad Ajmal, Honorary Magistrate of Barh, in the district of Patna.

Ali Jan, Inspector of Police in the North-Western Provinces.

Sayid Zahid Husain, Deputy Collector of Muzaffernagar, in the North-Western Provinces.

Mian Ghulam Rasul, merchant, and member of the Municipal Committee of Peshawar.

Aga Ahmad, Ispahani, merchant, Consul for Persia at Rangoon.

Sayid Najm-ud-din Hussain, Inspector of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department.

We have little inclination, and certainly no space this week, to notice the peculiarities of this list. But there is at least one name which is enough to discredit the whole. A notorious Municipal Commissioner who makes his living as a small clerk or extra translator, has got a title.

## REIS &amp; RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1890.

## THE CONGRESS.

THE second day's sitting of the National Congress was resumed on the next day, the 27th December, with evidently no falling off in the attendance. The reporters in the dailies state that the number present was not in the slightest degree less than on the opening day, but the record of the proceedings shows a decided advance in liveliness. Even elements of a comical kind were not wanting to relieve the character of the deliberations. The chief business of the day was to discuss the proposal for the reform of the Legislative Councils. Before bringing it forward, the President called upon Mr. P. M. Mehta to move an address to Mr. Charles Bradlaugh. Mr. Mehta, in performing this ceremonial function, said he had truly represented the public feeling when he had spoken of Mr. Bradlaugh in the terms he did on the previous day. Telegrams and addresses had been pouring in from all parts of the country, and as it would occupy a week, if not a fortnight, to present them all, it had been decided that, instead of these, one address on behalf of the Congress should be presented to Mr. Bradlaugh, and he proposed a committee consisting of Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Adam, and himself to draft the address. His own name had of course been proposed to be added to the committee, and it was not his own doing. The Hon'ble Pundit Ajudhyanath, of Allahabad, seconded the motion, presenting, it is said, an entertaining peculiarity by his accentuation and gestures. On this motion being carried by acclamation, the President introduced the business of the day in a short speech. He said that the draft Bill had been prepared by Mr. Bradlaugh and had been circulated throughout India. It embodied in legal form what was believed to be the objects of the Congress, none of the provisions contained in it being introduced of Mr. Bradlaugh's own motion, and it was Mr. Bradlaugh's wish to ascertain upon certain important points the still more mature opinion of the people of India. These important points related to the principles upon which the Bill had been drawn, and the President thought that the best course would be to take the sense of the Congress upon these general principles first, leaving the consideration of the Bill, section by section, to be dealt with afterwards. With these introductory words, Sir William Wedderburn called upon Mr. Eardley Norton to move the resolution. Mr. Norton introduced his motion in an ambitious but unstatesmanlike harangue. He expressed his

high sense of the privilege of standing there as an accredited representative of the people before an assembly of at least two thousand accredited representatives of the people, and in the presence of men like Sir William Wedderburn and Mr. Bradlaugh. The resolution is as follows:—

"Resolved that the following skeleton scheme for the reform and reconstruction of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations and the Provincial Legislative Councils be adopted, and that the President of the Congress do submit the same to Charles Bradlaugh, Esq., M.P., with the respectful request of this Congress that he may be pleased to cause a Bill to be drafted on the lines indicated in this skeleton scheme, and introduce the same in the British House of Commons:—1. The Imperial and Provincial Legislative Councils to consist respectively of members, one-half to be elected, one-fourth to sit ex-officio, and one-fourth to be nominated by Government. 2. Revenue districts to constitute ordinary territorial units for electoral purposes. 3. All males above twenty-one years of age, possessing certain qualifications and not subject to certain disqualifications, to be voters. 4. The voters in each district to elect representatives to one or more electoral bodies, according to local circumstances, at the rate of 12 per million of the total population of the districts. Such representatives to possess certain qualifications, and not to be subject to certain disqualifications, both of which are to be settled hereafter. 5. All the representatives thus elected by all the districts in a provincial jurisdiction to elect members to the Imperial Legislature at the rate of one per every five millions of the total population of each electoral jurisdiction, and to their own provincial legislature at the rate of one per million of the said total population, in such wise that when the total number of Parsees, Europeans, Christians, Hindoos, and Mahomedans respectively are in a minority, the number elected to the Provincial Legislature shall not bear a less proportion to the total number of members elected thereto than the total number of Parsees, Christians, Hindoos and Mahomedans, respectively in such provincial jurisdiction, bears to its total population. Members of both legislatures to possess certain qualifications, and not to be subject to certain disqualifications both of which are to be settled hereafter. 6. All elections to be by ballot."

These were the great living principles of the Bill, and if they got a Bill embodying these principles passed, they introduced, he said, the thin end of the wedge, and that it would become the great Magna Charta of the legislation of the people. Mr. Norton then argued in support of the principle of election, as well as of electoral colleges in preference to Municipalities, Local Boards, Universities, Chambers of Commerce and other associated bodies. To give the right of electing members to these bodies would, he said, amount to placing the elective powers in the hands of Government, whereas the scheme he contended for would secure popular suffrage. Pundit Ajudhyanath seconded the motion, again contributing to the entertainment of the assembly by his personal peculiarities. His muscular frame and long flowing beard are fondly dwelt upon by Congress reporters as having "lent a peculiar charm to his peculiar gesticulations and side movements." Not having been present, we cannot speak to this peculiar charm, but surely there cannot be any doubts as to his charming modesty. He was candid enough to acknowledge his deficient knowledge of the English language, and asked the indulgence of the audience if he failed to express his ideas, and it is a real and gratifying proof of the refinement and good feeling of the large and varied assemblage that they cheered him even when the expression of his sentiments was somewhat obscured. Some capital was made by the Pandit and other speakers of the well-known fact, namely, that these Congress meetings are not absolutely neglected by the powers. Police officers are required to keep themselves informed of these doings, and, in whatever light this action of Government may be viewed, it is by this generally known and even overlooked. Both the Pandit and Mr. Norton, however, almost electrified the entire audience by making what are called startling disclosures, amid repeated cries of "shame," of the presence of police officers at the Congress at Allahabad and Madras. As if the officers of the Peace were not only out of the pale of citizenship but perfect Pariahs. This "sensation" was succeeded by another "scene." A number of speakers next caused no small

amusement, by what we may call a lapse into political spooning. Mr. R. T. Bhore confessed that his knowledge of politics was below zero, but he believed that the influence of the Congress had thrilled native ladies in their *zenanas* who asked to be allowed to come to the Congress as delegates. What wonder some of the speakers had to be called to order for making wild digressions, not to say degrading disclosures! Indeed, with the exception of a few well-known names, the reported substance of the other speeches does not show as decided an advance in the political intelligence of the country as there may be in the numbers attending the sessions year after year, or in the frothy enthusiasm which is so unmistakably displayed. This, to be sure, is plain speaking, and sure to be very disagreeable, but as journalists we have often a painful duty to discharge. We regard all interests subordinate to those of truth, and it is only in the interests of truth that we are constrained to say that, on a great occasion like that of the reputed gathering of the best of the land, and on a question of such great and vital interest to the country as that of the reform of the legislatures, there might be more sensible and practical speaking than we have had. The only two speeches worth the name on the motion were those of the mover, Mr. Eardley Norton, and of our Babu Surendranath Banerjee, but even these have no practical value. As rhetorical exhibitions, they may pass muster, but they make no contribution to one's knowledge of the question. They do not impress, far less convince, and no business man will rise from their perusal except with the impression that they present a fine array of words but no argument. Our own views cannot naturally be otherwise than in entire harmony with the Congress in regard to this important question of the reconstitution of the legislative councils. We may not sympathise with the extravagant notions on the subject which are entertained by some of its leaders, but we acutely feel the need of reform in the present methods of legislation and the necessity of the best men of the country having a voice in its legislation. We are, however, disposed to despair of the future of our country, seeing that in preferring our demand for such reform, we have nothing better to urge, no more facts to bring forward, no stronger reasons to offer than what we find embodied in the reported speaking at the last session of the Congress of India's reputed representatives. Indeed, if the business of law making were transferred to men of no better stuff, we do not know if we should not stand up for the maintenance of the present order. The speeches have evidently been reported in an indifferent fashion, but such as the reporting may be, it sufficiently indicates the grasp, and practical-mindedness of those who delivered them amidst such enthusiastic cheering.

The principal resolution being carried, Sir William proceeded to put the clauses of the Bill, one after another, to the vote. The first two clauses as well as the last were quietly carried, but the others appear to have received more or less opposition. The third clause relating to the franchise brought up Babu Dwarkanath Ganguli, husband of Kadambini Bose, B. A., G. M. C. B., practising in Calcutta, on his legs. Mrs. Ganguli was present as a delegate in *propria persona*, to inspire her own. Babu Ganguli could scarcely remain quiet in her presence while a motion was on the tapis which excluded her sex from political representation. The fourth clause, on being put to the vote, also met with opposition, a delegate from the

body of the hall calling out that Mahomedans as a class were against it. There was, however, no formal amendment proposed, and the clause was carried. The fifth clause was received with almost a storm of opposition from the Mahomedan delegates present. The proceedings now became most disorderly, and the Chairman had to rebuke the meeting for setting such a bad example of behaviour. The clause was however passed, apparently to the dissatisfaction of those classes that form a minority of the Indian population. Thus ended the second day's Congress, and one can scarcely say that it was a satisfactory ending.

#### BENIGHTED LITERATURE.

THE other day, we noticed the blundering quotations of two favourite writers on the Anglo-Indian Press, one on the *Madras Standard* and another on the *Pioneer*. We since find, in another Madras journal, the following editorial address by way of apology for filling up the space usually reserved for leading articles, with a couple of letters, one with the feminine name "Ada" subscribed and another signed in *propria persona* by the Eurasian President Gantz, the latter occupied chiefly with the parting address of the Eurasians in 1861 to the recalled Governor Trevelyan and his reply. We print *verbatim et literatim* :—

"TO OUR READERS.

Instead of the usual editorials we are glad to find the President's Note, so full, and interesting, that we can afford to be in the rear rank, when so many interesting subjects, are brought before the public by the President, and our correspondents. We will have our say, in time, and in the future issues. We earnestly beg that our readers, will truly ponder over the weighty truths uttered by the thrice noble hearted Trevelyan. We had the whole of the Proceedings, of the various meetings, addresses, and replies bound up, in our keeping as rare treasures and we are glad, we inspired our leader, to handle the subject. We did the same, with Ricket's Examinations in Parliament, and we have other works, which require, to be reprinted, and reintroduced to the Madras Public, and especially, into the dry chambers of Officialdom, in which men talk, by the yard, and *act by the inch*.

"So icy cold, so sickly pale,

'Tis Greece, but living Greece no more,"

as Byron lamented, of Greece in his day. There was some energetic action in Madras, some 30 years ago, when we had our Moorheads, our Nortons, our Christopher Rawlinsons, Robert Comyns, and other anacates andron but Madras is a *sleepy dreamy hollow* now. *Jamais S'arrriere* never behind is a Scotch Nobleman's motto, but here we have 'fine specimen of officers,' but go round the railings of the People's Park, and you see illustrations of the fine Municipal Officers, and their energy like the crumbings of the fences. We want active working men, who can do a good day's work, for good wages, not your modern kid glove—West End gentlemen!"

That is ambitious writing, but if the Eurasians will not write more carefully and print more carefully in their recognised organ, they have little chance of conquering the world. For the credit of our friends down South, indeed, we wish we could lay all the blame on the printer. But everything in that piece of writing is peculiar, from the grammar, including punctuation, down to quotations. Apart from the taste of thrusting the editor's personality on the occasion, to advertise his private help of the most trifling kind, namely, in lending a pamphlet, we do not pretend to understand all the things in that brilliant patchwork. Are "rear" and "rare" italicised to show that, though far apart, they rhyme one with another—as though the writer presented the above as a piece of prose poetry? We may mention in passing, that the possession upon which the Editor prides himself, is by no means so rare as he fancies it to be. We could lend the pamphlet to any one who would make a proper use of it. Besides, Mr. Thomas Edwards reprinted the cream of it in the *Calcutta Review* a few years back, and again a part of it forms the appendix to his valuable memoir of Derozio, the Prince of East Indians. The writer indeed seems unable to proceed without accentuating his wit with the help of typography. Otherwise, we see no reason to italicise these words, or the phrase "act by the inch," or "hollow" with its epithets. Yes, he has a decided penchant for "epitaphs," and consequent liability to "derangement." Thus, *Sleepy Hollow* would have sufficed any other penman without interposing another adjective. Few writers who understand their business would think of retouching a trace of Irving's brush.

The motto of the Douglas family is simply *Jamais arriere*. Nor is the English poetry more correctly quoted. Where did Byron write like that? It must be in a Madras recension, if anywhere, that the absurdity occurs, namely—

So icy cold, so sickly pale,

'Tis Greece but living Greece no more.

Thus summarily is the Kohinoor disposed of—thus is the quintessence of nectar distilled—by a Grub Street genius who has missed his immortality by coming into the world after the age in which Byron's favorite Poet, Pope, flourished. Byron lamented in a different strain. It were arrant Vandalism to clip a stone, much more the cornerstone, of the Taj of Poesy. Indeed, the whole has such absolute unity and stern cohesion that it does not admit of such subtraction to any useful purpose. We are sure the reader will like it entire—the more he is familiar with it the better. Who can have too much of it?

He who hath bent him o'er the dead  
Ere the first day of death is fled,  
The first dark day of nothingness,  
The last of danger and distress,  
(Before decay's effacing fingers  
Have swept the lines where beauty lingers),  
And mark'd the mild angelic air,  
The rapture of repose that's there,  
The fix'd yet tender traits that streak  
The languor of the placid cheek,  
And—but for that sad shrouded eye,  
That fires not, wins not, weeps not, now,  
And but for that chill, changeless brow,  
Where cold obstruction's apathy  
Appals the gazing mourner's heart,  
As if to him it could impart  
The doom he dreads, yet dwells upon;  
Yes, but for these and these alone,  
Some moments, ay, one treacherous hour,  
He still might doubt the tyrant's power;  
So fair, so calm, so softly seal'd,  
The first, last look by death reveal'd!  
Such is the aspect of this shore;  
'Tis Greece, but living Greece no more!  
So coldly sweet, so deadly fair,  
We start, for soul is wanting there.  
Hers is the loveliness in death,  
That parts not quite with parting breath;  
But beauty with that fearful bloom,  
That hue which haunts it to the tomb,  
Expression's last receding ray,  
A gilded halo hovering round decay,  
The farewell beam of feeling past away!  
Spark of that flame, perchance of heavenly birth,  
Which gleams, but warms no more its cherish'd earth!

That passage in the *Giaour* is one of the finest in literature. It contains the most elaborate yet charming comparison to be found in the whole range of the world's Poesy. But what a mess has been made of it! how has it been mangled in Madras! This innocent gentleman has actually gone to the trouble of writing a line for Byron and fitting it, like a rude journeyman carpenter on the Coromandel Coast, to a line taken from the Poet at random. Such men are dangerous and should be avoided as enemies of culture.

The most extraordinary part of the matter is that the Madras journal is a lover—after its kind—of Poesy—of a sort. "Pottery" is its peculiar weakness. Not an issue appears without some exhibitions of the frenzy. Here are some typical stanzas of a wonderful lyric in the same number contributed by a favorite singer:—

As I stand alone in the verander  
What beautiful scenes I see,  
Many things over which to ponder,  
On the Banks of the Hemavaty.

In front a vast field is covered  
With valuable crops of ragi  
This field is also studded  
Here and there with a large tree.

Another sight, too, very pleasant  
On this fast field I see,  
Dark Men, and Women, the peasants  
Working amidst the ragi.

A long drain of purple hills too,  
Tho' not always purple they be,  
And a dhony boat, not very new  
Is seen on the Hemavaty.

And this kind of thing goes on, week after week. What wonder that Madras should have earned the name of "Benighted!"

## THE STANLEY EXPEDITION. LETTERS FROM STANLEY AND EMIN PASHA.

### THE MARCH TO THE ALBERT NYANZA.

A long letter from Mr. Stanley, giving a graphic description of the incidents of his final march to the Albert Nyanza, has been received by the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition. The letter is dated Aug. 5, and was written at Kaffurro, in Karagwé, a district to the west of the Victoria Nyanza. Although written in August, the letter only brings the record of Mr. Stanley's movements down to the middle of February this year. The events described thus cover a period of about six months. The letter continues the narrative from the point at which Mr. Stanley's last despatch closed. It will be recollected that, in the spring of last year, Mr. Stanley, having left one of his officers, Mr. Mountency Jephson, in company with Emin Pasha at Wadelai, and another, Lieutenant Stairs, in garrison at a fort some distance west of the Albert Nyanza, returned to pick up the shattered remnant of his rearguard. During Mr. Stanley's absence he had arranged with Emin Pasha and Mr. Jephson that they were to start from the Nyanza, with a sufficient escort and a number of porters to conduct the officers and garrison of Fort Bodo to a new station that was to be erected near Kavallis, on the south-west side of Lake Albert, by which he would be relieved of the necessity of making a fourth trip to Fort Bodo. Mr. Stanley found his rearguard at the Aruwimi in a very deplorable condition; but, having collected a large number of canoes, the goods and sick men were transported in these vessels in such a smooth, expeditious manner that there were remarkably few casualties in the remnant of the rear column.

### THE FINAL MARCH TO THE NYANZA BEGUN.

Starting on his return to the Albert Nyanza, Mr. Stanley journeyed up the Ituri (or Aruwimi) for a distance of three hundred miles by canoe. During this period he was greatly troubled by the natives. On Oct. 30, 1888, they reached a point when progress by river became too tedious and difficult, and the order to cast off the canoes was given. They were then about 160 miles from the grassland, which existed to the west of the Nyanza. Knowing the fearful nature of the country on the south bank of the river, Mr. Stanley decided to try the north bank. After two days' march they discovered a large plantain plantation in charge of the dwarfs. "The people flung themselves on the plantains to make as large a provision as possible for the dreaded wilderness ahead of us." Ten days after leaving this place another plantation was reached. Meantime small-pox had broken out among the Manyema and their followers, and the mortality was terrible. The Zanzibaris escaped owing to the vaccination they had undergone on board the *Madura*. Being now near the confluence of the Ihuru with the Ituri, and as there was no possibility of crossing the former, Mr. Stanley followed that river along its right bank, keeping a look-out for a suitable crossing. Four days after making this diversion they came across a very fine plantation of bananas and plantains. There many of the people, who had been in a state of starvation the previous fourteen days, gorged themselves with fatal results. Another six days' march in a northerly direction they came to a place where it was possible to cross. Mr. Bonny and the Zanzibar chief superintended the construction of a bridge, and the expedition crossed over, being then between two branches of the Ihura river, and in a district peopled by dwarfs. Impressing some of these as guides and following elephant and game tracks, a south-east course was struck. The country was one dense forest, and in the middle of it (it being then Dec. 9) Mr. Stanley had to halt for a forage, and as the foragers sent out were long in returning the camp was reduced to a pitiable state of starvation. At last Stanley decided to try and find the missing men, and leaving a remnant in camp under Mr. Bonny's charge, he started, and on the following day he met the foragers and returned again to the camp, which was soon afterwards broken up. Having a presentiment that the garrison at Fort Bodo had not been relieved by Emin, Stanley, steering his course regardless of paths, hit upon the western angle of the Bodo plantation, which was reached on Dec. 20. Here, as he anticipated, he found Lieutenant Stairs (with fifty-one out of fifty-nine men) who had heard or seen nothing of Emin. Taking the Bodo garrison with him, Stanley, on Dec. 23, continued his march. The united expedition, however, was soon seen to mean delay, and "having no time to dawdle," he left Stairs with 124 people at a spot to the east of the Ituri river, and with the rest of his party again continued his march eastward, reaching the open grassland in the middle of January.

### THE POSITION OF EMIN.

He was surprised to hear no news of Emin. However, on Jan. 16 he received several letters from Jephson describing how there had been a revolt on the part of the Egyptian officers against Emin, and how the Pasha and the (Jephson) were held prisoners, and also of the appearance of the Mahdists on the scene, and the fighting with them that ensued. On Jan. 18, Stanley, who had reached Kavallis (which is at the south-east corner of the Albert Nyanza), replied to these letters. He told Mr. Jephson that he (Stanley), was personally secure, having established friendly relations with the natives, but could not through



exhaustion go up the lake, but would stay at Kavallis until Jephson reached him. As to Emin, whose intentions were still uncertain, if he would come, well and good; but any way, having accomplished his mission by taking relief to Emin, and having offered to him the option of retiring, he (Stanley) would go home. On Feb. 6 Mr. Jephson arrived at Stanley's camp. Mr. Jephson told Stanley that it was sentiment which kept Emin back. He also drew up a report on affairs in Emin's province, in which he stated that Emin, after his deposition, felt himself free to think of himself alone. Mr. Jephson bore witness to the fact that he had heard unanimous praise of Emin Pasha's "justice and generosity," though it was suggested that "he did not hold his people with a sufficiently firm hand." Mr. Stanley's peremptory request that a decision should be taken, since he could not wait for an indefinite period at Kavallis, brought about a solution of the difficulty more speedily than he expected. On Feb. 13 last Emin arrived with two steamers near Stanley's camp, desiring to make arrangements for the rescue of the rest of his people, or of those, at least, who were willing to be rescued. At this point Mr. Stanley's narrative breaks off.

#### STARVATION IN THE LAND OF THE DWARFS.

The following is one of the most striking incidents in Mr. Stanley's journey. About twenty-five days from the start the traveller arrived in a land inhabited by dwarfs, where he nearly succumbed to starvation. Mr. Stanley says:—

"In this new land between right and left members of the Ihuru the dwarfs called Wambutti were very numerous, and conflicts between our rear-guard and these crafty little people occurred daily, not without harm to both parties. Such as we contrived to capture we compelled to show the path, but invariably for some reason they clung to east and east-north-east paths, whereas my route required a south-east direction, because of the flooring we had made in seeking to cross the Dui river. Finally we followed elephant and game tracks on a south-east course, but on Dec. 9 we were compelled to halt for a forage in the middle of a vast forest, at a spot indicated by my chart to be not more than two or three miles from the Ihuri river, which many of our people had seen while we resided at Fort Bodo. I quote from my journal part of what I wrote on Dec. 14, the sixth day of the absence of the foragers.

"Six days have transpired since our foragers left us. For the first four days time passed rapidly—I might say almost pleasantly—being occupied in recalculating all my observations from Ugarowwa to Lake Albert and down to date, owing to a few discrepancies here and there which my second and third visit and duplicate and triplicate observations enabled me to correct. My occupation then ended, I was left to wonder why the large band of foragers did not return. The fifth day, having distributed all the stock of flour in camp and killed the only goat we possessed, I was compelled to open the officers' provision boxes and take a pound-pot of butter, with two cupfuls of my flour to make an imitation gruel, there being nothing else save tea, coffee, sugar, and a pot of sago in the boxes. In the afternoon a boy died, and the condition of a majority of the rest was most disheartening; some could not stand, but fell down in the effort. These constant sights acted on my nerves, until I began to feel not only moral but physical sympathy as well, as though weakness was contagious. Before night a Madi carrier died, the last of our Somalis gave signs of collapse, and the few Soudanese with us were scarcely able to move. The morning of the sixth day dawned; we made the broth as usual—a pot of butter, abundance of water, a pot of condensed milk, a cupful of flour—for 130 people. The chiefs and Mr. Bonny were called to council. At my proposing a reverse to the foragers of such a nature as to exclude our men from returning with news of such a disaster, they were altogether unable to comprehend such a possibility—they believed it possible that these 150 men were searching for food, without which they would not return. They were then asked to consider the supposition that they were five days searching for food, they had lost the road, perhaps, or, having no white leader, they had scattered to loot goats, and had entirely forgotten their starving friends and brothers in camp; what would be the state of the 130 people five days hence? Mr. Bonny offered to stay with ten men in camp if I provided ten days' food for each person while I would set out to search for the missing men. Food to make a light cupful of gruel for ten men for ten days was not difficult to procure, but the sick and feeble remaining must starve unless I met with good fortune, and accordingly a stone of butter-milk, flour, and biscuits were prepared, and handed over to the charge of Mr. Bonny."

The afternoon of the seventh day mustered everybody, besides the garrison of the camp—ten men. Sadi, the Manyema chief, surrendered fourteen of his men to doom; Kibbo-bora, another chief, abandoned his brother; Fundi, another Manyema chief, left one of his wives and a little boy. We left twenty-six feeble sick wretches already past all hope, unless food could be brought to them within twenty-four hours. In a cheery tone, though my heart was never heavier, I told the forty-three hunger-bitten people that I was going back to hunt up the missing men; probably I should meet them on the road, but if I did that they would be driven on the run with food to them. We travelled nine miles that afternoon, having

passed several dead people on the road, and early on the eighth day of their absence from camp met them marching in an easy fashion, but when we were met the pace was altered to a quick step, so that in twenty-six hours from leaving Stawahin camp we were back with a cheery abundance around, gruel and porridge boiling, bananas boiling, plantains roasting, and some meat simmering in pots for soup. This has been the nearest approach to absolute starvation in all my African experience. Twenty-one persons altogether succumbed in this dreadful camp.

#### THE REVOLUTION IN EMIN'S PROVINCE.

Mr. Stanley gives several extracts from Mr. Jephson's letters detailing the course of events in the Equatorial Province from April 1888 to January 1889. During that period many momentous events occurred.

Writing to Mr. Stanley on Nov. 7, 1888, from Dufflé (a station on the Nile to the north of Wadelai), Mr. Jephson says:—"On Aug. 18 a rebellion broke out here, and the Pasha and I were made prisoners. The Pasha is a complete prisoner, but I am allowed to go about the station, but my movements are watched. The rebellion has been got up by some half-dozen Egyptians—officers and clerks—and gradually others have joined, some through inclination, but most through fear; the soldiers, with the exception of those at Labore, have never taken part in it, but have quietly given in to their officers.

"When the Pasha and I were on our way to Regaf, two men, one an officer—Abdul Vaal Effendi—and then a clerk went about and told the people that they had seen you, and that you were only an adventurer and had not come from Egypt, that the letters you had brought from the Khedive and Nubar Pasha were forgeries, that it was untrue Khartoum had fallen, and that the Pasha and you had made a plot to take them, their wives, and children out of the country and hand them over as slaves to the English. Such words in an ignorant and fanatical country like this acted like fire among the people, and the result was a general rebellion, and we were made prisoners.

"The rebels then collected officers from the different stations and held a large meeting here to determine what measures they should take, and all those who did not join in the movement were so insulted and abused that they were obliged for their own safety to acquiesce in what was done. The Pasha was deposed, and those officers who were suspected of being friendly to him were removed from their posts and those friendly to the rebels were put in their places. It was decided to take the Pasha as a prisoner to Regaf, and some of the worst rebels were even for putting him in irons, but the officers were afraid to put their plans into execution as the soldiers said they would never permit any one to lay a hand on him. Plans were also made to entrap you when you returned and strip you of all you had.

#### APPEARANCE OF THE MAHDISTS.

"Things were in this condition when we were startled by the news that the Mahdi's people had arrived at Lado with three steamers and nine sandals and nuggets, and had established themselves on the site of the old station. Omar Sali, their general, sent up three Peacock Dervishes with a letter to the Pasha demanding the instant surrender of the country. The rebel officers seized them and put them in prison, and decided on war. After a few days the Mahdists attacked and captured Regaf, killing five officers and a number of soldiers, and taking many women and children prisoners, and all the stores and ammunition in the station were lost. The result of this was a general stampede of people from the stations of Bidden, Kirri, and Muggi, who fled with their women and children to Labore, abandoning almost everything. At Kirri the ammunition was abandoned and was at once seized by the natives. . . . Had this rebellion not happened the Pasha could have kept the Mahdists in check for some time; but as it is he is powerless to act."

#### EMIN LIBERATED.

In another letter Mr. Jephson, writing from Wadelai on Nov. 24, says:—"Shortly after I had written to you, the soldiers were led by their officers to attempt to retake Regaf; but the Mahdists defeated them, and killed six officers and a large number of soldiers; among the officers killed were some of the Pasha's worst enemies. The soldiers in all the stations were so panic-stricken and angry at what had happened that they declared they would not attempt to fight unless the Pasha was set at liberty; so the rebel officers were obliged to free him, any sent us to Wadelai, where he is free to do as he pleases; but at present he has not resumed his authority in the country—he is, I believe, by no means anxious to do so.

"Our danger, as far as the Mahdists are concerned, is, of course, increased by this last defeat; but our position is in one way better now, for we are farther removed from them and we have now the option of retiring if we please, which we had not before while we were prisoners."

#### THE MAHDISTS DEFEATED.

A third letter from Mr. Jephson, written from Tunguru on Dec. 18 reports:—"On Nov. 25 the Mahdists surrounded Dufflé Station, and besieged it for four days. The soldiers, of whom there were about 500, managed to repulse them, and they retired to Regaf, their headquarters. They have sent down to Khartoum for rein-

forcements, and doubtless will attack again when strengthened. In our flight from Wadelai the officers requested me to destroy our boat (the *Advance*). I therefore broke it up. Duffé is being renovated as fast as possible. . . . The Pasha is unable to move hand or foot, as there is still a very strong party against him, and the officers are no longer in immediate fear of the Mahdists. . . . As soon as we hear of your arrival, I will come to you. I will not disguise the fact from you that you will have a difficult and dangerous work before you in dealing with the Pasha's people."

#### MR. STANLEY ON EMIN'S ATTITUDE.

"To these letters from Mr. Jephson Mr. Stanley wrote a formal reply. He also sent a private note to Mr. Jephson, from which we quote the following passages :—

"I have read your letters half a dozen times over, but I fail to grasp the situation thoroughly, because in some important details one letter seems to contradict the other. In one you say the Pasha is a close prisoner, while you are allowed a certain amount of liberty; in the other, you say that you will come to me as soon as you hear of our arrival here, and 'I trust,' you say, 'the Pasha will be able to accompany me.' Being prisoners, I fail to see how you could leave Tunguru at all. All this is not very clear to us, who are fresh from the bush. If the Pasha can come, send a courier on your arrival at our old camp on the lake below here, to announce the fact, and I will send a strong detachment to escort him up to the plateau, even to carry him if he needs it. I feel too exhausted after my 1,300 miles of travel since I parted from you last May to go down to the

lake again. The Pasha must have some pity for me. I want to help the Pasha somehow, but he must also help me, and credit me. If he wishes to get out of this trouble, I am his most devoted servant and friend, but if he hesitates again I shall be plunged in wonder and perplexity. I could save a dozen Pashas if they were willing to be saved. I would go on my knees to implore the Pasha to be sensible in his own case. He is wise enough in all things else, even his own interest. Be kind and good to him for many virtues, but do not you be drawn into the fatal fascination Soudan territory seems to have for all Europeans of late years. As soon as they touch its ground they seem to be drawn into a whirlpool which sucks them in and covers them with its waves. The only way to avoid it is to obey blindly, devotedly, and unquestioningly all orders from the outside. The committee said, 'Relieve Emin Pasha with this ammunition. If he wishes to come out, the ammunition will enable him to do so; if he elects to stay it will be of service to him.' The Khedive said the same thing, and added, 'but if the Pasha and his officers wish to stay, they do so on their own responsibility.' Sir Evelyn Baring said the same thing in clear and decided words; and here I am, after 4,100 miles of travel, with the last instalment of relief. Let him who is authorised to take it, take it. Come; I am ready to lend him all my strength and wit to assist him. But this time there must be no hesitation, but positive yea or nay, and home we go. Yours very sincerely,

"HENRY M. STANLEY.

"A. J. Mounteney Jephson, Esq."

### THE 10th ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING

of the Commissioners of Calcutta,  
WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 9th January 1890,  
at 3 P.M.

#### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To consider the deviation of a portion of original line of Central Road from Puggypetty Street to Baboo Lal's Lane as suggested by the people of Burrâ Bazar and the Jain community.
2. To confirm the proceedings of the Central Road Committee at Meetings held on the 9th and 12th December 1889.
3. To consider the Resolution passed by the General Committee at their Meeting held on the 2nd September 1889 to the effect that, under the present circumstances of the Municipality, it is not expedient to contribute any funds towards the support of the Public Library.
4. To confirm the proceedings of the General Committee at Meetings held on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th December 1889.
5. Mr. Swinhoe to move that the gradation pay of the Assessors for the Suburbs be fixed at Rs. 250 rising to Rs. 350 in lieu of from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300.
6. To confirm the proceedings of the Suburban Improvement Committee at Meetings held on the 3rd, 17th and 27th December 1889.
7. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee at Meetings held on the 10th and 17th December 1889.
8. To confirm the proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Committee appointed to prepare an Address to Prince Albert Victor on his arrival in Calcutta.
9. To confirm the proceedings of the Bustee and Town Improvement Committee at a Meeting held on the 28th August 1889.
10. To confirm the proceedings of the Complaint Committee at Meetings held on the 25th September, 13th November and 4th and 18th December 1889.

At the close of the Ordinary Meeting,

A SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD.

1. Granting application of Methoora Kanto Shaw for a license to store jute at Nos. 78 and 79 Sobha Bazar Street.
2. Granting application of Tannath Banerjee for a license to store jute at No. 25 Buddree Dass' Temple Street.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation

2nd January, 1890.

### H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR RECEPTION FUND.

The Executive Committee, empowered in that behalf at the Meeting held at the Rooms of the British Indian Association on the 14th December, 1889, invite public subscriptions for the purpose of giving a fitting Reception and Entertainment to His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor on the occasion of his visit to Calcutta.

The Executive Committee have the pleasure to acknowledge the following subscriptions :—

	R. A. P.
Amount previously advertised	66,243 0 0
Maharaja Grijanath Roy of Dinaj-pore	1,000 0 0
The Hon. Raja Rameswar Singh of Durbhanga	500 0 0
Babu Gopal Lall Seal	500 0 0
Rai Boodh Singh Bahadur and Rai Bissenchand Bahadur	250 0 0
Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C.S.I.	200 0 0
Baboo Bejoy Kissen Mookerjee	100 0 0
Babu Jagat Kishore Acharjeeya Chowdhury	200 0 0
Babu Omirto Narain Acharjiya Chowdhury	50 0 0
Pundit Sarajanunda Ojha of Baidyanath	150 0 0
Coomar Radhapersad Roy	150 0 0
Prince Kamur Kudr Mirza Bahadur	100 0 0
Kumar Dowlat Chunder Roy	100 0 0
Sir John Edgar, K.C.I.E.	100 0 0
Hon. F. B. Peacock	100 0 0
Hon. Justice Wilson	100 0 0
Babu Mahamoh Persad Singh, son of Rai Gangapersad Singh Bahadur of Durbhanga	100 0 0
Krishna Chunder Roy Chaudry of Choorawur	100 0 0
Babu Ram Chard Goondka	100 0 0
Rai Meekraj Bahadur	100 0 0
Babu Troyluckhonath Biswas	100 0 0
Babu Kunja Lall Banerjee	60 0 0
Babu Issur Chunder Mitter	60 0 0
Lalla Bun Behary Kapur	50 0 0
Shah Mohuddin Ahmed Sajjada Nishun of Sassem	50 0 0
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	Rs. A. P.
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Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd	50 0 0
Messrs. J. M. Edmonds and Co.	25 0 0
His Grace the Archbishop of Calcutta and the Catholic Priest	100 0 0
The poor Catholics of Calcutta	100 0 0
E. Gay, Esq.	100 0 0
Dr. McConnell	50 0 0
Babu Okhil Chunder Mookerjee	50 0 0
Babu Narendra Nath Mookerjee	50 0 0
Col. R. C. B. Pemberton, R.E.	50 0 0
Col. Conway Gordon, R.E.	25 0 0
Col. C. W. J. Harrison, R.E.	25 0 0
Col. Mallock	25 0 0
Babu Madoosuddun Doss	50 0 0
W. H. Ryland, Esq.	50 0 0
Babu Shib Chunder Nundy	50 0 0
Babu Issen Chunder Mitter	32 0 0
Robt. Turnbull, Esq.	32 0 0
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Babu Nundo Lall Mullick	50 0 0
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Rai Babu Thakoormoni Singh Bahadur of Sukpore	50 0 0
Babu Sitanath Dass	25 0 0
W. T. Woods, Esq.	25 0 0
Babu Kisori Lall Goswami	25 0 0
Babu Jogendro Narain Acharjiya Chowdhury	25 0 0
A. Macdonald, Esq.	25 0 0
E. J. Martin, Esq.	25 0 0
Small sums	172 0 0
Total	74,574 0 0

Further subscriptions are solicited.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Calcutta,  
30th December, 1889.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

As the time available to the Committee is very short, subscribers who have not already done so will greatly oblige the Committee by kindly sending in their subscriptions to the Honorary Secretaries.

At the closing of the account, subscriptions will be acknowledged by advertisement in the Newspapers.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.  
Calcutta, 30th Dec. 1889.

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NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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CALCUTTA.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

## THE

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1890.

No. 406

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE FAR FAR EAST.

IT was a dream of early years, the longest and the last,  
And still it lingers bright and lone amid the dreary past ;  
When I was sick and sad at heart, and faint with grief and care,  
It threw its radiant smile athwart the shadows of despair :  
And still when falls the hour of gloom upon this wayward breast,  
Unto the Far Far East I turn for solace and for rest.

I feel as if some former birth (as Hindoo sages tell)  
Had given my migrant soul within these realms of light to dwell ;  
And now that, ever and anon, when vexed with strife and pain,  
It struggles through the mists of time, and wanders home again :  
For still in pious reverence to her I bow the knee,  
As if indeed the Far Far East a mother were to me.

Sure 't is the form I worshipped then which haunts my memory now,  
To mock with fairy light my dreams, and flush my pallid brow ;  
Sure 't is the hand I then did grasp in friendship's holy strain,  
For which this cold and selfish clime I search, and search in vain :  
Alas ! nor heart nor hand like these I meet where'er I rove,  
And in the Far Far East lie hid man's faith and woman's love.

Oh for the morning's swiftest wings to bear me as I flee !  
Oh for the music of the waste, wild winds and moaning sea !  
Oh to behold yon Western sun sink in his bloody grave,  
And a new day-spring rise for me upon the desert wave !  
Oh to throw off this coil of thought, and care, and grief, and pain,  
And in the Far Far East to be a joyous child again !

### THE EMANCIPATION OF THE SUBJECT SEX.

#### THE LAMENT OF THE WESTERN WORLD.

Confusion has seized us, and all things go wrong ;  
The women have leaped from "their spheres,"  
And, instead of fixed stars, shoot as comets along,  
And are setting the world by the ears !  
In courses erratic they're wheeling through space,  
In brainless confusion and meaningless chase.

In vain do our knowing ones try to compute  
Their return to the orbit designed ;  
They're glanced at a moment, then, onward they shoot,  
And are neither "to hold nor to bind ;"  
So freely they move in their chosen ellipse,  
The "Lords of Creation" do fear an eclipse.

They've taken a notion to speak for themselves,  
And are wielding the tongue and the pen ;  
They've mounted the rostrum, the termagant elves,  
And, O horrid, are talking to men !  
With faces unblanched in our presence they come  
To harangue us, they say, in behalf of the dumb.

They insist on their right to petition and pray ;  
That St. Paul, in Corinthians, has given them rules  
For appearing in public ; despite what those say  
Whom we've trained to instruct them in orthodox schools.  
But vain such instruction, if women may scan  
And quote texts of Scripture to favor their plan.

Our grandmothers' learning consisted of yore  
In spreading their generous boards ;  
In twisting the distaff, or mopping the floor,  
And obeying the will of their lords.  
Now, *misses* may reason, and think, and debate,  
Till unquestioned submission is quite out of date.

Our wise men have tried to exorcise in vain  
The turbulent spirits abroad ;  
As well might we deal with the fetterless main,  
Or conquer ethereal essence with sword ;  
Like the devils of Milton they rise from each blow,  
With spirit unbroken insulting the foe.

Could we but array all our force in the field,  
We'd teach these usurpers of power  
That their bodily safety demands they should yield,  
And in presence of manhood should cower ;  
But, alas ! for our tethered and impotent state,  
Chained by notions of knighthood—we can but debate.

Oh ! shade of the prophet Mahomet, arise !  
Place woman again in "her sphere,"  
And teach that her soul was not born for the skies,  
But to flutter a brief moment here.  
This doctrine of Jesus, as preached up by Paul,  
If embraced in its spirit, will ruin us all.

MARIA W. CHAPMAN.

*Holloway's Pills.*—In the complaints peculiar to females these Pills are unrivalled. Their use by the fair sex has become so constant for the removal of their ailments that rare is the household that is without them. Amongst all classes, from the domestic servant to the peeress, universal favour is accorded to these renovating Pills ; their invigorating and purifying properties render them safe and invaluable in all cases ; they may be taken by females of all ages for any disorganization or irregularity of the system, speedily removing the cause and restoring the sufferer to robust health. As a family medicine they are unapproachable for subduing the maladies of young and old.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THIS has been the Prince's Week in Calcutta. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught arrived here on Monday morning to heighten the joyous festivities. They arrived at 6-30 by the mail train but alighted an hour after. The Viceroy's Military Secretary Lord William Beresford and Aides-de-Camp with a guard-of-honour received them at the Howrah platform. They were escorted to Government House by the Viceroy's Bodyguard and a troop of Bengal Cavalry. On the steps of the viceregal palace Prince Albert Victor of Wales and Lord and Lady Lansdowne welcomed the Duke and Duchess. The Commander-in-Chief too was present. In the afternoon, the Duke and Duchess accompanied by the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne visited the Bodyguard lines at Billygunge and witnessed a polo match in which Prince Albert Victor of Wales and the Maharaja of Cooh Behar took sides. Next day, there was the public *Fête* on the Maidan. The programme announced was as follows :—

"Programme of the entertainment to be given to H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Edward of Wales, K. G., on January 7th, 1890.

I. His Excellency the Viceroy and His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor Edward of Wales will be received at 6-30 P. M. precisely at the entrance of the Reception Pavilion by a deputation consisting of the Executive Committee headed by the Chairman and composed of the following nobles and gentlemen :

## Chairman.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, K.C.S.I.

## Members.

The Hon'ble Sir W. Comer Petheram, Kt., C.J., Q.C., His Highness the Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Maharaja of Cooh Behar, G.C.I.E., His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Maharaja of Doomraon, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Maharaja of Bettiah, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga, K.C.I.E., the Maharaja of Gidhore, Prince Feroke Shah, Prince Jehan Kadr Bahadur, the Hon'ble Sir A. Wilson, Kt., Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., the Hon'ble Raja Durghachurn Law, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Syed Ameer Hossein, C.I.E., Prince Wala Kadr Hossein Ali Mirza Bahadur, Prince Khorshed Kudr Iskander Ali, Mirza Bahadur, D. Cruickshank, Esq., Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C.S.I., Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur, C.I.E., Babu Shamchurn Law, L. P. Pugh Esq., Babu Jodulal Mullick, J. Lambert, Esq., C.I.E., Rai Jaiprakash Bahadur, J. G. Apar, Esq., Babu Issur Chunder Mitter, G. H. Simmons, Esq., H. M. Rustonjee, Esq., W. H. Ryland, Esq., Babu Kunjooral Banerjee, Geo. Irving, Esq., Babu Juggunnath Khunnah, A. Acton, Esq., Babu Shew Buksh Bogla, J. E. D. Ezra, Esq., E. S. Gubboy, Esq., R. D. Mehta, Esq., W. H. Jobbins, Esq., Rai Sarat Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

## Members and Secretaries.

Babu Rajkumar Sarvadhikari, S. E. J. Clarke, Esq.

II. The Chairman will conduct His Excellency the Viceroy and His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor Edward of Wales to the dais. The Company will remain standing until the Viceregal and Royal party take their seats.

The Executive Committee will take their seats.

As the Viceregal and Royal party reach the dais the massed Bands will play the National Anthem.

III. The entertainment will commence by a Dance or Nautch by a group of dancing girls.

IV. A performance of Vocal and Instrumental Music, introducing an air upon the *Nasturanga*.

V. An exhibition of Native Jugglery.

VI. The Company will stand and keep their places whilst the Viceregal and Royal party accompanied by the Executive Committee pass out of the Reception Pavilion, and proceed to witness a scene to be performed by the Bengal Theatre Company from the play of *Sakuntala*.

VII. The Theatrical performance will be followed in order by—

An exhibition of Indian Quarter Staff play.

A Tibetan play and dance.

The famous Khuttak sword dance round the Bonfire.

VIII. A signal will be given, and the Company will resume their seats. The Viceregal and Royal Party will resume their places on the dais, the Company standing to receive them.

The Chairman of the Reception Committee will then present Garlands, *Aur* and *Pan*, after which the Chairman and the Executive Committee will conduct the Viceregal and Royal Party to their carriages. The Company will remain standing until the illustrious guests have left the Pavilion.

The massed Bands will play 'God bless the Prince of Wales.'

IX. After the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy and His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales, K. G., the amusements will be continued until 10 o'clock P.M."

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught were present and were duly honored, although they are ignored in the Programme.

On Wednesday, the Prince held a Reception—officially called informal—at Government House. The day commenced with a compliment to the Press, Babu Kaliprasanna Dey of the *National Magazine* being selected for the honour of kneeling down to His Royal Highness. Afterwards twenty chiefs and noblemen and Baboo-Rajas were presented in the following order :—

## FIRST GROUP—12 O'CLOCK.

The Maharaja of Doomraon accompanied by his Dewan, Lala

Jai Prokash Lall Rai Bahadur, who acted as interpreter; the Maharaja of Bettiah; the Maharaja of Durbhungah, the Maharaja of Gidhour.

## SECOND GROUP—12-15 P.M.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna; Maharaja Grija Nath Roy of Dinagapore; Maharaja Hurbullub Narain Singh of Sonebursa.

## THIRD GROUP—12-30 P.M.

Prince Rohim-ud-din; Prince Bahram Shah; the Hon'ble Prince Furrokh Shah; Prince Kumar Kadr.

## FOURTH GROUP—12-45 P.M.

Prince Mirza Jehan Kader Bahadr; the minor Rajah of Mourbhunj; Burra Thakoor Samarendra Chundra Deb Bahadr of Independent Tipperah; the minor Maharaja of Burdwan accompanied by his father, Lala Bun Behari Kapur.

## FIFTH GROUP—1-15 P.M.

The Maharaja of Shushang; Nawab Syed Ashgar Ali; Raja Doorga Churn Law; the Hon'ble Raja Rameshwar Sing.

In the afternoon, there was a Garden Party at Belvedere, followed by the Dinner at the Bengal Club and the State Ball at Government House.

On Thursday, the Assault-at-Arms was concluded. The Prince received a deputation of the Permanent Memorialists and accorded permission to associate his name with the movement. The professed author of the movement Surendranath Banerjee was nowhere. The Little Agitator was firmly kept out. The Viceroy held an Evening Party to meet the Prince. But His Excellency could not be present on account of indifferent health. It was a very big Party, and a great sight.

Yesterday, the Prince, chaperoned by the Lieutenant-Governor, drove through the city, looking in at the Jewish Synagogue, the Burning Ghat, the girl and boy Government Colleges and the Water Works.

To-day, we believe, he goes snipe-shooting, passing the sabbath next day at Barrackpore. Then the royal visitor bids farewell to Calcutta.

THE District Judge of Hoogly, Mr. MacLaughlin, is taken to task by correspondents in the press for not allowing a Bengali Pleader to plead in his court in mourning costume, with bare head and feet. Whatever the apologists may say against the Judge, certainly the Pleader ought to have known better and abstained from attending court during the period of mourning, in undress. It is said the Pleader Baboo had a precedent in the practice among his brethren in the High Court. No such thing. The late Baboo—afterwards Justice—Onoocool Chunder Mookerjee was once stopped by Mr. Justice Louis Jackson for bare-headedness. The Pleader complained of headache, but the Judge would not allow him to proceed with his case unless he covered his head.

LORD LYTTON has had a fall in the courtyard of the British Embassy in Paris, and was confined to his apartments when the last mail left Europe. Nothing wrong, we hope?

UNDER the patronage of the Imperial and Royal Agricultural Society in Vienna, an exhibition of articles connected with agriculture and the management of forests will be held in Vienna between the 15th May and the 31st October 1890. The following foreign articles will be admitted to the exhibition :—

(1) Machines and appliances for agriculture and sylviculture and for the industries connected therewith; also for the production of fruit, wine and hops; for the breeding of domestic fowls, of bees, silk-worms and dogs; for hunting, shooting, and fishing.

(2) Various appliances for agriculture, such as artificial manure, artificial fodder, veterinary appliances and medicines, &c.

(3) Models, plans and drawings; also statistical information referring to agricultural and sylvicultural improvements, architecture and engineering.

(4) Models, plans, drawings and statistical information referring to agricultural and sylvicultural instruction and experiments; also the literature bearing on these subjects.

(5) Models, plans, drawings and statistical information referring to the utilisation of droppings and waste stuff.

(6) Models, plans, drawings and statistical information referring to the food-supply of large cities.

(7) Domestic fowls and dogs.

SRIMAN SWAMI has mustered enough courage to address the *Pioneer* direct, denying that he is the ex-convict Desika Chari, with a crooked middle finger on the right hand. He says "My fingers are all as straight as, I hope, your fingers are. All who have known me—at least all those who had an opportunity of shaking hands with me—will, I am confident, certify to my straight-line fingers." And he has got an *amicus curiæ* in the *Morning Post* to support him. Says the *Pioneer's* rival—

"We failed to discover anything at all out of the way after a careful examination that we were asked to make."

But, with such unexceptionable limbs, such a case and such proverbial witnesses, why does he choose the crooked course instead of the straight road to justice? "In conclusion," he hopes "to furnish further evidence and proof that I am not the criminal alluded to in your leader in the action for libel which I intend to institute in the High Court of these Provinces." The *Pioneer* publishes the denial without comment of any kind. It evidently waits for the hour when it may be called upon to file its answer to the plaint.

THEY have started at Glasgow a limited Company to deal with the question of the housing of the poor in that city. That ought also to be a question in Calcutta.

THE Eiffel Tower has been reproduced in miniature in diamond. It is valued at 3,000,000 frs. and contains 15 kilos of gold and silver, 40,000 diamonds and 3,000 pearls.

AT St. Petersburg, they are officially considering a project for a canal connecting the White Sea with Lake Onega. It will be 146 miles long, 86 whereof being natural waterway, 12 yards broad, and sufficiently deep for ships drawing 10 feet of water. The cost is estimated at 7½ million roubles, besides 2½ million for a new port at Vyg Gouba and for deepening the bed of the river Svyr.

THE Milan astronomer, Signor Schiaparelli, after ten years' investigation, has ascertained that the planet Mercury has a rotation like that of the moon. Its rotation on its own axis and that round the sun synchronise, so that it always turns the same side to the sun, as the moon does to the earth.

THE very highlanders of Central Europe so addicted to habits of peaceful industry, are arming themselves like the rest of the Continent. The State Council has accepted the vote of the National Council for 17,500,000 frs. for new rifles and ammunition for the Swiss army. This is significant. In these times, Nature is not all sufficient for the protection of nations. The advantages of geography have to be improved by a trained and well-armed soldiery. Brown Bess has long been at a discount. And now even Afghans—down to Khyberees—have need of breech-loaders and rifled guns.

IN the Cronin trial for murder, the defence objected to the evidence of Dr. Moore on the ground that he had read in the newspapers the verbatim report of the evidence of the previous witness, Dr. Egbert. The Judge at first allowed the objection but, on further consideration, admitted the evidence. He argued that the rule excluding witnesses from the hearing of others' testimony was made at a time when the newspaper enterprise had not developed into the present proportions, and if the rule were now acted upon, many witnesses would be excluded to the prejudice of a trial. Just so. He left it to the good sense of newspapers to suppress reports, where necessary. A forlorn hope.

THE Convocation of the Calcutta University has been fixed for next Saturday, the 18th January at 3 P. M.

THE dates for the University Examinations for the year 1890 have been refixed as follows for which the candidates should be grateful:—

Entrance Examination on Monday, the 24th February, and following days.

F. A. and B. A. Examinations on Monday, the 10th March, and following days.

M. A. and Preinchand Roychand Examinations on Monday, the 10th November, and following days.

B. L., Honours in Law, L. M. S., and Preliminary Scientific (L. M. S.) Examinations on Monday, the 7th April, and following days.

M. B., Preliminary Scientific (M. B.), M. D., and F. E. Examinations on Monday, the 5th May, and following days.

L. E. and B. E. Examinations on Monday, 7th July, and following days.

GOVERNMENT has at last prepared a statement showing the extent to which the cost of the administration of Civil Justice in British India is met by the revenue from Court-fees and other receipts of Civil Courts. The enquiry commenced in 1886 and necessarily deals with the figures of 1885. That statement shews that in Bengal only is there

a surplus amounting to 14½ lacs; in Madras, the receipts and charges are practically equal; and in all other Provinces the charges are much in excess of the receipts. The deficit on the whole account exceeds 12½ lacs.

The Receipts include

(a) Receipts in Court-fee stamps:

This item was to represent the value of all Court-fee stamps filed in Civil Courts with plaints or petitions, and in connection with the service of processes. The value of the Court-fee stamps on probates, letters of administration, and certificates was not to be included.

(b) Receipts in cash:

This item was to include all cash receipts finally credited to Government. Amounts which are merely paid into Court in order to be paid away again, such as diet money for witnesses or sums paid in proceedings for the execution of decrees, were not to be included.

Under the Charges are included

(a) The whole of the salaries of officers and establishments and the contingent and other expenditure of Courts which, like Small Cause Courts, are engaged solely in the administration of Civil Justice.

(b) A share of the salaries of officers and establishments and of the contingent and other expenditure of Courts which are engaged only partly in the administration of Civil Justice. It was stated that the share might be determined in proportion to the time devoted by the Courts to civil work, but that each Local Government should determine it on principles which seemed to it fair.

(c) A share of the cost of the Stamp establishment.

(d) A share of the discount on the sale of Court-fee stamps.

(e) The refunds of Court-fee stamps used in Civil Courts.

(f) A share of the expenditure on 'Law Officers.'

(g) A share of the cost of pensions and leave allowances of officers who have been engaged during any portion of their service in the administration of Civil Justice.

(h) The rent actually paid, or, in the case of buildings which are the property of Government, a fair rent (according to the Public Works Department valuation of the building) for the buildings or portions of buildings used by Civil Courts.

(i) Cost of stationery and printing for the several Courts."

Now that Upper Burma has been brought under control, all those who assisted in that conquest in subsidiary capacities are to be rewarded. The India medal with a new clasp, inscribed "Burma 1887-9" is to be granted to all troops engaged in the military operations in Upper Burma and to those actually engaged on Field Service in Lower Burma, between 1st May 1887 and 31st March 1889; and a bronze medal and clasp, of similar pattern, to all authorized Government followers who accompanied the troops so engaged.

LAST month, the visitors to the Indian Museum numbered 38,530, namely, Natives 29,181 males and 7,775 females and Europeans 1,228 males 346 females, at an average of 1,675 a day.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Influenza still rages as before. Apparently ambitious of the conquest of the world, this Genghis of Diseases embraces in the wide folds of its arms both shores of the Atlantic—Europe and America. Impartial in its unwelcome regards, it cares not to choose, but marks all classes for its victims. Just now, if it is abating in the capitals of Germany, France and Austria, it is spreading in the United States and England. In Birmingham, 50,000 persons are affected. At Aldershot, the barracks have been turned into hospitals. The sick average ten men in each Company of the garrison. Last week, there were four deaths in London. Policemen, postmen, porters and the Destitute Children of Dr. Barnardo's Home have been specially marked. The worst cases have occurred in the vicinity of the Docks and in the East End. The epidemic is general in Canada. In New York, the death rate is largely increasing. The most noted prey to the disease is the Dowager-Empress Augusta, who expired on the 7th, aged 78 years. She has left seven million marks. The old curmudgeon! Some valuable jewels fall to the share of our beloved Queen.

The year 1889 was commercially a very prosperous year for England. Notwithstanding the strikes, there was an increase in the imports, of 48½ millions, and in the exports, 14½ millions sterling.

The Queen, though well, is too weak to open the Parliament in person.

The investigation into the Cleveland Street scandal has commenced. The bad boys have deposed to being bribed to decamp. It is further brought out that the warrant of arrest against Lord Arthur

Somerset was issued on Nov. 12. It is in evidence that the Attorney Newton bought three passage tickets to New York and that his clerk Taylerson accompanied Hammond—the keeper of the extraordinary House in the now notorious Street.

Portugal, as a matter of course, has given way to England. The smallest Power in Europe had no chance with the thundering bully. The Foreign Office of Lisbon struggled bravely and argued well. But the feeblest British minister is a Bismarck in a quarrel with Portugal. Blundering Russell himself could not fail there. As was foreseen, unaided Portugal at last agreed to suspend further action on the Shire and in the Nyassaland, and to withdraw her force.

The infant King Alfonso of Spain is dangerously ill.

The new Republic has disestablished the Church in Brazil.

News comes from London that a waterspout on the Yangtsekiang off Nankin has drowned one hundred people.

Floods are reported from Australia. In the north-west of Queensland, three hundred miles of country are under water.

The patient Camel's *kismet*'s clear and fixed,

The creature cursed of God—what man can help?

THE fiat has been repeated. The Indian Tribute must be maintained. The impost cannot be removed; nay, it cannot even be reduced. Once more, the distant cry from India for reduction of Home charges has ended in almost nothing. The Committee appointed for the purpose have, from the examination of these Charges, found that about 78 per cent. go towards payment of interest and superannuation. The Secretary of State points out that these fixed payments must continue for many years. Those for the recruiting and depôt charges and transport of troops are absolutely necessary. Nor is he prepared to effect any immediate diminution of the payment to officers on furlough. The only course open to him is that the resources of India may be gradually utilized in reducing the cost of the stores indented for from this country. Lord Cross has accordingly authorized, "If the departments in India can be accustomed to use articles made in that country when of an ordinary character and not needing special inspection during manufacture, they might be procured of sufficiently good quality, even though somewhat inferior to those which would be obtained by paying a higher price in England; and thus a perceptible diminution might be made in the payments in this country." Following this instruction, the Government of India have impressed upon all Local Governments and Administrations, the Home, Revenue and Foreign Departments and the Heads of Department under the Department of Finance and Commerce, the desirability of introducing and extending the use of stores manufactured in India in preference to imported stores, whenever feasible.

An elaborate civilised administration is a great luxury for an Asiatic people but a costly luxury. Willy nilly, they must pay for it. As for the superfluous Contingencies and unaccountable Charges, why, business is business, and the labourer is always worthy of his wages.

THE appointment of the Hon'ble Dr. Gooroo Dass Banerjee as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University has been Gazetted. A timely announcement would have prevented the speculations and gossip of all kinds which had been generated in the interval.

THE Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Krishnaji Lakshman Nulkur, C.I.E., has been raised to the Supreme Legislative Council as an Additional Member. In him Bombay will have a worthy representative. His predecessor was only a bag of money. Rao Nulkur Bahadur is unquestionably one of the ablest men on his side so rich in talent and experience. He is indeed a veteran. Originally a member of the subordinate British Service, he was driven for something like an adequate career to Native Service in which he rose to be the Chief Minister of Cutch. Since his retirement, he has done excellent public service to the country—in the Bombay Corporation, in the Bombay Legislature, and as a citizen generally. He will be a distinct acquisition to the Imperial Chamber—the only Indian member able to hold his own in the midst of the British battalion of talent. This appointment is one of the innumerable services, great and small, which the country owes to the upright and liberal Governor of Bombay. Indeed, all Lord Reay's selections are happy: his worst are better than the best of others. He would not have weakened an enfeebled administration to compensate a lady for a blank—or block in the matrimonial Lottery. He too has

friends, but he takes care to choose them. The ablest men of his Presidency—the Nulkars, the Telangs, the Malabarais, the Yajniks, and many others—are all personal friends of the enlightened Governor. His Lordship while here on a short visit made no secret of his esteem for, and his appreciation of, the society of his Hindu, Mussulman and Parsee friends. And we hear from Bombay that he is above the weakness of fighting shy of his Indian friends in public.

So little is known of the position and affairs of the Mahdi, and there has been so much speculation in consequence, that the copy of the letter from the Mahdi's General Omar Saleh to Emin Pasha received in England is most welcome. The letter must have been written early in September last. Its authenticity is patent on the face of it. It is a genuine expression of the heart of Islam pure and simple. We reproduce the most important parts:—"In Khartoum," writes Omar Saleh, "were killed Gordon Pasha, the Governor, and with him the Consuls, Hansal and Nicola Leontides, the Greek, and Azor, the Copt, and many others of the Christians and many of the rebellious Mahomedans, Farrateh Pasha Ezzeim, Mahomet Pasha Hassan, Bachit, Batraki, and Achmet Bey-el-Dgelab. And whoever was killed by the Mahdi's followers was at once consumed by fire; and this is one of the greatest wonders happening to confirm what is written is to come to pass before the end of the world. There is just another wonder; the spears carried by the Mahdi's followers had a flame burning at their points, and this we have seen with our eyes, and not heard only."

Again:—

"And so event followed event near Suakim and Dongola, until General Stewart Pasha, Gordon's second-in-command, died, and with him some Consuls, and this happened in Wady Kama. Then the other Stewart in Abu Teleah; he had come with an English army to relieve Gordon Pasha; but many were killed, and God drove them back ignominiously. And then the whole Soudan and its dependencies accepted the Mahdi's rule, and submitted to the Imam, the Mahdi, and gave themselves to him, with their children and possessions, and became his followers; and whoever opposed him was killed by God, and his children and property became the prey of the Moslems."

Certainly, no Giaour could compose such an epistle.

Such miracles are not rare in Oriental tradition. Our older Bengali readers will remember Titu Meah of Baraset's vaunt of having swallowed up—and quietly digested—the balls of the opening blank fire with which he and the defenders of his bamboo stockade were greeted by the British. Unfortunately for the British, the Mahdi power was no empty vaunt.

A UNIQUE social event with a political signification is reported from the Continent. An Austrian Prince is about to enter an apprentice in an English ship-building yard. This Archduke John, as in duty bound to the head of his family, solicited the Emperor's leave to earn his own living, and has got it in a telegram that reached Hamburg just before his embarkation for England. The Princes of the House of Prussia are said to be under an obligation to learn each a handicraft, but we suppose it is mere amateuring with the carpenter's tools or the compositor's stick, even though they may be formally apprenticed and earn their certificate. Here is work in right earnest and in the severest form during several consecutive years that this Prince deliberately undertakes. And he is not

Obliged by hunger or request of friends.

As in the course of time the noble dust of Alexander may stop a bung-hole, so in the vicissitudes of individual circumstances the softest hands may be found cutting cloth at a tailor's shop or the most aristocratic sinews propelling a wheelbarrow. Such romantic degradation, though rare, is by no means unknown. The present case stands on a different footing. It recalls the magnificent feat of Peter the truly Great. But even that is not its true analogue. Peter's sacrifice was sublime, but it had a recognised object. What can be the motive of John? If it is patriotism, nothing can be better. In that case, the solicitation and the leaving home without permission and the telegram overtaking the fugitive on the way just in the nick of time, are all parts of a political play to beguile the nations. Otherwise it is pure madness—this freak of the Archduke—similar to the craze of the aristocratic Englishman who plies a 'bus in London.

A Vienna court has discovered an aristocratic *Rakshasi*. This Baroness Stahlberg is as hard and, we suspect as unprepossessing, as her unspellable name. She is a moral contradiction. A lover of animals, she is a decided misanthrope. In fact, she makes up for her irrational favour to her brutes by gratuitous cruelty to her men. She prides herself on being a *connoisseur* of horseflesh, and she seems almost prepared to



patronise human flesh as a delicacy. Unfortunately for her, cannibalism is not permitted in Christendom, and so she enjoys her fill vicariously—through her pets. She enters her stables at noon and stays there till early the next morning, feeding the animals with sugar and cakes, and encouraging them to kick and bite the grooms, who are kept employed all night. One of these unfortunates has sued his mistress for damages for injuries so received. Among other things, the plaintiff deposed—"when I was badly bitten by the horse Mamsi, the Baroness laughed heartily, and told me to kneel down and bind up her hoofs. This I declined to do, saying I would sooner attend on a dozen foxes than Mamsi, and the Baroness said that she would dismiss me from her service for insulting her horse." Many grooms and stablemen formerly in the service of this queer woman of fortune, emboldened by the prospect of justice to the proletariat against the aristocracy, have followed the example of the plaintiff, and come forward with similar claims for compensation for their respective pounds of flesh.

We read in the annals of the Pathan Empire of Delhi, how the heartless Himoo used to regale his horses with bread and sweetmeats to pique the poor Mogul grandees and officers. But even that pedlar in power did not set his horses to feast on his servants. The Baroness Stahlberg should be shipped to Africa. She would make an excellent commander of the Amazons of Dahome.

WE noticed at the time the rules promulgated in Municipal Calcutta in the interest of the Government Salt monopoly and the surprise with which they were visited on the Saltpetre refineries in and about the town. Although the Salt officers retired from the new suburban area to which the rules did not apply, what we anticipated has come to pass. The manufacturers or rather the washers ceased to refine, and the trade has been practically suspended. It now threatens to pass out of Bengal and from the English market.

News has been received by the last mail that the French Government has contracted for 1,200 tons of German nitrate and that Halls the great gunpowder firm have filled their requirements to the extent of 1,200 tons in the same quarter. Both of these were steady consumers of Bengal saltpetre, but as Calcutta firms could not offer at equivalent prices, they were forced to take the artificial article.

If any loss of revenue could be traced to the unlicensed refineries, there might have been some reason for the destructive rules. But there does not seem to be any cause for believing that the refuse of the refineries was ever used for food purposes. The merchants were not consulted, and the Government blundered into a huge mistake from beginning to end, which it makes no sign to rectify.

It may be that in course of time some one will be hanged for the muddle. Meanwhile, great injury is being done to the washers in particular and the trade in general. To protect a small fancied revenue, the Government drives out the business altogether into foreign quarters and countries.

The 1,200 tons represent a money value of Rs. 2,40,000. The Calcutta refineries hitherto supplied from 10 to 12 thousand tons a year.

Mr. L. Palit has evidently benefitted by his last trip to Europe. At any rate, the Assistant-Magistrate and Collector has now, after all, been vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class. In the Suburbs of Calcutta, he hardly fulfilled the promise of his proficiency as a passed candidate for the Civil Service. Besides, there was positive public inconvenience as well as personal indignity in the anomaly that, for want of powers, the representative of the exalted branch of the Public Service had to transfer cases to the file of the Deputy Magistrates. He will now exercise full powers in Tipperah.

Moulvie Abul Khair Mahomed Abdus Subhan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, must have given full satisfaction to be so early empowered to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. We remember he was appointed in the year after the Exhibition, so that he can be an officer of no more than five years' standing. But by all accounts he is one of the smartest young officers going, of solid intelligence yet quick, and brimming over with life and activity.

COPIOUS as is now the English language, there are still many words and expressions wanting in it. We know no word for the Bengali *bāspār*, which may be expressed by "thief-upon-thief" or "out-thief." There is an expressive phrase, "the biter bit," but no word for the second biter—the biter of the biter. A case lately occurred in town reminding us of this deficiency in the dictionary. Mr. Pickett, of

Bentinck Street, sent his *employé* William Nicholas Burns to the National Bank with a cheque for Rs. 400 to cash and give the money to a Hindu porter who accompanied. Burns cashed the cheque and decamped with the money, leaving the Durwan waiting. The Police were informed and a warrant issued. Burns appears to have purchased some clothing, &c., and kept the balance in a courier bag; but next day, he found his bag emptied of its contents. He too rushed to the Police and right into their arms, from which he could not extricate himself, either for love or money. They locked him in authoritative embrace; for he was wanted and his visit was a godsend in nick of time. He has since, under order of the Magistrate, been securely lodged under appropriate discipline at State expense. But what of the superthieving of the other rascal who, to speak after a Bengalicism, opened out Burns's eye—to the fact that there were others as good as he, perhaps better than himself. What must his reflections be when he thinks of it, that there is no security even for the thief against theft!

A contemporary speaks of the case as one of "a swindler being swindled out of his ill-gotten gains by another." Strictly speaking, one is a swindler and the other a thief, pure and simple.

THE Commissioners have sanctioned a deviation of the Central Road now under acquisition. That saves the Jains their chapel, and the Commissioners visits from that community at all hours of day and night. One Commissioner has been humbled. The temple has ceased to be a private property. The city is at rest.

The revival of the movement in the Corporation to provide for the Printer-contractor of the late Suburban Municipality has for the moment been suspended. The General Committee, in anticipation of sanction by the Commissioners in meeting, had accepted Sham Beed's tender of rates as the lowest. The *Indian Daily News* pointed out that the other tender was considerably lower. The General Committee has been asked to consider the whole question. We hope it will approach it in a business-like way, entering into details of printing and the printing department, and not decide in their chairs on easy generalities or on official or officious suggestions. At the same time, it will be good for the gentlemen, in this world as in the next, to have some consideration for the poor servants of the Corporation. In quest of an imaginary or a trifling advantage, no right-minded man ought to be ready to experimentalise at the expense of others. Bread is bread to all—only a great deal more, if possible, to the poor. That may be a quasi-Hibernian mode of expression, but it essays to interpret the gravity of the subject to the struggling classes and to realise the extreme weight of responsibility of those dealing with it.

THE Prince season over, the Majeronis are to the fore. Welcome! say we, with our whole souls. The gifted pair gives two more performances next week. We trust they will have an overflowing house at each appearance. The European Upper Ten and the flower of native society ought to muster strong. It will be a stigma on the intelligence and education of our city if such exalted amusement cannot draw all Calcutta and his wife. We do not hesitate to assure those who are disposed to keep away that they will miss the highest and purest enjoyment. Few and far between, like angels' visits are the visits of such masters of the art histrionique. From time to time, a famous actor or actress used to be tempted or beguiled to these shores. But since the disgraceful way in which Herr Bandmann was hooted out by the creatures of the Calcutta Press, the chances have diminished to a minimum. The Majeronis are on the Calcutta stage by an accident improved upon by amateur enthusiasm—thanks to Mrs. McIntosh, Colonel Chatterton and his colleagues. And they are, if not superior, certainly second to no stars that have shed their light on us. The full extent of this testimony may be appreciated by remembering that the comparison is with such as Mrs. Lewis, Miss Edith Bertram, Miss Fanny Raynor, Mr. Burdett Howe, Herr Bandmann and Miss Boudet, and, we may add, Mr. Locke Richardson. The strangers are supported by the Prince and Princess of amateurs, Colonel Chatterton and Mrs. McIntosh. Some of the other amateurs also are most excellent and form with the lady and gentlemen first named a really effective company. Calcutta may well be proud of her amateurs.

We have a suggestion to offer to our excellent and ingenious townsmen. Why do not they utilise the presence of the eminent Italians to put Shakespeare on the stage. It would be a superb thing to see them play the great rôles of Hamlet and Ophelia, Othello and Desdemona, the Macbeths, Romeo and Juliet.

We grieve to hear of the bereavement sustained by Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose, the Actor, Manager, and Improver of the indigenous Stage. Always a severe affliction, the death of a wife at such an age of his life is an irreparable disaster. Notwithstanding, the Star Theatre manages to draw crowded houses to its new play or pantomime as it is called, "The 20th Century." By this extravagant picture of Female Rule, the Star has made a decided hit, and struck the right chord of the hour.

#### THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

(Concluded from p. 6)

RAO BAHADUR.

Rao Sahib Shrikrishna Wasudevji Warlikar, Chief Clerk of the Commander-in-Chief's Office, Bombay.

Thakuradas Kikabhai Dalal, Medical Officer in charge of the Civil Station of Wadhwan, in the Bombay Presidency.

Sakharam Baji Baudekar, Karbhari of the Sawantvadi State, in the Bombay Presidency.

Rednam Dharma Rao Nayudu, Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue in the Madras Presidency.

RAI BAHADUR.

Babu Mata Din, late Subordinate Judge of Mozufferpore, in the Bengal Presidency.

Babu Nundo Kishore Das, Assistant Superintendent of the Tributary Mithals of Orissa.

Babu Kali Podo Mukerjee, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Orissa.

Pandit Lakshmi Shankar Misra, Officiating Inspector of Vernacular Schools in the Benares Division of the N.-W. Provinces.

Kanhya Lal, late Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Amritsar District.

Lala Gur Sahai, Assistant Secretary to the Government of the Punjab in the Public Works Department.

Raj Debi Pershad, Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Central Provinces.

Subedar Dwarka Tewari, of the Nipal Residency Escort.

SARDAR BAHADUR.

Sardar Bhagwan Singh of Sohana, in the Umballa District.

KHAN SAHIB.

Ratanji Dhunjibhai, Honorary Assistant Engineer of the Bombay Port Trust.

Nagoo Sayajee, Contractor of Bombay.

RAO SAHIB.

Ganesh Gangadhar, Thanadar of the Bavisi Zilla, in the Mahi Kantha Agency in the Bombay Presidency.

Mahadaji Ballal Laghate, late Forest Settlement Officer in the Kolhapur State, in the Bombay Presidency.

Gangaji Ramji, Senior Hospital Assistant in the Subordinate Medical Department of the Bombay Presidency.

C. Muthuswami, Senior Hospital Assistant in the Madras Army.

KYET THAYE ZAUNG SHWE SAIWE YA MIN.

Maung Shaw Hla Pru, Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Kyaukse District.

THUYE GAUNG NGWE DA YA MIN.

Maung Antony, Myook of Legaing, Minbu District.

AHMUDAN GAUNG TAZEIK YA MIN.

Maung Myo, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rangoon.

Maung Ni, Inspector of Police, Mandalay.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1890.

### THE VISION OF LIGHT.

How shall we describe the Entertainment given to the Prince? We feel as the House of Commons felt on the delivery of Sheridan's famous Speech on the Begum Charge against Warren Hastings, when the House had to be adjourned on the unexampled ground that eloquence had overpowered the members, too completely for calm judgment on the question. Here, with the impression of the great spectacle of Tuesday still fresh in the minds of public and publicist, how can we reason ourselves or reason with others—how collect our thoughts or find the words for them? How can we fix a trick of the senses? how interpret a dream which gives you the slip the moment you attempt to arrest it? It is for

The Poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,  
To glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven.  
And as imagination bodies forth  
The forms of things unknown,

it is for the Poet's pen to

Turn them to shapes, and give to airy nothing  
A local habitation, and a name.

And that for at least one reason admitted by the greatest Poet himself in conversation between Audrey and Touchstone, where the one asks whether

Poesy "is honest in deed and word? Is it a true thing?" and the other replies, "No truly; for the truest poetry is the most feigning."

In that sense, to be sure, there has been a good deal of poetry evolved by the occasion. Poetry unencumbered with the fetters of metre has been lavished by the yard on the business. Herein the *Fête* and the *Fête*-makers have been peculiarly fortunate. Agamemnon had, long after his death, one Epic and some dramas. Our Prince's Entertainers have had no end of Prose Homers and prosaic. Privileged beyond the King of men and of Kings, they have enjoyed in the flesh, on the following morrow of the *Fête*, the song of their feat sung by all the bards of the morning Press. These bards were thoroughly equal to the occasion. They felt not the embarrassment of weaker souls, for they composed their songs almost in the very camp, in the esplanade and beach before the walls of Troy. Not so the hesitating sonneteers—the languid, limping rhapsodists, of weekly journalism. Even now, though they come last, they do not find their task a whit lightened for them—specially those that know not the noble art of "feigning." How shall they analyse what has been again and again accepted as a transcendent fairy scene? How dare they to criticise what has been pronounced peerless?

Seriously, how, indeed, master Enchantment—of any degree? How appraise an affair of all light—whatever the deficiencies! One must approach the moving and dominant spirit with reverence. The world has not known a grievance so sore as Milton's—there never has been such a deprivation as the Poet suffered from—yet he subdued the storm of his great soul in presence of the most characteristic attribute of Divinity. He has made no secret of his sorrow, nor striven to gloss it over. He has sung it in sonnet; he has cried the cry of piercing agony in the character of Samson. He has obtruded his wrong in his sacred epos in such a way that commentators have been forced to find excuses for him in the literary excellence of his uncalled for digression. But never, at the height of his jeremiad—in the worst abandon of personal feeling—has he presumed to reproach, or to seriously question the dispensation of Providence. We do well to remember his great example. Throughout that memorable evening, the grand invocation came to our lips whenever we were most disposed to cavil—

Hail! holy Light! offspring of heaven, first-born,  
Or of the Eternal co-eternal beam  
May I express thee unblamed? since God is light,  
And never but in unapproached light  
Dwelt from eternity; dwelt then in thee,  
Bright effluence of bright essence increate.

Nor could we forget how the critic laid himself open to the retort of the Persian moralist, Saadi,

If bats cannot see in the day,  
What then? Is the Sun to be blamed?

The Entertainers had two great advantages, of which they could not but reap the full benefit. They had to hand a plain in the heart of the town, dotted with fine clusters of umbrageous trees, and divided by noble avenues and groves. Calcutta at once boasted of traditions of illumination and possessed the means for it on any scale. And, we ought in justice to add, they understood the art of illuminating plants and forests. Accordingly, they were able to produce a charming effect. Those who, in disparagement of the present effort, revert to the past, preferring to dwell on the pageant produced by Sir Stuart Hogg on the arrival of the Prince of Wales, forget that they got on Tuesday a speciality in illumination which

they never knew before. Sir Steuart Hogg was a master *artiste* in light, and he achieved with his means what others would in vain essay. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that he did not do what was done the other evening. He could not have done it; it was out of the question. Calcutta had not then been rich in vegetable life. She could not then boast of her fine bushes and welcome jungles and graceful avenues. Sir Steuart's plants had not then thriven into goodly trees and forests. With the help of these and of Prometheus' pilfering blown into a blaze, Messrs. Apar, Jobbins, Ghose and others managed to get up a show for which all who have the eye and the feeling for external beauty, ought to be thankful—the more so that there was no waste of force. The lamps were distributed with excellent judgment and taste—just where and how to affect the royal guest the most. There was just enough and no superfluity. We heard a complaint that the trees farthest from the Durbar Tent on the way between it and the Prince's residence, were shabbily lighted with a few miserable country lanterns of tin with a facing of common glass. It seemed as if expense had been grudged. A more probable reason was that Chinese lanterns had fallen short—and no wonder, considering the demand. If that was the case, it did not matter. For even here art came to the rescue and converted a defeat into a triumph. For, in their setting of greenery, these poor lamps did not show their backs, the lights only attracted the eye, and from the Red Road all the lights were visible to the advancing glance of the Prince and the viceregal party. As for the niggardliness of paucity, it was, we take it, a part of the organization of the pageant. The number of lights assigned to the trees was not, of course, even. Not only were the bigger trees—the botanical princes—better served, right royally, specially the leafy magnates posted on vantage points of observation, such as those waving their high feathers at the corners of the crossing where the Road from the Outram statute meets the Red Road—but the illumination showed a distinct progress along the whole route. Few and far between were the lights on the first trees met on the drive from Government House, and such lights as there were were set behind cheap glass. Then the artistic handiwork of the Heathen Chinee attracted the eye, at first in samples, here and there, but at every step in more and more numbers, till at last as many as even princely optics might well enjoy. As many, and no more. For, herein was the speciality of the occasion and the credit of the directing head that not a lamp was thrown away. There was everything needed for effect, but no barbaric profusion. This was no easy matter. The whole situation had no doubt been repeatedly studied from the point of view of the guests to come from Government House. But the calculation is difficult. There is no possibility of anything like rehearsal.

The only thing that marred the satisfactory effect of the tree illumination was the lining of the route with the barbarous talc candelabra on both sides. Their obtrusion on such a chaste scene was singularly unfortunate. They positively jarred on the senses. Lucky, that the illumination aloft in the air fastened and maintained the attention of most.

The illumination within the enclosure was poor. The faint lines of lamps on the foolish leaning Bengali temples and towers of paper served just to display their wretchedness and faults of construction. The tents were not sufficiently lighted, not even the Durbar Pavilich. There was a stinking bonfire in the

court, and absolutely no lamps to light the Prince's way from the entrance of the grounds up to the Durbar Hall. There was not a single light even in front of the Pavilion.

The Government illumination of the great extents of Fort William and of the long and lofty Calcutta Horse Guards commanded the prospect. The Clubs, shops and private residences in the European quarter, specially around the great Plain, had a glorious effect. The Bengal Club showed its palace to the best advantage to distant onlookers, however the illusion might be dissipated by the stinking *cherags* by a nearer and more familiar acquaintance. Above the Maidan, blazed the electric light from the Ochterloney column. The umbrageous heads of the trees seen from the Entertainment grounds were turbanded with networks of lights, and seemed like bushes swarming with fireflies in an Indian autumn, while all around the scene, whichever side you looked, the lamps of beauty of the ingenious Celestials, peeping through many a "leafy labarynth," ogled you with dainty Houri eyes. By way of appropriate crown to the whole, there was the Moorshedabad Raushan Bagh—the standing attraction in illumination in the famous Bera Festival which was the glory of the City of the Nazim when Bengal had even its titular shadow of a Nazim—transplanted—as far as might be at short notice—to the City of the British, thanks to the Nawab Bahadoor who maintains, as worthily as it is possible under reduced circumstances, the dignity of his great House! That itself was a sight worth going hundreds of miles to see. It was truly a magnificent spectacle—an architectural pile of lights, multiplied by reflection in the clear bosom of the artificial lake in front and bringing out in relief the Gothic dome of the Cathedral in the background. Altogether, it was an enchanted dream—a vision of Enlightenment—such as we shall not see in our life again.

#### THE NOBILITY OF MOBILITY.

WE have to report bad news from the neighbourhood of the social world. Our readers will regret to learn that ever since the landing of Prince Albert Victor at Prinsep's Ghat, there has been no peace in Little Britain. The Empire of Cockagne has been divided on an interesting, not to say important, question. The *Gentilates* of society are highly exercised. The chivalry of the *pave* is in a ferment. There is civil war, of an uncivil kind, in High Life Belowstairs. The flower of Domestic Service are wasting their sweetness in mutual feuds and jealousies. An ancient House, only less ancient than that of the first patriarchs, is being torn by intestine discord. One Jeames' hand is against another Jeames. The Knight of the Grey Goose Quill cannot bear the Yellow Plush of the state-coachman or the brilliant uniform of the footman. The gentleman of the Press has taken full advantage of his opportunities by giving vent to his feelings thiswise, to wit:—

##### "THE WHITE COACHMAN.

Amongst the equipages present at Prince Albert Victor's reception at Prinsep's Ghat on Friday, that of the Maharajah of Cooch Behar caused considerable curiosity. An English coachman with a footman in lilac silk shorts, silk stockings and a huge wig and three-cornered hat. Why there's Her Imperial Majesty the Queen on the one side, who won't have anything but a *pucca* Bengali syce with flowing pugree, Heinrich von Battenberg who must be attended by a highlander in tartans, sporran and philabeg and now comes the Maharajah of Cooch Behar with an English eighteenth century turn-out. If those high in authority go on at this pace we shall shortly expect to see Mr. Gladstone with a Unionist valet and Boulanger with an Atchinese aide-de-camp."

Notwithstanding the literary pretensions of the paragraph or the art with which the feeling is disguised, no dismissed footman or disappointed suitor for the office of coachman to His Highness of Cooch Behar could have concocted such a famous grievance out of such poor materials.

Of course, there is more, much more, in that passage than meets the eye of the hasty reader at first sight. That reminds us forcibly of the gentle Cowper's sympathetic interrogation—

Is India free? and does she wear  
Her jewelled turban with a smile?

Ah no! so far as the Indian Princes are concerned. There is no wearing their jewelled turban with a smile. There is no satisfying the progeny of the horse-leech. The more freely you bleed, the less thanks you receive. The demon of Race Prejudice still pursues the native Chiefs for all their concessions. One would have thought that at least the good Maharaja of Cooh Behar was above persecution. He has submitted himself meekly to every possible wish of the Europeans, and conformed to every caprice of their society, even to the extent of estranging, and estranging himself from, his countrymen including his best wellwishers. For all that, he is no better than he should be—no better than his less compromising brethren. His reward is only abuse and hatred. He cannot even give bread to Britons without exciting a whole battalion of Britishers against him.

It is difficult to please the high-wrought susceptibilities of this representative *Civis Romanus* and his like. Their sword cuts the poor Asiatic both ways. If our Sovereign appoints a native Indian horse-keeper, she is blamed for patronising natives. If an Indian Prince entertains an English coachman, he is abused for his vanity. The writer apparently forgets the well-known fact that many Indians have English servants in their stables. Indeed, all the Baboos, Rajas and Chiefs who are on the turf and maintain racing studs, have European stable-keepers and managers, and habitually employ European jockeys. Are these permissible and not the others? Is there any peculiar dignity in the office of coachman known only to the initiated, which does not belong to the stable manager or jockey?

Had the matter rested there, we would not have cared to complain. Had the complaint been confined to the writer, we might have passed it over. Unfortunately, it is the grievance of a large and perhaps growing class. We have too much reason to know that the writer expresses the mind of the whole fringe of British society in Bengal, if not all India. He has taken up the cudgels for the Cockneys and Snobs. He is the spokesman of the Mean Whites. The very natives below them—the Eurasians—are of the same view. *Et tu Brute?*

It is not the absurdity of wealthy natives giving employment to Europeans that clashes with the fine perception of the fitness of things of these men, any more than the oddity of an ass eating maccaroni struck the sentimental Sterne. It is only the appointing of European coachmen and footmen that has thrown them out of their equanimity. Employing Europeans is all right. Filling their pockets without demanding service or expecting any return, even so much as thanks, is better. But if you are so unfortunate as not to be able to indulge the luxury, if you cannot afford to pay men without some equivalent in work, appoint them by all means. But for your own peace, beware of sending them to the stable or the coachhouse. Nor is it necessary. You can make Mr. Gaffer or Mons. Gaberlunzie your Private Secretary or factotum, confessor or Gooroo—he is up to any dodge, so long as there is a sympathetic government to help him. As for Miss Tatterdemalion Montmorency, she will make an excellent Mahrani.

#### THE POLICE ESPIONAGE ON FOREIGNERS.

It appears there is an order in the Police department under which all foreigners—Arabs, Moghuls, Iranis, Cabulis, and Turks coming out to India are carefully watched. Their movements are reported from one District to another, and their antecedents ascertained and noted in each station. There can be no objection to this sort of enquiry as regards persons who have scarcely any fixed profession or source of income to support themselves, and it seems necessary for more than one reason. These men generally live in India for years and go from station to station living on the charity of the wealthy, and liberal Mussulmans. They come on a begging tour to India. The facilities of modern travelling have increased their number, and that increase has decreased the amount which they used to receive formerly in the shape of charity from their well-to-do co-religionists. There may be some bad characters or species among them who may have some other hidden mission than that which they profess, and it is therefore very desirable that they should be watched and their movements reported. The over-zealous and injudicious way in which these unfortunate people are now treated and dealt with by the subordinate Police officers has given rise to some difficulty and sensation in certain cases and places. They are no new comers to India and their mission is not unknown to the Mussulmans generally. Each foreigner of this class is unnecessarily suspected by the Police as a spy and particularly a Russian spy, and treated very badly. They are cruelly harassed and sometimes openly watched as criminals. Some two years ago

one Arab came to me and stated that he was haunted by a detective like a ghost and that his very footstep was followed by the energetic Police officer. He was even dogged to my house by the Police, and my attention having been drawn to this fact that officer quietly retired from my place where he had no business to come. The Arab told me that for two months the devil of the Police had followed him like a shadow, sleeping at night under his *charpoy* in the *Sarai* where he would put up. Such a state of things could not remain unnoticed by the general public and it caused some sensation among the Muhallah people, and it was widely known in town that a spy had come there. Every one was afraid of the foreigner and none would allow him to enter his gate. This state of things entirely closed all the sources and doors of income to the miserable Arab who was literally starved for some days until with much difficulty he made his way to my house. On enquiry I learnt from a reliable source that nothing definite or particular was known against the unfortunate man, except, that he was an Arab mendicant or beggar. He could hardly speak intelligent Urdu and this was another difficulty. He could not therefore communicate with the Police properly. A few days ago, a Turk came to me with a long story of his misfortunes of the same kind. He had a passport from the Turkish Government, but the lower rank of Police officers wanted to levy blackmail.

The moment the fact of these beggars being thus watched is known to the people, every one is afraid to have anything to do with them, and they are not even allowed entrance to their houses where they could have certainly expected some thing for their support. I don't think it is intended by the authorities that these men should be watched in such a scandalous way, which clearly shews want of tact and discretion on the part of the Police and frustrates the very purpose of the watch. The Turk who is nearly starving for some time complained bitterly and said that he never expected that the subjects of a friendly Power would be treated so unjustly by the officers of another Power. He said that it was better to commit some offence and thus force ones way into the goal where he was sure to get food and peace of mind.

I think it is very hard and unjust that these unfortunate and poor men should be thus deprived of their only source of income. It is indeed a very bad policy that people who have a source of income should not be allowed to pursue it and thus be forced to commit offences and procure their daily food by unlawful and immoral means. I don't think either the Police or any body else has any right to stop charity in this fashion and force innocent persons to become thieves. Every good Mussalman thinks it a pious act to support his co-religionists, particularly the Arabs, Turks and Moghuls.

A SYMPATHISER.

#### MOORSHEDEBAD.

1st January 1890.

Since I wrote to you last, I have been told that the President of the Committee of Management of the Estate of Basunt Ali Khan has suddenly withdrawn all power from the only member Nawab Kazim Ali, owing to the latter's objecting to the unjust dismissal of an upright officer of the Estate and the appointment of one of his own creature in his place. The publication of the letter with the heading "A Village Deserted for Oppression" in your valuable paper and your excellent and able editorial notice thereof have created great sensation here. The real offenders have taken fright, but the President has, on the contrary, been enraged, and is now determined to renew the lease with the former lessees even at an immense sacrifice. A very curious case has cropped up in this connection. At the instance of the police officer of Doulatabad, a thana in this district, in whose jurisdiction lies the village of Colladanga, the Deputy Magistrate of Berhampore has called upon Nawab Kazim Ali to show cause why he should not be bound down in the sum of Rs. 1,000 with two sureties for the same amount to keep the peace in the mahal for a period of one year. The President who is solely responsible for any breach of public peace within the village, has been exempted from the proceedings. The hearing of the rule comes off very shortly. It is gratifying to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor to whom the aggrieved tenants had memorialised for redress and wired the news of their desertion, has directed the Divisional Commissioner to enquire into their complaints and submit a report. We hope the Commissioner will personally come here for investigation, otherwise, it is feared, truth is not likely to come out.

The Nawab Bahadur of Moorsshedabad left for Calcutta yesterday morning to be present at the reception of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor. The Nawab Bahadr wanted to show the Prince this old and ruined capital of Bengal, but the Prince's programme is already full. The Moorsshedabad party will stay at the metropolis for three weeks only.

The condition of the local technical school established five years ago is very miserable now. The grant-in-aid from the municipality has been suspended since some months on account of an unfortunate misunderstanding between the Managing Committee and



the Commissioners. Both parties have referred the subject of their disunion to the District Magistrate. I hope the matter will be settled satisfactorily.

D. K. R.

#### DACCA.

January 2, 1890.

On the New Year's day, an Exhibition is held in the Nawab's Garden, a mile distant from the town proper. It was started, I believe, in January 1877, when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. Interesting natural products and artificial things are brought and exhibited for the entertainment of the numerous spectators. At first, it was a very useful institution, but latterly it has dwindled into a mere *Timashá*. This year, however, the Exhibition may be pronounced a success. The Garden is the only place in Dacca where the public can retire to refresh themselves during a holiday. The Nawab certainly deserves thanks for this and numerous other benefits he has conferred upon the town. But I am sorry to tell you that a sad accident happened to a number of spectators on this day of merriment. In the midst of a tank within the Garden, there is a little artificial island. Communication between the island and the bank of the pond was kept up by a bridge nearly 4 feet in breadth and 25 feet in length. Upon the island a dancing party was being held. As a matter of course, there was a rush of spectators to the spot. There was not, however, room enough for the accommodation of the whole number. Consequently, a great number of people had to stand upon the bridge and were jostling and struggling with one another to catch a glimpse of the *Bijee*. All went merry as a marriage-bell, when, lo! the bridge slipped and nearly fifty people, young and old, weak and strong, fell down with the bridge. A panic overtook the whole multitude. People gathered at the spot; it was the fittest occasion for the display of the noblest qualities of human nature. An upcountry man showed the example, rushed down the tank, and instantly saved two wretched creatures. He was soon followed by some strong Mussulmans. As the crowd was very thick, they were packed together, as it were, as the bridge fell. To add to the misfortune, the tank was very deep. The stronger of course could force their way up; though with great difficulty. But in the struggle to get out of the water, several persons were wounded and all were terribly exhausted.

The water was 7 or 8 cubits below the level of the ground, so that dhotees and shawls were let down and caught hold of by the men who struggled up to the edge of the tank and were drawn up. All came out naked. The scene was most abhorrent and full of terror. Cries and lamentations were heard in every quarter. One cried for his son, another for his brother, and so on. It was indeed difficult to withhold tears. Some persons have indeed been drowned; but it is difficult to know the exact number. The announcement created a profound stir throughout the whole town. The accident took place after 4 o'clock and the evening of the first day of 1890 will long be remembered here for this unforeseen misfortune.

#### THE STANLEY EXPEDITION.

##### LETTERS FROM STANLEY AND EMIN PASHA.

(Concluded from p. 10)

##### IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES.

A second letter has been received from Mr. Stanley (describing the difficulties he experienced before being finally able to set out with Emin on his way home), dated from the camp at Kinzinga, Uzinja, Aug. 17, 1889. Uzinja is a district to the south-west of the Victoria Nyanza. He begins by telling of the arrival of Emin and some sixty followers, including Selim Bey, at his camp at Kavallis, which was situated on a high plateau overlooking the south-eastern end of the Albert Nyanza. On Feb. 18 this year he was joined by Lieutenant Stairs and his party. At a divan held that day between Stanley, Emin, and his party it was agreed to allow Emin's Egyptian people a reasonable time in which to come down to Stanley's camp—that is, such portion of them as desired to return to Egypt. On this understanding the Egyptian officers returned to Wadelai, where meantime another change of Government had taken place.

##### AN ODD COLLECTION OF LUGGAGE.

Emin, "with his little daughter Ferida" and 144 men, remained with Stanley, who gives an amusing account of the luggage which the Wadelai refugees brought with them, and which his men had to help carry up from the lake side to the plateau—an ascent of 2,800 feet. The luggage comprised such things as grinding stones, ten-gallon copper cooking pots, some 200 bedsteads, preposterously big baskets, old Saratoga trunks, old sea chests, little cattle troughs, twelve-gallon pombe jars, &c. No wonder the Zanzibaris grumbled at having to carry such rubbish. On March 31 (says Stanley) we were all heartily tired of it, and we abandoned the interminable task. One thousand three hundred and fifty-five loads had been transported to the plateau from the lake camp.

##### AN ULTIMATUM TO THE EGYPTIANS.

After an interval of thirty days news came from Selim Bey that he was collecting refugees, and also that the rebel officers at Wadelai were ready to join Stanley and return to Egypt. At that rate it was calculated it would take fully three months to bring the people to Kavallis. Emin asked Stanley what he proposed to do under the circumstances. Stanley arranged a council with his officers—namely, Lieutenant Stairs, Captain R. H. Nelson, Surgeon Parke, Mr. Mounteney Jephson, and Mr. William Bonny. To this council Mr. Stanley explained his views at length, stating that the intelligence that Emin's departure depended on that of his people was the first adverse news he received. That was twelve months before the time he was then speaking (April 1889), and in the interval matters had not advanced very much. Moreover, those who had revolted from Emin's authority openly boasted of their intention to loot Stanley's camp. "We believed (continued Mr. Stanley) when we volunteered for this work that we should be met with open arms. We were received with indifference, until we were led to doubt whether any people wished to depart; my representative was made a prisoner, menaced with rifles, threats were freely used, the Pasha was deposed, and for three months was a close prisoner. I am told this is the third revolt in the province." He went on to ask whether if he admitted the rebel officers (ten in number) and their followers (some 700 soldiers) into their camp it was not likely that they would play a treacherous part, take their ammunition, and leave them without the means of returning to Zanzibar. He ended by asking whether they would be right to wait for refugees beyond the date already fixed—namely, April 10. All the officers replied in the negative—it would not do to wait beyond the given time. Stanley then informed Emin that they would march on that day.

##### "THE STRANGE SOUDAN FEVER."

The Pasha (continues Mr. Stanley) then asked if we could "in our consciences acquit him of abandoning his people," supposing they had not arrived by April 10. We replied, "Most certainly." Three or four days after this I was informed by the Pasha—who pays great deference to Captain Casati's views—that Captain Casati was by no means certain that he was doing quite right in abandoning his people. According to the Pasha's desire, I went over to see Captain Casati, followed soon after by Emin Pasha. Questions of law, honour, duty were brought forward by Casati, who expressed himself clearly that, *moralmente*, Emin Pasha was bound to stay by his people. I quote these matters simply to show to you that our principal difficulties lay not only with the Soudanese and Egyptians; we had some with the Europeans also, who, for some reason or another, seemed in nowise inclined to quit Africa, even when it was quite clear that the Pasha of the province had few loyal men to rely on, that the outlook before them was imminent danger and death, and that on our retirement there was no other prospect than the grave. I had to refute these morbid ideas with the A B C of common sense.....I do not think Casati was convinced, nor do I think the Pasha was convinced. But it is strange what strong hold this part of Africa has upon the affections of European officers, Egyptian officers, and Soudanese soldiers.

##### TREACHERY IN THE CAMP.

On April 6, Stanley was informed that there had been an alarm in the camp the night before; the Zanzibari quarters had been entered by the Pasha's people, and an attempt made to abstract the rifles. The narrative continues:—I proceeded to the Pasha to consult with him; but the Pasha would consent to no proposition—not but what they appeared necessary and good, but he could not, owing to want of time, &c., &c. I accordingly informed him that I proposed to act immediately, and would ascertain for myself what this hidden danger in the camp was, and as a first step I would be obliged if the Pasha would signal for a general muster of the principal Egyptians in the square of the camp. The summons being sounded, and not attended quickly enough to satisfy me, half a company of Zanzibaris were detailed to take sticks and rout every one from their huts. Dismayed by these energetic measures, they poured into the square, which was surrounded by rifles. On being questioned, they denied all knowledge of any plot to steal the rifles from us, or to fight, or to withstand in any manner any order. The rest of the Pasha's people, having paid no attention to the summons, were secured in their huts and brought to the camp square, where some were flogged and others ironed and put under guard. "Now, Pasha," I said "will you be good enough to tell these Arabs that these rebellious tricks of Wadelai and Dufflé must cease here, for at the first move made by them I shall be obliged to exterminate them utterly?" On the Pasha translating, the Arabs bowed, and vowed that they would obey their father religiously. At the muster this curious result was returned:—There were with us 134 men, 84 married women, 187 female domestics, 74 children (above 2 years), 35 infants in arms—total, 514. I have reason to believe that the number was nearer 600, as many were not reported, from a fear probably that some would be taken prisoners.

##### THE MARCH TO THE COAST.

As he had determined, Stanley broke up his camp at Kavallis on April 10; the whole caravan, including 350 native carriers, numbering 1,500. Two days afterwards, however, he was prostrated by an illness "which well-nigh proved mortal," and which kept the expedition waiting twenty-eight days. During this period only two

additional refugees from the Equatorial Province joined the camp. "During my illness another conspiracy, or rather several, were afloat; but only one was attempted to be realised, and the ringleader—a slave of Awash Edendi's, whom I had made free at Kavallis—was arrested, and after court-martial, which found him guilty, was immediately executed." Mr. Stanley also intercepted some letters which passed between the Egyptian officers in his camp, and those at Wadelai, which indicated an intention of treachery towards the expedition. A letter also was received from Selim Bey (who had never returned to Kavallis) stating that the rebel officers at Wadelai had stolen all the ammunition and had gone away, leaving him helpless. Stanley replied that he would march forward slowly, halting twenty-four days on the route, thus giving Selim a chance of joining the expedition should he care to. Nothing more was, however, heard of the vacillating Egyptian. The rest of Mr. Stanley's letter is devoted to a description of the route he took to reach the Church Missionary Society's station at the southern end of Lake Victoria.

#### A MARVELLOUS REGION.

Travelling in a south-easterly direction, the caravan entered the territory of the King of Unyoro, who unsuccessfully disputed their passage. As they advanced southward a great snow-capped range of mountains extending a long distance in a south-westerly direction arrested their attention. As they journeyed on between two high ranges of hills, the Semliki Valley lay at their feet, so like a lake at its eastern extremity that one of the officers exclaimed that it was the lake, and the female followers of the Egyptians set up a shrill Lululus on seeing their own lake, the Albert Nyanza, again. With the naked eye it did appear like the lake; but a field-glass revealed that it was a level grassy plain, white with the ripeness of its grass. As the plain recedes south-westerly the bushes become thicker, finally acacias appear in their forests, and beyond these, again, the dead black thickness of an impenetrable tropical forest; but the plain as far as the eye could command continued to lie ten to twelve miles wide between these mountain barriers, and through the centre of it, sometimes inclining towards the south-east mountains, sometimes to the south-western range, the Semliki River pours its waters towards the Albert Nyanza. As they approached nearer, the range of mountains, the Snow Mountain itself being set

deeply in the range, was less seen, for higher ridges obtruded themselves and barred the view. "In altitude above the sea I should estimate it to be between 18,000 and 19,000 feet. The peaks of the natives, the Bakonju, are seen as high as 8,000 feet above the sea." After nineteen days' march they approached the lake discovered by Mr. Stanley himself in 1877 and marked on the maps Muta Nzige, and which he proposes to call the Albert Edward Nyanza. Out of it flowed the Semliki towards the Albert Nyanza.

#### A SALT LAKE DISCOVERED.

"While driving the Warasura before us, or rather as they were self-driven by their own fears, we entered soon after its evacuation the important town of Kative—the headquarters of the raiders. It is situated between an arm of the Southern Nyanza and a salt lake about two miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide, which consists of pure brine of a pinky colour, and deposits salt in solid cakes of salt crystals. This was the property of the Wasongora, but the value of its possession has attracted the cupidity of Kabba Rega, who reaps a considerable revenue from it. Toro, Aukori, Mpororo, Ruanda, Ukonju, and many other countries demand the salt for consumption, and the fortunate possessor of this inexhaustible treasure of salt reaps all that is desirable of property in Africa in exchange, with no more trouble than the defence of it." Proceeding in an easterly direction the expedition passed on no longer molested by the natives. However, fever greatly troubled them. As many as 150 cases occurred in one day. In the month of July 141 Egyptians fell out of the line, hid among the long grass, were lost to sight, and thus left to the tender mercies of the natives.

#### THE SOURCES OF THE NILE.

Mr. Stanley concludes his letter by stating that the importance of the Albert Edward Nyanza, which is a comparatively small lake, "lies in the fact that it is the receiver of all the streams at the extremity of the south-western, or left, Nile basins, and discharges those waters by one river—the Semliki—into the Albert Nyanza, in like manner as Lake Victoria receives all streams from the extremity of the south-eastern, or right, Nile basin, and pours those waters by the Victoria Nile into the Albert Nyanza. These two Niles, amalgamating in Lake Albert, leave this under the well-known name of White Nile."

### H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR RECEPTION FUND.

The Executive Committee, empowered in that behalf at the Meeting held at the Rooms of the British Indian Association on the 14th December, 1889, invite public subscriptions for the purpose of giving a fitting Reception and Entertainment to His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor on the occasion of his visit to Calcutta.

The Executive Committee have the pleasure to acknowledge the following subscriptions:—

	R.	A.	P.
Amount previously advertised	66,243	0	0
Maharaja Grijanath Roy of Dinaj-pore	1,000	0	0
The Hon. Raja Rameshwar Singh of Durbhanga	500	0	0
Babu Gopal Lal Seal	500	0	0
Rai Boodh Singh Bahadur and Rai Bissenchand Bahadur	250	0	0
Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C.S.I.	200	0	0
Baboo Bejoy Kissen Mookerjee	100	0	0
Babu Jagat Kishore Acharjeeya Chowdhury	200	0	0
Babu Omrto Narain Acharjiya Chowdhury	50	0	0
Pundit Sailajanunda Ojha of Baidyanath	150	0	0
Coomar Radhapersad Roy	150	0	0
Prince Kamar Kudr Muza Bahadur	100	0	0
Kumar Dowlat Chunder Roy	100	0	0
Sir John Edgar, K.C.I.E.	100	0	0
Hon. F. B. Peacock	100	0	0
Hon. Justice Wilson	100	0	0
Babu Mahamoh Persad Singh, son of Rai Gungapersad Singh Bahadur of Durbhanga	100	0	0
Krishna Chunder Roy Chaudry of Choorawur	100	0	0
Babu Ram Chard Goondka	100	0	0
Rai Meekraj Bahadur	100	0	0
Babu Troyluckhonnath Biswas	100	0	0
Babu Kunja Lal Banerjee	60	0	0
Babu Issur Chunder Mitter	60	0	0
Lalla Bun Behary Kapur	50	0	0
Shah Mohiuddin Ahmed Sajjada Nishun of Sasseram	50	0	0
Babu Doorgagaty Banerjee	50	0	0

	R.	A.	P.
Messrs. Apar & Co.	500	0	0
Messrs. William Moran & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Kettlewell Bullen & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Mackenzie Lyall & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Anderson Wright and Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Ewing & Co.	150	0	0
Messrs. Barry and Co.	150	0	0
Messrs. Whiteaway Laidlaw & Co.	100	0	0
Messrs. Marriller and Edwards	100	0	0
Messrs. D. B. Mehta and Co.	100	0	0
Messrs. Francis Harrison Hathaway and Co.	100	0	0
The Calcutta Tramways Company Ltd.	100	0	0
Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd.	100	0	0
Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd	50	0	0
Messrs. J. M. Edmonds and Co.	25	0	0
His Grace the Archbishop of Calcutta and the Catholic Priest	100	0	0
The poor Catholics of Calcutta	100	0	0
E. Gay, Esq.	100	0	0
Dr. Mc Connell	50	0	0
Babu Okhil Chunder Mookerjee	50	0	0
Babu Narendra Nath Mookerjee	50	0	0
Col. R. C. B. Pemberton, R.E.	50	0	0
Col. Conway Gordon, R.E.	25	0	0
Col. C. W. J. Harrison, R.E.	25	0	0
Col. Mallock	25	0	0
Babu Madoosuddun Doss	50	0	0
W. H. Ryland, Esq.	50	0	0
Babu Shib Chunder Nundy	50	0	0
Babu Issen Chunder Mitter	32	0	0
Robt. Turnbull, Esq.	32	0	0
Dr. J. E. Panioty	25	0	0
Seton Lindsay, Esq.	25	0	0
Babu Gijja Sunkur Mozoomdar	25	0	0
Maulvi Syud Sadruddin Ahmed of Burdwan	25	0	0
Moulvi Syud Serajuddin Ahmed of Burdwan	25	0	0
Moulvi Syud Abdus Sabhan Chowdhuri of Bogra	25	0	0
Moulvi Syud Abdul Jubbar Chowdhuri of Bogra	25	0	0
Babu Ashutosh Dhur	100	0	0
Babu Nundo Lal Mullick	50	0	0
Babu Gobind Lal Mullick	50	0	0
Babu Gokulnath Chatterjee	50	0	0
Raf Babu Thakoormoni Singh Bahadur of Sukpore	50	0	0
Babu Sitanath Dass	25	0	0
W. T. Woods, Esq.	25	0	0
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	R.	A.	P.
Babu Jogendro Narain Acharjiya Chowdhury	25	0	0
A. Macdonald, Esq.	25	0	0
E. J. Martin, Esq.	25	0	0
Small sums	172	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,574</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Further subscriptions are solicited.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Calcutta,  
30th December, 1889.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

As the time available to the Committee is very short, subscribers who have not already done so will greatly oblige the Committee by kindly sending in their subscriptions to the Honorary Secretaries.

At the closing of the account, subscriptions will be acknowledged by advertisement in the Newspapers.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.  
Calcutta, 30th Dec. 1889.

(Will be ready this week)

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## TRAVELS &amp; VOYAGES IN BENGAL

BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

*Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little *brochure* written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire,

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract.]—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs, Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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 other preparation. The IRRITATION caused by the BITES and STINGS of INSECTS is  
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## Rivers Steam Navigation Co. "Limited."

This Company's Steamer "ORISSA" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Friday, the 10th inst.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than noon of Thursday, the 9th inst.

### CACHAR LINE.

The steamer "PUNJAUB" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 7th (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until noon of Monday.

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All particulars as to rates of freight and passage by all the above mentioned Services to be had on application to—

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1890.

No. 407

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

WHATEVER outsiders may say to the contrary, the chief personages concerned or the principal guests were satisfied with the arrangements made for the reception and entertainment of the Prince in Calcutta. Lord Lansdowne has addressed the following letter to Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Chairman of the Committee for the Reception of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales in Calcutta :—

"Government House, Calcutta, January 15th 1890.

My dear Maharaja,—The departure of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales from Calcutta was, as you are aware, of a private character, and no opportunity was therefore afforded him of giving a final expression to his appreciation of the arrangements made for his reception and entertainment in Calcutta. On the evening of his departure His Royal Highness referred to this matter in conversation with me, and expressed his regret that he should not have been able, before leaving, to offer his renewed thanks to the Reception Committee : he desired me to write to you to this effect.

His Royal Highness was pleased to say that he was delighted with all that had been done to render his visit interesting and agreeable to him, and that he cordially appreciated the liberality with which the citizens had come forward to do him honor. He referred with especial warmth to the arrangements made by the Reception Committee, and assured me that he was particularly pleased, both with the welcome accorded to him on his arrival, and also with the interesting series of fêtes given upon the Maidan on the evening of the 7th.

I have much pleasure in conveying to you and to the Members of the Committee His Royal Highness's thanks, and I venture to add one word of congratulation from myself on the complete success with which your efforts were throughout attended. I am, My dear Maharaja. Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) LANSDOWNE."

THE subscriptions to the H. R. H. Reception Fund were announced to be Rs. 74,574. The realizations up to date, as will be found elsewhere, amount to Rs. 60,125.

"ONE of the Public," demands, in the *Indian Daily News*, from the Prince's Reception Committee "a list of disbursements." For, "there must be a saving of a large sum of money. The public want to see the items of expenditure accurately." What would he do if there were not "a saving of a large sum of money?" Whether the saving be large or small, the Executive Committee of the H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund will, no doubt, after they have realized all the subscriptions and made all the payments, call a meeting of the subscribers to pass the accounts and dispose of the surplus. There is little chance of the correspondent scrutinising the accounts unless he be a paying subscriber. Our suggestion is that the Committee should publish an account of the Entertainment for instruction and future guidance on similar occasions. The brilliant and magnificent Recep-

tion of the Prince of Wales in Behar has been lost to history in the absence of a graphic account by a brilliant chronicler.

WOOL, cotton goods, leather and furs are the chief Russian exports to China. The principal China exports to Russia are tea and burnt sugar. The Russian trade with China during the first eight months of 1889 is valued at 2,307,251 roubles against 3,362,114 roubles of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The China tea and sugar are valued at 4,525,000 and 51,626 roubles respectively.

IN their search in the Stamboul archives for the lost library of Matthew Corvinus, Professor Vambéry and his colleagues have come upon the Deed of Gift signed by the old Servian King, Urosch, to the Monastery of Sveti Stefan.

IT is sad to read that Earl Spencer's library—at Althorp, Northamptonshire—containing over 50,000 volumes of value and quality, is to be dispersed.

MR. O'BRIEN applied for a new trial of his case against Lord Salisbury for hinting in the Watford speech that he had given incitement to crime and outrages. The Queen's Bench refused the application. Mr. Justice Field was of opinion that Mr. Justice Stephen had rightly directed the Jury, that the Jury fully understood the question, that the plaintiff had a full and fair trial, and that there was no ground for disturbing the verdict. Mr. Justice Manisty concurred. There was then an application on behalf of the plaintiff for stay of execution in view of an appeal. That also was not granted. Mr. Justice Field said the best course would be that the taxation should proceed, the defendant's solicitor undertaking to return the costs, if the appeal succeeded.

WHETHER Marriage is a Failure or not, it is at a discount in Great Britain. We read :—

"A proposal for free marriages has been made among the clergy of Derby, and, if the movement should be successful locally, it is considered probable that it will extend throughout the country. The object of dispensing with the fee is to counteract the increasing tendency to civil marriage indicated in the returns recently issued by the Registrar-General, which show that the proportion of marriages solemnised according to the rites of the Church of England was only 70 per cent., the smallest in any year except one since the institution of civil marriages."

CORREGGIO'S lost "San Giovanni" has turned up. It represents St. John the Baptist life size, with a long and slender cross in the left hand. The face and figure are turned to the spectator, and the former wears a smiling expression. One Enrico Cattini bought it from a poor family in the town of Correggio for a song. Signor Adeodato Malatesta, the painter of Modena, certifies to its genuineness. He says—"for these considerations, and observing the vigour and the spontaneity of design and colouring, the idea that it may be a copy, even by one of the skilful *cinquecentista* imitators of Correggio, must be excluded. It is an original painting of great value, in Correggio's first manner, important in itself and in the history of art."

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

A NOTIFICATION from the Crown Office, High Court, fixes the dates of the five Criminal Sessions for the year 1890, on Mondays the 17th February, 28th April, 14th July, 1st September and 8th December.

THE High Court has fixed the following holidays for the Subordinate Civil Courts during the year 1890:—

New Year's Day and the two days following...	January, 1st to 3rd.
Uttarayan Sankranti (a) ...	" 12th.
Basant Panchami ...	" 25th and 26th.
Shiba Ratri ...	February 17th and 18th.
Dole Jatra and the day following ...	March 6th and 7th.
Baroni Ganga Snan (b) ...	" 18th.
Ashtami or Brahmapura Snan (c) ...	" 28th.
Sri Ram Nabami ...	" 29th.
Good Friday and the day following, including Shube-Barat ...	April 4th and 5th.
Mahabishub Sankranti ...	" 12th.
Bengali New Year's Day (d) ...	" 13th.
Eed-ul-Fitr (e) ...	May 21st and 22nd.
Empress' Birthday ...	" 24th.
Dashahara Ganga Snan (f) ...	" 29th.
Eclipse of the Sun ...	June 17th.
Ruth Jatra (g) ...	" 19th.
Ulta Ruth (h) ...	" 27th.
Eed-uz-Zoha (i) ...	July 28th and 29th.
Janma Ashtami ...	August 7th and 8th.
Monosha Puja (j) ...	" 15th.
Mohurum (k) ...	" 23rd to 27th.
Dussehra Vacation, including Mahalaya, Akhri Chahar Shumba, Durga and Lukhi Pujas, Fateha Doaz Dahum, Kali Puja, and Bhatriiditia ...	October 13th to November 14th.
Kartick Puja ...	November 15th and 16th.
Jaggadhatri Puja (l) ...	" 20th and 21st.
Chutter Mela (m) ...	" 24th to 30th.
Ras Purnima (n) ...	" 26th.
Christmas Day, and two days before and one day after ...	December 24th to 27th.

(a) This holiday is to be observed in the district of Sylhet only, instead of Dashahara Ganga Snan.

(b) This holiday is not to be observed in the district of Dacca.

(c) This holiday is to be observed in the district of Dacca only, instead of Baroni Ganga Snan.

(d) This holiday is to be observed in the district of Chittagong only, instead of Dashahara Ganga Snan.

(e) If the moon be not visible on 20th of May, then the Courts will be closed on 22nd and 23rd of May.

(f) 1. Ras Purnima is to be observed in Orissa, instead of this day.

2. Uttarayan Sankranti is to be observed in the district of Sylhet, instead of this day.

3. The 1st Bysack of the Bengali year is to be observed in the district of Chittagong instead of this day.

(g) This holiday is not to be observed in the districts of Bhagulpore, Gya, Patna, Sarun, Shahabad and Tirhoot.

(h) This holiday is not to be observed in the districts of Bhagulpore, Gya, Patna, Sarun, Shahabad, Tirhoot and Sylhet.

(i) If the moon be not visible on the 18th of July, then the Courts will be closed on the 29th and 30th of July.

(j) This holiday is to be observed in the district of Sylhet only, instead of Ulta Ruth.

(k) If the moon be not visible on 17th of August, then the Courts will be closed from 24th to 28th of August.

(l) This holiday is not to be observed in the districts of Bhagulpore, Gya, Patna, Sarun, Shahabad and Tirhoot.

(m) This holiday is to be observed in the districts of Bhagulpore, Gya, Patna, Sarun, Shahabad and Tirhoot only.

(n) This holiday is to be observed in Orissa only, instead of Dashahara Ganga Snan.

THE next Pledership and Mooktearship Examinations will be held in the Senate House on the 19th and 20th February.

IN September 1889, Government prescribed the Hooghly-Naihati route for emigrants to Assam. It is now explained that that order "was intended to apply only to the emigrants taken from the recruiting districts to Dhubri and crossing the Hooghly above Calcutta, who, in fact, constitute the majority, the object being to exclude the alternative crossings *via* Mugra and Kanchrapara. It was not intended to interfere in any way with emigration *via* Calcutta and Goalundo."

Holloway's Ointment and Pills are beyond all doubt the most valuable and most convenient medicines that travellers can take, across the seas to distant climes, for change of climate and the new conditions and surroundings of life to which they will be exposed will assuredly give rise to great disturbances of the system and to such especial morbid state of the blood and constitution generally as will render the use of these effectual remedies highly necessary, for they will find in them a ready and safe means of relief in most of the diseases which afflict the human race, and with them at hand they may be said to have a physician always at their call.

THE works of public utility, costing Rs. 200 and upwards, constructed by private individuals in the several districts of Bengal during 1888 are thus shown in the Gazette:—

Public buildings (9 in number) ...	Rs. 58,050
Roads (4) ...	" 1,450
Bridges (11) ...	" 12,653
Embankments or bunds (8) ...	" 2,578
Ghats (4) ...	" 4,550
Tanks (282) ...	" 2,09,193
Wells (106) ...	" 30,336
Miscellaneous (39) ...	" 1,681
Petty works ...	" 74,749

Rs. 3,95,240

In 1886, the total amount was Rs. 3,26,323, in 1887 it fell to Rs. 2,56,530.

WE give below the principal Resolutions or portions of them passed at the Fifth Indian National Congress held at Bombay. It thus propounds its theory of the expansion of the Legislative Councils:—

II.—That the following skeleton scheme for the reform and re-constitution of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations, and the Provincial Legislative Councils, is adopted, and that the President of this Congress do submit the same to Charles Bradlaugh, Esq., M.P., with the respectful request of this Congress that he may be pleased to cause a Bill to be drafted on the lines indicated in this skeleton scheme and introduce the same in the British House of Commons:—

#### SCHEME.

(1) The Imperial and Provincial Legislative Councils to consist respectively of Members not less than one half of whom are to be elected, not more than one-fourth to sit *ex-officio* and the rest to be nominated by Government.

(2) Revenue districts to constitute ordinarily territorial units, for electoral purposes.

(3) All male British subjects above 21 years of age possessing certain qualifications and not subject to certain disqualifications (both of which will be settled later) to be voters.

(4) Voters in each district to elect representatives to one or more electoral bodies, according to local circumstances, at the rate of 12 per million of the total population of the district, such representatives to possess certain qualifications and not to be subject to certain disqualifications, both of which will be settled later.

(5) All the representatives thus elected by all the districts included in the jurisdiction of each electoral body, to elect members to the Imperial Legislature at the rate of 1 per every five millions of the total population of the electoral jurisdiction, and to their own Provincial Legislature at the rate of 1 per million of the said total population, in such wise that whenever the Parsees, Christians, Mahomedans or Hindus are in a minority, the total number of Parsees, Christians, Mahomedans or Hindus, as the case may be, elected to the Provincial Legislature, shall not, so far as may be possible, bear a less proportion to the total number of members elected thereto, than the total number of Parsees, Christians, Hindus or Mahomedans, as the case may be, in such electoral jurisdiction, bears to its total population. Members of both legislatures to possess certain qualifications and not to be subject to certain disqualifications both of which will be settled later.

(6) All elections to be by ballot.

The outcome of the Public Service Commission is distasteful to our Patriots. Before the Commission they insisted on a visit to England as a necessary qualification for the Public Service. They now think differently.

V.—That this Congress, while thanking Her Majesty's Government for raising the age for the Indian Civil Service Competitive Examination from 19 to 23, does hereby put on record an emphatic expression of the universal disappointment which has been created by the rest of the Government's orders in regard to the Public Service Question, (the net result of which orders is to place the people of India in a worse position than they previously held), and reiterates the national conviction that no real justice will be done to India, in this matter, until the simultaneous holding in India, and in England, of all Examinations, for all Civil branches of the Public Service in India, at present held only in England, be conceded.

The Congress feels the indignity of the Arms Act but is not prepared to recommend its repeal. They won't disturb the law but would moderate the rules under it and apply them equally to the exempt and the unexempt.

VI.—That in view of the loyalty of the people, the hardships that the Arms Act, (XI. of 1878), as at present administered, entails, and the unmerited slur which it casts, upon them, the Government be moved so to modify the rules made under this Act that all restrictions as to the possession and bearing of arms shall apply equally, to all persons residing in or visiting India; that licenses to possess and bear arms shall be liberally and generally distributed wherever wild animals habitually destroy human life, cattle or crops, and that these and all licenses issued under the rules shall be granted once for all, shall operate throughout the Provincial jurisdiction within which they are issued, be only revocable on proof of misuse, and shall not require yearly or half-yearly renewals.

The wisdom of the Assembled Provinces has declared for a Permanent Settlement in all the Provinces.

VII.—That the Government be urged to take the subject of a Permanent Settlement once more under consideration in view to practical action thereon, such that fixity and permanency may be given to the Government Land Revenue demand without further delay, at any rate in all fully populated and well cultivated tracts of country.

The future rulers of the country are not unmindful of the present sufferings of their European brethren.

VIII.—That in view of the fall that has already occurred in the price of silver and in the exchange value of the Indian Rupee, it is impolitic on the part of the British Government to maintain any hinderances whatever to the consumption of silver for manufacturing purposes; and that this Congress strongly urges upon Her Majesty's Government that, not only as an act of justice to India (a matter which has been repeatedly brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Ministers), but also as an act of expediency in the interests of Her Majesty's British as well as Indian subjects, the plate duties should be immediately abolished, and Hall marking be made a voluntary institution.

The Congress appeals to the British House of Commons for a better hearing of Indian grievances.

IX.—That this Congress respectfully expresses the earnest hope that, in the interest of the people of India, the House of Commons will forthwith restore the right, formerly possessed by members of that Honourable House, of stating to Parliament any matter of grievance of the natives of India, before Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair, for the presentation in Committee of the Indian Budget statement, and earnestly trusts that the House of Commons will, in future, take into consideration the Annual Indian Budget statement at such a date as will ensure its full and adequate discussion, and further authorizes the President, Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., to sign a Petition in the name and on behalf of this Congress for presentation to the House of Commons in accordance with the terms of this Resolution.

THE year's additions to the Fellows of the Calcutta University are—the Honourable J. F. Norris, Q. C., the Venerable Archdeacon Mitchell, the Reverend H. Whitehead, M. A., Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., Moulavi Ashraf-ud-din Ahmad, Babus Shyama Charan Ganguli, B. A., and Bepin Behari Gupta, M.A.

RAJA Baikunthanath De Bahadr of Balasore is to the fore again. Although the Prince Albert Victor does not visit Orissa, Balasore, in public meeting assembled under the direction of the Raja, has Resolved to mark the advent by an iron bridge over the Salandi. The cost is estimated at Rs. 7,000. There is a sum of Rs. 3,700 available being the unexpended balance of the famine collections. The Raja's family contributes Rs. 1,000. The remaining Rs. 2,300 is expected to be made up by other local Zemindars.

RAJA Govind Lal Roy, of Rungpore, has assumed the next higher title, by the present expenditure of Rs. 500 and a prospective one of Rs. 100 a year. The *Indian Daily News* thus announces some gifts to the District Charitable Society:—

"Maharajah Gobind Lal Roy, of Rungpore, has made a donation of Rs. 500 to this Society, and has, in addition, subscribed Rs. 100 annually to its funds. We are also glad to be able to announce that Maharajah Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore Bahadoor, K.C.S.I., has made a donation of Rs. 500, and His Highness the Maharajah of Dhurbhungah a donation of Rs. 250."

THEY have adopted the Railway in China. The *North China Daily News* of September 23, 1889, publishes the following translation of an Imperial decree:—

"The Admiralty has submitted a memorial on railways, in which it recommends that the suggestion of (the Viceroy) Chang Chi-tung to build a line direct from Lu-Kow Kiao to Hunkow should be carried out. This, the Admiralty is of opinion, should be commenced from both ends as a tentative measure, in the south, from Hankow to Singan Chow, in the north, from Lu-kow Kiao to Chengting Fu, leaving the intervening sections for a future period. Li Hungchang will consult with the Admiralty on the details of the necessary arrangements to be made with a view of at once giving effect to the scheme proposed. Chow Fu, Provincial Judge of Chihli, and the Taot'ai P'u Chün-teh, are selected, from their experience in railway affairs, to superintend the carrying out of the preliminary steps.

The Sovereign is of opinion that, to make a country powerful, railways are essential, but recognising the fact that at the outset the people will have doubts and suspicions, orders the Viceroys and Governors of Chihli, Hupeh and Honan to issue explanatory proclamations to them exhorting and commanding them to throw no impediment in the way. It is the Imperial desire that all shall work together to make this great work a success."

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Nyassaland dispute between Portugal and England has been attended with no small excitement at Lisbon. Serious riots took place, excited crowds thronging the streets, smashing the windows of the Cabinet Ministers, and of the British Consulate where the mob also tore down the British Consular Escutcheon. Strong dissatisfaction of the action of the Portuguese Cabinet prevails, and the Cabinet has resigned. Portugal in her reply to Lord Salisbury's ultimatum declares that she only yields to superior might, while at the same time she reserves her rights in the debated territory. A new Cabinet has been formed. Further demonstrations are reported to have taken place. A crowd of students passed in procession and veiled the statues of Vasco De Gama and Albuquerque as a sign of mourning. Cries of "Down with the English Pirates" were raised by the mob. The action of England towards Portugal is criticised with strong disapproval by the Spanish and French press. With the exception of the semi-official organs, the Berlin Liberal Press also attacks the conduct of the English Government. The new Portuguese Premier, Senhor Pimental, speaking in the Cortes, said that Portugal had right on her side while England had might, and that Government would uphold the rights and honor of the country and protect its interests as far as possible. The Government, at the same time, is actively engaged in repressing the anti-English demonstrations.

EARLY in the week came an English telegram reporting the more or less abatement of the influenza in St. Petersburg, Paris and London. The epidemic, however, had increased to such an alarming extent in the Thames Valley, that the doctors in the Brentford district declared their inability to cope with the enormous number of cases. Subsequent news announced the ravages the epidemic was making in high places. Earl Cairns died of pneumonia following influenza. On the 14th January, Lord Napier of Magdalla was reported to have got a severe attack, to be followed the next day with the stunning intelligence of his death. The Marshal's baton will, it is said, be offered to Sir Donald Stewart. Lord Hartington had a serious attack, both lungs being affected, but he has since been reported to be better. Other English notabilities were reported to be suffering. The deaths of Mr. Warren Streeter, and Professor Dollinger are also announced, it is not said, whether from the raging epidemic. Princess Maud of Wales had the influenza.

WE grieve to hear of the death, at Cannes, of Sir Michael Westropp formerly Chief Justice of Bombay. The High Court of Bombay was closed on the afternoon of the 15th instant as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, when Sir Charles Sargent said that Sir Michael Westropp's judgments were a storehouse of legal learning on almost every subject, and those especially on Hindu law would keep his memory alive, not only in Bombay, but in all the Courts of India. Mr. Justice Birdwood also addressed the bar, saying that Sir Michael's name would always be held in honor in that place where he had been Judge for 19 years, for 12 years of which he had presided as Chief Justice.

A ST. PETERSBURG telegram reports the dismissal of General Ali-khanoff from the command of the Merve District pending enquiry into strong complaints of cruelty brought against him by the Natives. The Russian Budget shows a good surplus, without any fresh taxation. The Czar desires thus to emphasize his resolve to maintain an honorable peace and to develop the resources of the country.

THE Emperor William, in his speech to the Prussian Diet said that, the foreign relations of Germany were everywhere good, while at the same time insisting on the necessity of maintaining her defences at the highest standard of efficiency.

MR. Stanley has arrived at Cairo and had an official reception. The Khedive has conferred on him the Order of Osmanli, and also decorated others of his party. Emin Pasha had a relapse.

SIR John Pope Hennessy is a Liberal candidate for West Waterford.

COLONEL Malleson has been fined £1,000, being damages awarded by the jury in the Sheriff's Court to Mr. Herbert Gladstone for being defamed by that correspondent of the *Allahabad Morning Post*.

ANOTHER prosecution, and this in connection with the sensational Cleveland Street Scandal, has gone against the defendant. Mr. Earnest Parke has been found guilty of libelling Lord Euston and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. In awarding sentence, Mr. Justice Hawkins called it an atrocious and unjustifiable libel and hoped the sentence would have a deterrent effect on others.

TWO foreign companies have applied to Russia to work the silver and lead deposits in Turkestan.

AT Santiago, for better clothing of the poor, the Chamber of Commerce of Deputies is considering a Bill for reduction of duties on cotton goods—bleached and unbleached.

THE Hon. Honore Mercier, Premier of Quebec, has published a handbook of that province, which can be had for the asking. From this publication it appears that the 60,000 French of 1760 have in 128 years swelled to over one million and quarter.

THE Germans are multiplying in Spain. They have thriving colonies in Madrid and the great ports. Travelling clerks are to be seen everywhere. They are unrivalled for their activity, and being good linguists are irresistible. German capital has invaded all kinds of Spanish mining, industrial, railway and insurance enterprises. Recently a German bank and a German Electric Light Company have been established in the Spanish capital.

MUCH as the moderns have progressed in the arts and conveniences of life, they yet lag behind the ancients in the arts of government, as in the Fine Arts of Poetry, Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. The Romans who conquered the world were specially great in the practice of empire. Some of the incidental traces of their progress discoverable in their records are very interesting. Thus, we find in the younger Pliny's correspondence the first idea of a Fire Brigade. The following letters are translated in the Earl of Orrery's version published in 2 vols. 4to in 1751. But we adopt a more accurate rendering which we found lately in a *Liverpool Insurance Journal* :—

*Pliny to the Emperor Trajan.*

"While I was visiting another part of my province, a great conflagration—*vastissimum incendium*—at Nicomedia consumed many private houses and two public buildings, the town hall and the temple of Isis, although these latter were on opposite sides of the road. The fire, moreover, spread widely, first, on account of the violence of the wind, and next by the apathy of the populace, for it is beyond doubt that they stood idle and immovable spectators of this great calamity. Besides this there was nowhere to be found for the public service, any siphon (*id est* pipe; *nullus siphon*) or water-buckets, in short, there were no appliances whatever for extinguishing fire. These things, however, as I have already commanded, shall be provided. Do thou, O prince, consider whether thou dost think it meet that a body of firemen (*fabrorum*) should be established, consisting simply of one hundred and fifty men. I will take care that no one except workmen shall be enrolled, nor, if established, shall the association be used for any other purpose. It will not be difficult to watch over so small a number."

*The Emperor Trajan to Pliny.*

"It has occurred to you, that following the example of many other places, we may be able to establish an association of workmen at Nicomedia. But let us remember how that province and those very cities have been troubled by associations of this kind. Whatever name we may give to them and from whatever cause, those who are enrolled therein will speedily become *heteriae*. Better, therefore, it is to provide those things which may be helpful towards suppressing fires, and to give warning to the owners of property to render service themselves, and, if the emergency should demand, to employ the assembled populace for this purpose."

The reply of the Emperor shows that the old Romans had to contend with the same forces of democratic unrest and demagogic intrigue that embarrass modern States. The imperial caution might be worth pondering by British statesmen.

THE Prince arrived at Benares on the afternoon of the 14th and was received by Sir Auckland Colvin and the Maharaja of Benares. In the evening, there was a State dinner, followed by a reception. The reception was well attended by Europeans and Natives, including the Maharajas of Benares and Hutwa, and several of the principal persons

present were introduced to his Royal Highness. On the next morning, the bathing ghats and the Golden Temple were visited, his Royal Highness seeing the ghats by going up and down in a boat in the river. At noon was laid the Foundation Stone of the much debated Benares water works. The ceremony took place under a huge pavilion erected for the purpose, and all the arrangements and decorations are reported to have been admirable. Mr. White read an account of the scheme for the sanitation of this ancient city. The cost is, for the present, estimated at forty lacs of rupees, of which 24 lacs will be spent on the water-works, and the remainder on a system of underground sewers, connected with the water-pipes for flushing purposes. The largest of the subscriptions received for these objects were Rs. 62,000 from the Maharaja of Benares, Rs. 25,000 from the Maharaja of Hutwa, and Rs. 50,000 from the late Dewan Ramchand of Punjab. The successful execution of the project will largely depend on the assistance of Government. His Royal Highness then performed the ceremony, after which the royal party left for Shikargunge, where they spent a day in shooting, as guests of the Maharaja of Benares. There was a splendid exhibition of Benares manufactures in the Town Hall, of which the Prince had a private view.

His Royal Highness is due at Lucknow to-day, whither Sir Auckland Colvin has proceeded before him for his reception. The City of Roses will of course be splendidly decorated.

THE Government of Bengal has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 17,000 to the District Charitable Society for better accommodation or location of its Lepers.

THE Irrecoverable Government Loan during the next financial year in Bengal, has been estimated at Rs. 25,000.

THE next year's Bengal Budget provides Rs. 96,500 for charitable purposes, Rs. 25,000 for periodicals, and Rs. 20,000 for Special Commissions of Enquiry.

BABOO Annodaprasad Banerjee retires from the Senior Government Pleadership. Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee succeeds him. The appointment carries with it a salary of Rs. 3,000, fees about Rs. 300 and a number of calls for explanation every month.

ANGLICIZATION is the rage of the hour. The Natives have begun to be shy of their own dress and food, their manners and titles. The European dressmakers are largely patronized. Native shops of shirts, collars and coats are multiplying. Native tailoring, however, is at a discount. The market is overstocked with Europe goods for native wear. The stiff bow is replacing the low *saham*. In a word, the craze is to affect the European down to the smallest minutiae. The Native Civilian, Covenanted or Statutory, is either "Mr." or "Esquire." He must be Gazetted so. All honor, therefore, to Kumar Girindra Narain Deb that he prefers to be addressed as "Kumar" instead of as "Esquire." The Lieutenant-Governor has acceded to his request and has ordered accordingly. That order applies equally to other titled Statutory Civilians who may wish to stick to Native honor and dignity.

LAST year, three Sepoys in the British Military and Police services were traced as deserters from one of the regiments of Jhind Infantry. Under the old rules, we believe, they would have been surrendered. But the Government of India makes a departure and has ordered that deserters from the army of a Native State, who may be by mistake enlisted in the British service, should, on discovery, be dismissed, but not surrendered to the Durbar, unless they have deserted from the State's foreign service corps.

THE Government of India in the Military Department has ruled that applications for replacement of medals lost by pensioners, ex-soldiers not being pensioners, and others not serving in departments, shall henceforth be investigated by civil and political officers and not by pension paymasters as heretofore. When satisfied as to the circumstances attending the loss, the investigating officer shall refer to the officer commanding the regiment to which the claimant belongs or, in cases of men whose regiments have been disbanded, to the Comptroller of Military Accounts concerned. He must at the same time certify that the loss was accidental and not culpable. Of course, the applicant must pay for the decoration.



THE first Convocation of the Allahabad University was held on the 14th January under the presidency of Sir John Edge, the Vice-Chancellor, who delivered a long and interesting address. The Calcutta University Convocation took place to-day. Lord Lansdowne, the Chancellor, was present. Dr. Gurudas Banerjee, the first Native Vice-Chancellor, gave an address which took one hour in its delivery. An important announcement was made at the convocation, namely, that M. A.'s of the University should in future have the privilege of nominating two Fellows, when vacancies occurred. After the ceremony, the Viceroy drove to his Barrackpore Park.

CAPTAIN Hearsey has been subpoenaed as a witness for the defence in his prosecution of Mr. G. W. Allen of the *Pioneer*. Mr. Allen has been excused personal attendance. Mr. Rose, attorney for Captain Hearsey, had applied for subpoenas on some of the officers of the *Pioneer* staff, but Mr. Marsden would not grant the application, as he considered it very unreasonable to have the whole establishment to appear on one day, and thus practically to stop the issue of the paper. His worship suggested that Mr. Rose should consult the attorneys on the other side, and arrange to have the witnesses present on separate days, wishing it, at the same time, to be understood that his refusal to grant the present application was without any prejudice to any subsequent application which Mr. Rose might make for the attendance of witnesses. Subpoenas have, however, been issued on Mr. Chesney and Mr. Hensman, the former being required to produce the original manuscript of the defamatory article complained of, which is said to be in Mr. Allen's handwriting. The case has been fixed for next Wednesday.

THE inauguration of the Baranagar Victoria School building took place with some *clat* last week. Sir Alfred Croft was to have presided at the ceremony, but owing to indisposition, he could not attend, and Mr. Justice Norris was kind enough at a very short notice to consent to go all the way out of Calcutta for performing the function. On arrival, Mr. Norris was received by the Patrons and Committee of the School with exuberant marks of honor. The way up from the school gate to the top of the stairs on the first floor where the ceremony was held was covered with scarlet cloth and carpet, while a sort of guard of honor was formed of the up-country peons in the service of Kumar Daulat Chunder Roy. The school-building was decorated with copious garlands of flowers and the inevitable bunting, and altogether presented a beautiful and animated sight. A large number of gentlemen, belonging to the town and its vicinity, had assembled to witness the ceremony. On being invited to the chair, Mr. Norris formally declared the building open, and then addressed the audience on a variety of topics of educational and general interest. We may take another opportunity of noticing the address. We have now just space enough to congratulate the School Committee, and especially their indefatigable Assistant Secretary, Babu Atul Krishna Bose, in their having at last secured a house of its own for their institution. The liberal interest taken in the wellbeing of the school by its Patrons, Kumar Daulat Chunder Roy, Babu Kiran Chunder Roy, and Rai Jotendranath Chaudhuri also deserves recognition. After the opening of the building, there was distribution of Prizes to the students, the prizes this year being of more than the usual character. There was a goodly number of silver medals, one silver watch, and a good number of standard books, the books with one of the medals being wholly awarded by Kumar Daulat Chunder.

THERE are now no less than twenty enactments to prevent cruelty to animals. At the last sitting of the Supreme Council, the Home Member Mr. Hutchins introduced a law for the same purpose which shall apply to the whole of British India, and be easily worked. It has been proposed to make it a punishable offence to "cruelly and unnecessarily beat, overdrive, overload or otherwise ill-treat any animal; or to bind or carry any animal in such a manner or position as to subject the animal to unnecessary pain or suffering; or to offer, expose, or have in ones possession, for sale any live animal which is suffering pain by reason of mutilation, starvation or other ill-treatment, or any dead animal which has been killed in an unnecessarily cruel manner; or to kill any animal in an unnecessarily cruel manner; or to work a diseased animal. The prohibition applies to birds as well.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1890.

### THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE last day of the Congress was a busy and important one. There was a great deal of business to go through, and the meeting was therefore held earlier than usual. The speakers were well-known men like Mr. Chandravarkar, Babu Kali Charan Banerjee, Mr. G. Subramania Iyer, Mr. Dinshaw Edulji Wacha, Mr. Javerilal Umiashankar, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Professor Adam, Rev. Corban, and a few others. The resolutions were likewise of great importance, being, indeed, those which have been affirmed and reaffirmed at previous sittings of the Congress, and on which Indian public opinion might be said to have attained a remarkable degree of unanimity.

The subjects of these resolutions, having already received the fullest consideration from the Congress at its past meetings, it was rightly thought unnecessary to present them separately. They were included in one resolution, called the "omnibus" resolution, and Babu Kali Charan Banerjee, who was entrusted with it, moved it in a speech characterised by his usual charming fluency. The terms of the omnibus resolution were:—

"That this present Congress does hereby ratify and confirm the resolutions passed by previous Congresses as to (1) the urgent necessity for a complete separation of executive and judicial functions, such that, in no case, shall the two functions be combined in the same officer; (2) the expediency of extending into many parts of the country, where it is not at present in force, the system of trial by jury; (3) the necessity of withdrawing from the High Courts, the powers, first vested in them in 1872, of setting aside verdicts of acquittal by juries; (4) the necessity of introducing, into the Code of Criminal Procedure, a provision enabling accused persons, in warrant cases, to demand that instead of being tried by the magistrate, they be committed to the Court of Sessions; (5) the highly unsatisfactory character of the existing system of police administration in India, and the absolute necessity of a fundamental reform therein; (6) the expediency of both, establishing military colleges in India,—whereat the Natives of India, as defined by statute, may be educated and trained for a military career as officers of the Indian Army, and of authorizing, under such rules and restrictions as may seem necessary, such a system of volunteering for the Indian inhabitants of the country, as may qualify them to support the Government in any crisis; (7) the extremely unsatisfactory character of the Income-tax administration, especially as regards incomes below Rs. 1,000, and the expediency of raising the taxable minimum to this amount; (8) the extreme importance of increasing, instead of diminishing, as the present tendency appears to be, the public expenditure on education in all its branches, and the necessity, in view of the promotion of one of the most essential of these branches, the technical, of the appointment of a mixed commission to inquire into the present industrial condition of the country; (9) the impolicy and injustice involved in the late increase of the salt tax in a time of profound peace, and the urgent necessity for an immediate reduction of this tax, and the re-imposition, to balance the deficit thus caused, of light *ad valorem* import duties; and (10) the necessity for the reduction of, instead of the continual increase to, the military expenditure of the country."

Mr. Chandravarkar seconded the resolution in an able speech. It comprised, he said, two classes of subjects. The first class was one on which official opinion had pronounced itself in favor of the demands of the Congress. The necessity of separating judicial and executive functions, and of reforming the police had been acknowledged by the highest official authorities. As regards the Military College, no less a personage than the Duke of Connaught was in favor of it, and as to volunteering, the Hon'ble Justice Bayley, himself in command of one of the Volunteer Corps in Bombay, said that natives ought to be admitted. In regard to these questions, therefore, the present session of the Congress had merely to confirm what had been already discussed over and over again. The second class of subjects consisted of those, of which officials had not spoken with the same approval, but neither were they able to deny the facts upon which the Congress relied in supporting them, or to meet their arguments with anything like cogency. If these reforms became an accomplished fact, they would secure the blessings

of justice and education on which, in his opinion, rest the highest claims of Englishmen to the government of their country.

The acknowledgments of the Congress for the services done to the cause of excise reform by Messrs. Caine and Smith in the House of Commons were formally recorded. The next resolution was a most important one, and related to Lord Cross's decision on the great question of the Public Service. It was moved by Mr. Salim Radaswamy in terms which will be found elsewhere.

It was seconded by Mr. Gokhale who said that the Government having promised in 1858 that there should be no distinction of race, creed and colour in recruiting for the public service, all that they now asked was that the Government should stick to its engagements, and nothing more. Mr. Adam in supporting the resolution spoke with great liberality like a true friend of the people. He said:—

"In this question the great point was the holding of simultaneous examinations in England and in India. If they got that, they got everything; and all their talk of reserved appointment, and statutory service, &c., would disappear. Once they got on an equal footing with the other candidates for employment, their future would lie in their own hands. There was nothing that made him so angry as when he heard people say, in a sneering way, that the Indians only went in for education so as to secure Government employment. Of course they should wish to get into that service. If the service was the 'blue ribbon' of the public schools in England, why should it not be so here?"

The next resolution was moved in a telling speech by Mr. Adam. It related to the Arms Act and like the preceding resolutions, it was carried unanimously.

At this stage a Hindu delegate is reported to have proposed three cheers to the Mahomedans, to which a Mahomedan delegate, not to be outdone perhaps, replied by proposing three cheers for the Hindus. We do not know what to say of this expression of good-will between two sections of the people whose jealousies and dissensions are a constant source of anxiety to us all, but whatever its reality, any small indication of growing good feeling between them deserves to be welcomed and encouraged.

An important resolution was moved by Babu Baikunthanath Sen for extending the Permanent Settlement.

It was forcibly seconded and unanimously carried. The next motion related to the abolition of the English silver plate duties, and met with the same general support.

Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee moved a resolution with the object of securing more efficient control of Indian affairs by the House of Commons. The resolution will be found in another column. Mr. Bonnerjee spoke with force and ability in support of the motion which was carried unanimously.

The next business was to record a resolution expressing the high sense, entertained, not only in the Bombay Presidency, but throughout India, of the ability, integrity and impartiality that had characterised the administration of Lord Reay, Governor of Bombay. To Lord Reay was accorded the same high place of honor in the roll of Indian administrators as is assigned by history as by common consent to Mountstuart Elphinstone, and it was observed that in all matters, a high sense of duty, unswerving rectitude of purpose, and a clear perception of England's high mission in India had characterised Lord Reay's wise, sympathetic, sagacious, and beneficent rule. The motion was most warmly received, and carried with acclamation.

The remaining resolutions related to the future constitution of the Congress and a most encouraging feature that marked the close of the fifth sessions of the National Congress was the contribution of sums

ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5,000 made towards the Congress Fund, offers of which kept pouring in in rapid succession. These were announced amidst the greatest excitement and enthusiasm. Cheers were then given to the chief functionaries of the Congress, after which Mr. Hume announced that the Sixth National Congress would be held on 26th December 1890 in some city in Bengal, afterwards to be announced. The Congress then dissolved amid renewed cheers for the Queen-Empress, Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Hume.

### CARRIER-PIGEONS.

PIGEONCOTS—that is, doves for pigeons—are now maintained by the great military Powers on the Continent in all the chief fortresses. These ornithological warriors are *rara avis* to be sure, and, besides, rather unmanageable. They will fly only in one direction as a rule, though a few have been trained to return to their starting place. The supply is limited, and when these carriers have all been despatched on their errands, your quiver is exhausted, as it were; unless and until you can bring them back by balloon or otherwise, your intelligence branch is crippled. It was in the Franco-German war that this ornithological intelligence service came into vogue in our times. The necessity of the French besieged in their own cities and forts, we believe, specially suggested a recourse to this mode of communication. The practice since became general and was adopted by other nations. At present, it is a recognised military provision. In 1886, France had 20 stations for training and maintaining pigeon-cots. Russia at the end of 1887 had 5. Italy in 1888 had 14, including 2 stations in Massowah and Assab. Austria alone has not yet any regular establishment, but she is encouraging private enterprise.

A German journal, quoted in the *Army and Navy Gazette*, writes:—

"It would be a great mistake to imagine that the faculty of the carrier-pigeon to find its way back to its home from a long distance was only discovered during the 'great war.' Even the ancients knew of it, and knew well how to make use of it. Thus in ancient Egypt there existed a well-organised service of carrier-pigeons, and pigeon stations were specially built all over Syria and Egypt. Thus the Crusaders found in the eleventh century, during the siege of Jerusalem, a well-organised service of carrier-pigeons in that city."

We do not remember any reference to the pigeon service in war in the Mahabharata or the Ramayana, but Garuda and Jatayu seem to us to be myths of such a use of birds in war. Mediæval Indian traditions, however, abound in accounts of the notable part played in war by the feathered tribe. That part was limited—limited indeed to one office—but it was an important, 'all-important' part. It was in fact a rude use that was made of the bird of peace and love, and grievously did our ancestors rue for the rudeness.

The pigeon was employed as a messenger to be sure, but not exactly after the European manner. Though utilised in war, it was not used for war. The bird of peace had no mission of peace—far, very far from it. It was a bloody, if non-military, business on which it was wont to be sent. It was not taught to talk like a parrot and repeat sounds at a distance. It was not even trained to carry letters, as in European armies. The old Hindus relied on the instinct of the bird to fly when it gets a chance. That habit was utilised for drawing a symbol. The flight of the pigeon home back from the field was fixed as the sign of decisive defeat. The return of the bird was equivalent to despatch home from the midst of battle to the effect—"All is lost. As for Honour, it is in your hands. Do now save it as befits Kshattriya dames and damoiselles, without flinch or wince!" On receipt of this errand—or sign—they set fire to the pile of well-oiled logs ready for them and throw themselves into the flame, and soon the whole womankind of the unfortunate king, old and young, from decrepit dowager to the baby on the breast, aye, the infant just dropped into the world, are consumed to ashes. Such were the olden times. And such was Aryan chivalry—not in the pratings of inventive minnesingers, but as matter of fact. A chivalry gone for ever before the advance of the Schoolmaster and the Reformer, the Publicist and the Politician!

It is possible, that the suggestion was improved for purposes of organization in war. At the least, generals in the field might well use pigeons as a simple call for reinforce-

ments from the base. It is of kings, and Hindu kings were *ex-officio* commanders of their forces, that we read or hear. It was usual for them to conceal a pigeon or two in their breast, well-secured within the folds of their robes. They fought desperately. If the chances of battle went against them, they did not survive the defeat, but before the close of the day they rushed headlong against, and into the thick, of the enemy, trampling and spearing and cutting them, till themselves overpowered and cut down. Such, we repeat, were Hindus of old! Such was Kshattriya kingdom! But the Age of Gold and Silver is gone—that of Lead and Brass is come. And the glory of India is extinguished for ever!

Before the final onset of despair, the king freed the prisoners of his bosom and saw them take advantage of their liberty by a straight flight across the blue Heavens, homewards, unconscious—poor things!—of the havoc on the fairest and dearest and the most innocent their wings waft to their very sight. It was a savage massacre at the best. At times, it might be a far more appalling horror—a tragedy without a name. For the arrangement obviously was not of the most careful kind. There was room for *contretemps*, and miscarriages did occur. If king and bird together were suddenly killed in the midst of battle, there was the chance of his family falling a prey to the conqueror. But if the bird somehow slipped away, without the king losing the battle, then—what then? Why, then took place a bootless butchery, without even an equivalent according to the Kshattriya Code of Honour.

Such miscarriages were by no means rare. At any rate, the same disaster is reported as the doom of many principalities in different parts of India. It was thus that a dynasty was extinguished in Sindh. In Bengal, a family in Beerbhoom, another in Nuddea, a third in Dacca, and more than one in the Eastern parts, perished. Similar instances must occur in Northern, Central, and Southern India. It was thus, we believe, that this slippery messenger was discredited. Europe may well be warned by the experience of the hoary East.

### THE PERSECUTED SUBORDINATE EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

TALK of the independence of the Judiciary? Listen to the story of petty persecution to which a native branch of the service is systematically subjected. It discloses a scandalous state of things which demands prompt remedy.

The difficulties of judicial officers (I mean Deputy Magistrates) have greatly increased, for more reasons than one, which, I am afraid, are neither known to Government nor the general public nor those so-called reformers who cry to have the Judicial and Executive separated. There are many native Magistrates whose lot is a peculiarly hard one from the numerous disadvantages and difficulties under which they have to perform their onerous duties. I don't think that in any country in the world the judges are so much interfered with and have so many masters to serve and please as in this country. They have several masters who, each and every one of them, have power to criticise their proceedings and find fault with their work. I give below a list of these masters:—

- The High Court.
- The District Judge.
- The District Magistrate.
- The Divisional Commissioner.
- The Joint Magistrate.
- The Inspector-General of Police.
- The District Superintendent of Police.
- The Assistant Superintendent of Police.
- The Inspector-General of Jails.

The High Court, the District Judge and the District Magistrate, in the capacity of appellate courts, are no doubt judicially superior to the subordinate Deputy Magistrate, whose decisions they can reverse, revise, modify and uphold. These functions are most impartially, judiciously and ably performed by those authorities, and there is little room for complaint against them. I believe the little independence which the native Magistrates have at present is entirely due to the protection which they receive from the District Judge and the High Court. The Magistrate of the District as an appellate court is more executive than judicial, and in his executive capacity he is generally inclined

to override the independence of the native Magistrates. Some Magistrates think that their Deputies are bound to decide cases according to the light imparted to them by their chief. While there are those who only quietly watch the work of the inexperienced Magistrates and help them by their kind advice and long experience, and their suggestions and advice are always welcome. But I regret to say that the number of such officers is very small. It does not matter much again what the Magistrate does, acting on his own views and opinions, but the misfortune is far greater when he takes action against his Deputy Magistrate of say 20 years' standing on the whispers of a boy Assistant Police Superintendent who can hardly understand the law of evidence or the Criminal Code correctly and who has not been in the service for more than 4 or 5 years. The District Superintendent is practically allowed to review and criticise any decision of the poor unfortunate Deputy Magistrate and has the ear of the Magistrate which is worse. Following in the footsteps of his superior, the Assistant-Superintendent never spares the Deputy Magistrate and feels himself privileged to use any terms that he likes to bring him to his senses and make him feel his inferiority. In one case the warrant issued by the Deputy Magistrate to the Assistant Superintendent for searching the house of a rich man was not only returned unexecuted to that officer, but remarks were passed on the merits of the case and on the proceedings of the Deputy Magistrate at random which were all most insulting. The District Magistrate being a very good man took notice of it, otherwise the matter would have been pushed up and the Deputy again reprimanded for representing the matter.

In another case, a Head Constable who investigated a culpable homicide case did not send up the only eye-witness. He was again directed by his superior the Inspector to send that eye-witness, and he again disobeyed that order. The Court summoned the witness and, after disposing of the case, brought the conduct of the Head Constable to the Magistrate's notice in the decision, but the Magistrate took no notice of it. The case went up to the Sessions and there the Judge remarked severely on the conduct of the Magistrate and compelled him to take action against the Head Constable which was done. The Magistrate disregarded the Deputy Magistrate's remarks because the Deputy was not in the good books of the District Superintendent of Police.

These examples will suffice to prove how matters stand at present. Each Police officer named above has the license to find fault with the Deputy Magistrate and make insulting remarks regarding him and his proceedings. If the Deputy Magistrate finds fault with any Police officer and the misconduct clearly appears from the evidence on record, even then in almost each case the District Superintendent is asked to inquire and report, which means a fresh opportunity to blame the Deputy and find a dozen mistakes in his proceedings. Every such enquiry shews that the Police officer is quite innocent and the Deputy is a fool who is careless and cannot understand the case. The Magistrate's order is "file" or "I agree with the Police Superintendent." In the matter of an Assistant Superintendent the troubles of the Deputy are multiplied. For the Assistant has his say and then the full Superintendent has his, the latter adding insult to injury.

The Deputies now know their position in regard to the Police and there are not more than 5 in one hundred who have the courage to notice the conduct of the Police. No one likes to invite insult and displeasure without any gain to himself as it is a known fact that in 95 cases he would never be successful.

The High Court rulings are a "great nuisance" and the lesser "nuisance" is the District Judge's opinion or ruling on any law point. If the Deputy Magistrate has such authorities on his side, he is never safe, because the Magistrate and the District Superintendent think otherwise and set those authorities at naught. The Deputy is placed on the two horns of a dilemma. How can he disobey law and order or knowingly invite the ire of the Magistrate and the Police for his own ruin? In submitting to the Police, he is safe, but in acting according to his conscience, he exposes himself to the criticism of the Police which is circulated for his mortification, discouragement and punishment among his brother officers who are asked to take note of the



Magistrate's remarks for their instruction and guidance. After an accused person has been acquitted, the Magistrate has no right to interfere, but in such cases also, extra-judicial remarks are made and circulated. The High Court is scarcely moved to quash the proceedings of the Deputy Magistrate. In some cases the District Superintendent takes the lead and expounds the law most elaborately with the assistance of his Assistant whose knowledge of law is not superior to his superior's. The Magistrate if he is of the Police-worshipping type writes another memo. censuring the Deputy which is circulated in some cases. Among the new class of Magistrates, the tendency of most of them is to favor the Police in the way above stated. If the District Superintendent is against the Deputy, he brings his faults in more than one way to the notice of the Magistrate, and the Deputy has no defence against such back-biting. The Inspector-General of Police completes what is left unfinished by his subordinates. He has full power to overhaul all records and to pass his own opinion on them and report the offending Deputy to Government.

The Inspector-General of Jails has his share too in reporting the Deputy, for better protection in his own province. Even the Superintendent of Jail comes down upon the Deputy and in each case, he is called upon to explain. I don't know how many explanations each Deputy Magistrate gives each year.

If there is a little delay in disposing of a Police case, explanation is at once called for, either on the whisper or suggestion of the Police or on other grounds. The Deputy Magistrate is now-a-days notoriously overworked in every place, particularly in Bengal. In addition to the Criminal, he has invariably most important Revenue work to do. Each time he is reprimanded, or called upon to explain, the Police virtually win a victory which they show by their demeanour and in other offending ways. Under the rules no witness should be detained for more than 3 days and in Police cases he should if possible be discharged on the same day. There are many other stringent conditions under which cases must be disposed of. Over and above all these conditions and difficulties, the bar is becoming more difficult, troublesome and exacting and the Barristers and pleaders take up a good portion of the Court's time unnecessarily but legally, and there is no remedy against this sort of encroachment upon the valuable public time.

No punishment will satisfy the District Superintendent or the Magistrate until the burglar or the thief is hanged or transported in each case. For this also the Deputy Magistrates are taken to task severely by the Magistrate. The good Commissioner Sahab or his Personal Assistant also sometimes takes pleasure in calling for explanation from the Magistrates for inadequate punishment, without the least idea of the case or caring for the High Court rulings. These people are in most cases as innocent of the High Court rulings as a carpenter of the art of bookbinding. If the Magistrate acquits more persons than he convicts, he must explain, no matter whether he acts rightly or wrongly. If you convict 2,000 persons in one month none would ask you what you have done. When your acquittals preponderate even by 2, then you are undone. To make the return acceptable to the higher authorities, what tricks do not the Magistrates play? Sometimes they give hints to the Police to send up nuisance cases or cases of similar nature. Sometimes other plans are thought of by weaker persons.

Now I ask you in the name of Justice and Fairplay, how many Deputy Magistrates have sufficient courage and independence of character to perform their duties properly and fearlessly under such conditions and circumstances?

They are after all human beings and come from different stages of society. Now can an *amla* Deputy Magistrate or a Bunnia Deputy Magistrate stand the "Dhamki" of the Magistrate and act against his advice or instructions in judicial matters, knowing full well that if he does not obey the Magistrate or submit to the District Superintendent, he is sure to be lowered in the estimation of the people or transferred to a bad District or reported badly in the General Administration Report? Every Deputy Magistrate knows the force and effect of a D. O. and the extent of harm which it can do.

In my time I had the honor of knowing most intimately many Deputy Magistrates, and I have still opportunities of meeting them frequently and hearing their sad tales. I

think there are very few really conscientious officers who have peace of mind, or who are at all satisfied with their lot in the service. The facts which I have related are not known to the higher authorities and they cannot be brought to their notice officially or by any other channel. It is hoped that Government which always tries to do justice and which respects the independence of judicial officers will protect this class of unfortunate officers from uncalled for interference, annoyance and insult to which they are daily and hourly subjected.

A. D.

## GREECE.

The "Journal de la Chambre de Constantinople" in its issues of the 24th August and 14th September last, in reviewing a recent article from the pen of M. Adolphe Dekoninck, extracts the following passages on the subject of the economic movements in the Greek Kingdom :—

The continental portion, the peninsula and the numerous islands which constitute Greece proper, have an area of 64,689 square kilometres, and a population of 2,067,000 souls. This country, although twice as large, is only a third as populous as Belgium. The density of the population does not exceed 32 persons to the square kilometre. The Balkan peninsula, Russia, Sweden, and Norway, are the only European countries with a scantier population than that of the Hellenic kingdom. This inferiority is only temporary, for in no part of the continent, is the population higher than in Greece, in which the number of inhabitants increases annually by 12 per thousand.

What is wanted in Greece is the land. Thus the idea of draining the lakes and marshes and devoting to agriculture the portions of the plains occupied by the waters has been welcomed with enthusiasm.

The most important undertaking of this kind is the draining of the Copais lake, not far from the town of Thebes, which will shortly allow of the cultivation of nearly 25,000 hectares of land of wonderful fertility and the revenue from which is estimated at 10 millions francs. Colonists are wanted to work the new lands, and it appears that propositions from Swiss and Italian subjects have been already received.

Farming on a large scale is almost unknown. The extensive subdivision of the land is one of the most serious obstacles to the introduction of agriculture machinery, but it is hoped to popularise that latter in consequence of the scarcity of labour to work the drained lands.

Some properties are already administered in a particular manner, principally in Allica; but in the larger number of the farms, tools and implements of husbandry are in a more than primitive condition.

Greece, which should produce six times more wheat than it now supplies, is one of the European countries which yields the least. The average crop is only 1,700,000 hectolitres, or a little more than half of what is required for consumption. Wheat from the plain of Thebes and barley from Attica are well known. Rye and spelt of the stony districts are very fine, but the oats are only moderate. The cultivation of rice, practised on a large scale for some years in Thessaly, gives excellent results, as do the sowings of maize tried at Fubec and in Acarnania.

The climate is favorable for plantations of tobacco. The yield is generally very remunerative and produces about 6 million kilogrammes. This cultivation has extended to some extent since France, Belgium, England, and Egypt have taken to supplying themselves in Greece. Greek tobacco has a delicate perfume, it is light and is smoked principally in cigarettes; it is neither suitable for the pipe nor for the cigar.

The sugarcane, of which there are always plantations, was already known in the time of Alexander the Great. It is thought that the sugar beet will thrive very well in old bed of the Copais. The country is obliged to import, principally from France, a quantity of about 4,000,000 kilogrammes of sugar annually.

Fruits of every kind abound and offer, by their beauty and quality, all that is found in the most favourable climates of the globe. The fruit trees which flourish best are the orange, pomegranate, fig, almond, and apricot. The cultivation of the lemon tree, to which the soil and climate are, however, well adapted, has been neglected since Italy and Spain have almost monopolised the trade in lemons in all parts of the world. The fruit which is grown with the greatest success is the celebrated currant which constitutes the chief article of export from the kingdom. Foreign countries purchased it in 1888 to the value of 66 million francs.

Forestry produces about 8 million francs and will procure four or five times as much, says M. Bournouff, if an improved system of cultivation were practised.

The production of Valonia is very important, it is sought after by England and Italy, where it is used in dyeing and tanning.

The kingdom contains 108,000 horses.

The sheep number 3,465,000 or 167 per hundred inhabitants.

The wool of these sheep is white, very long, very coarse and often mixed with hairs and down.

Bees are numerous, and agriculture has largely developed. Greece is, moreover, a country which abounds in wild plants, the perfumed flowers of which give a honey of a peculiar aroma. The Kingdom produces annually 8,75,000 francs worth of honey, which has its chief market in Turkey. Greek wax is distinguished by its whiteness and beauty.

Maritime fauna abound. The sturgeon, salmon, mackerel, anchovy, tunny, and sword-fish which supplies a reddish and fine silk, is caught in the Ionian Sea. The Greeks devote themselves less to the capture of fish than to fishing for sponge and coral, which they practise with more skill than the Syrian divers, and for which they use more than 900 boats. They also apply themselves to the search for leeches.

Greece does not possess coal mine, but it contains lignite deposits at Marcopoulo, in Attica, and at Koumi, in Euboea. The lignite of Marcopoulo is of inferior quality; it does not contain more than 45 per cent. of pure carbon, while that of Koumi is equivalent to two-thirds of an equal weight in English coal.

Milo supplies sulphur, and Zante possesses springs of an excellent petroleum oil, which was utilised for public lighting by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

There is found, notably at Seriphos, magnetic iron which is one of the best kinds—that of slag, which is derived from the old mines of argentiferous lead of Laurium, the production of which is consumed to a large extent by Belgium.

The great wealth of the country in marbles of all colours, more precious even than those of Carrara, is only as yet but slightly developed. The marble of Paros, the most celebrated of all, well merits the excellent reputation it has always enjoyed. Its colour, more often of a white slightly tinged with yellow, imparts to statues which are made of it a beautiful effect, and when this tint is slightly shaded with a rose it resembles the color of human flesh. This marble has no equal for transparency; unfortunately it is frequently interspersed with sheets of mica which alter its homogeneity. The other well-known marbles are the white of Pentelie, of a finer grain than that of Paros, the red of Laconia, the speckled of Scyros, the black of Mantinea and Mount Hymette, and the famous green capitoline of Carystos. There also abound numerous varieties of serpentine stone, of different shades and qualities. Meerschaum, which is found near the Gulf of Corinth, enjoys a great reputation.

The dairy industry is very imperfect. The Greek cows give a bad butter, more or less rancid, incapable of withstanding the competition of Russian, English, and Scandinavian products, which are imported in large quantities. Cheeses, made with the milk of sheep and goats, are eaten by Europeans, but they suit the taste of the Orientals. Those of Mycane, in the Cyclades, are among the best.

Flour mills worked by water and wind number 1,200, whilst there are not 100 mills moved by steam. Rice-mills, factories of macaroni and other food pastes, have been established in several towns near the agricultural centres.

The distilling industries are represented by more than 200 establishments, producing annually 35 million litres of alcohol and 13 million litres of different liqueurs, of which the best known is the marasquin of Cephalonia.

Greece produces 1,800,000 hectolitres of wine, one-fourth of which is exported to Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Austria, France and England. Some wines have all the characteristics of the growths of Spain and Italy, while there are qualities of table wines which resemble Burgundy and Rhone wines. The best growths of the Greek peninsula are those of Corinth, famous for aroma and bouquet; those of Patras, esteemed for their extreme mildness; and those of Marathon, which are distinguished by their extreme delicacy, and which recall, by their general qualities, Sauterne and Barsac. The wine of Ithaca, Cephalonia, and Samos hold the first place in the Ionian Archipelago. Those of Santorin, Terios, Maxos, and other Cyclades, are always among the most approved in the Mediterranean. The vineyards Malvoisie have long ceased to exist. The name of the celebrated wine which they supplied is now applied to other growths.

Greece is the cradle of the manufacture of olive oil. The country produces annually five million kilogrammes of it, and if only necessary improvements in its manufacture were effected the production would be in a position to compete with the best of any other country. Already the Attica oil is very good, but almost all the oils which foreign countries purchase in Greece and which are not used in the soap works must be further refined in Europe before being put into consumption.

As regards Greek metallurgical industries the greater number of the machines used in the manufactures, and many of those working on board steamers have some years been constructed in the factories of the Piræus, Parnassida, Syra, Corinth, Nauplia, Corfu, or Zante. These factories have also succeeded in extending their trade in the neighbouring countries, and in the East.

The art of naval construction is much developed, and the vessels, whilst being excellently constructed, cost two-third less than French boats.

The perfume industry produces essences. That of the rose, the most valuable of all because of the sweetness of its perfume, is distilled principally in Thessaly, while the essence of lemon is prepared principally at Piræus.

The art of dyeing, so prominent in ancient Greece, has been preserved up to the present time. It is practised at Peracus, Laupa, Ambelakia, Syra, Corinth, Nauplia, Corfu and Zante.

Tanning is one of the oldest and most ancient in the country. Almost all the native cotton is used in the spinning mills. The latter chiefly supply the strong kinds, numbers 1 to 12, which have replaced English threads.

The manufacturers devote their energies to producing cheap tissues, which are superior, however, to the articles imported, and which are consumed in the country, and Anatolia, Peracus, which has been called the "Manchester of Greece" is the seat par excellence of the cotton industry, in which also participate Larissa, Turnavo, Ambelakia, Parnassida, Syra, Corinth, Nauplia, Patras, Corfu, and Zante.

The silk industry has taken a new development. It attracts buyers who admire the solidity, the finish and the fine indelible colours of its products. Spinning is carried on at Piræus according to the most recent processes, as well as at Calamata, Sparta, Nicli and Andros.

Weaving is carried on at Piræus, Calamata, Larissa, Syra, Hydra and Zante. The chief manufactures are transparent tissues, neckerchiefs, waistband, scarves and tissues of mixed silk and cotton.

Athens produces ready made clothing which leaves nothing to be desired as regards cut and finish. In the capital of the kingdom, there are also made good electric apparatus, guitars, mandolins, violins, and typographical articles which are not without merit.

Greece is an excellent outlet, not only because she is obliged to obtain from abroad the greater part of her articles of consumption and the raw materials necessary for her industry, but also because of the public works in course of execution or projected. Already the Germans have appreciated the importance of the Greek kingdom from a commercial point of view; they have recognised that the greatest obstacle which presents itself to the extension of Greek commerce is want of capital. In order to remedy this state of affairs, they have created a credit establishment which advances money on mortgage. They have also recognised, as well as the English and French, the importance of establishing in Greece branches of their banks.

The articles of import into Greece, for which competition is most keen are:—From England—steel, boilers, woollen blankets, sewing thread, iron in pigs, gloves, linseed, oil, machinery fixed, machine-tools, writing-paper, cotton tissues, and tissues of wool. From Germany—woollen blankets, faience, wrought, hammered and rolled iron, flannel, agricultural machinery, haberdashery, hardware, and printing-paper. From France—light stuff for women's dress, gloves, window glass, table glass, tools and procelains. From Austria-Hungary—cordage, cloths, glasses, packing paper, procelain and ready made clothing. From Italy—cloth, gloves, writing-paper and small wares. From Russia—cordage, &c.

## MONGHYR.

*Jamalpur, the 8th January, 1890.*

Our New Year's festivities went off without the customary sports and races. On the contrary two river accidents marred the happiness of the advent. The steamer "Luckhee" (belonging to E. B. State Railway hired by the E. I. Railway Company for the time being while their own steamer "Bradford Leslie" was undergoing repairs at Monghyr), whilst plying between Sahebgunge and Muniharee on the 4th instant, in mid river, a few miles from the port, all of a sudden broke down, some of her machinery having given way.

Another steamer named "Margaret" belonging to the Company was forthwith engaged to carry passengers, &c. The latter whilst returning from Muniharee Ghat on the 5th instant with passengers and mail, got aground at the Ghat. Fortunately no injury was done to passengers. The Traffic Manager, his personal assistant, together with certain administrative staff numbering about 25 men have already removed to Calcutta. Another batch of 50 men is likely to go down by the 1st of next month.

Mrs. C. H. Denham, the Chief Engineer of the E. I. Railway, having retired, Mr. F. E. Robertson has taken charge of this line as Chief Engineer.

The Native breach of promise case alluded to in my last, although it went to court, has subsequently been compromised out of it. The tide of reduction in the E. I. Railway establishment has not subsided. Rumour has it that there will be a sweeping reduction yet. General Sir Strachey, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the E. I. Railway Company, accompanied by Sir A. M. Rendel, Chief Consulting Engineer to the Board, is expected in this country shortly. Their object is to inspect the line and overhaul the system of accounts, as also to enquire personally into the matter of the proposed grand chord line to Calcutta from the N. W., which is now under survey.

**CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.**

THE 2ND ADJOURNMENT OF  
the 10th Ordinary Monthly Meeting  
of the Commissioners of Calcutta,  
WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 23rd January 1890,  
at 4 P.M.,

when the business left undisposed of at the  
Adjourned Meeting held on the 16th idem,  
will be considered.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary.

17th January, 1890.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have  
not already sent in their Subscriptions, will  
greatly oblige the Executive Committee by  
—doing so without delay.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.

Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

### H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR RECEPTION FUND.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

The Honorary Treasurers have pleasure in  
acknowledging receipt of the following amounts  
subscribed to the above Fund :—

	R. A. P.
The Nawab Bahadoor of Moorshedabad, K.C.I.E. ...	1,000 0 0
Nawab Shahoonneessa Begum Sahebeha ...	300 0 0
Prince Walla Kudr Hossein Ali Mirza Bahadoor ...	250 0 0
Prince Iskandar Ali Mirza Bahadoor ...	500 0 0
H. H. The Maharaja of Cooh Behar, G.C.I.E. ...	1,000 0 0
The Maharaja of Vizianagram, K.C.I.E. ...	1,000 0 0
The Maharaja of Doomraon, K.C.I.E. ...	2,500 0 0
The Maharaja of Bettiah, K.C.I.E. ...	3,000 0 0
The Maharaja of Durbhanga, K.C.I.E. ...	10,000 0 0
The Maharaja of Hutwa ...	1,000 0 0
The Maharaja of Gidhore ...	1,000 0 0
Nawab Sir Khwajah Abdul Ghani, K. C. S. I., and Nawab Ashanwoollah Bahadoor, of Dacca ...	5,000 0 0
Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore Bahadoor, K.C.S.I. ...	2,500 0 0
Babu Kally Kissen Tagore ...	2,000 0 0
Maharani Surnomoyee, C.I., of Kassimbazar ...	1,000 0 0
Nawab Syed Ata Hossein Khan Bahadoor of Kissengunj ...	1,000 0 0
Rai Gunga Peisad Singh Bahadoor of Durbhanga ...	1,000 0 0
Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadoor ...	1,000 0 0
The Hon. Raja Doorga Churn Law, C.I.E. ...	750 0 0
Maharaja Sir Norendro Krishna Bahadoor, K.C.I.E. ...	500 0 0
Maharaja of Sonbarsa ...	500 0 0
Maharshi Debendro Nath Tagore ...	500 0 0
Raja Ram Narain Singh, of Khaira ...	500 0 0
Raja Poorna Chunder Sing Bahadoor ...	500 0 0
Raja Run Bahadoor Sing of Tikari ...	500 0 0
Hajee Muhammad Malikat Tujjar of Bushire ...	500 0 0
Babu Sham Churn Law ...	500 0 0
Messrs. F. W. Heilgers & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Gladstone Wylie & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Finlay Muir & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co. ...	500 0 0
" King Hamilton & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Ralli Brothers ...	500 0 0
" Macneill & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Jardine Skinner & Co. ...	500 0 0
" E. D. J. Ezra & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Elias S. Gubboy & Co. ...	500 0 0

	Rs. A. P.
Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Kilburn & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Gisborne & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Apar & Co. ...	500 0 0
" Walsh Lovett & Co. ...	500 0 0
Raja Mahima Runjun Roy Chowdhury of Kakina ...	300 0 0
Kumar Rao Jogendro Narain (Kumar Ranajit Singh of Nashipur?) ...	300 0 0
The Maharaja of Chota Nagpur ...	250 0 0
Raja Jytiprasad Gargo, of Maisadal ...	250 0 0
Rai Boodh Sing Bissen Chand Bahadoor ...	250 0 0
Rai Shooruj Mull Bahadoor ...	250 0 0
Babu Joy Gobind Law ...	250 0 0
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#### NOTICE.

IN accordance with the Resolution of the Government of Bengal in the General Department, dated the 6th March 1886, published on page 541 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 31st of the same month, notice is hereby given that an examination for the admission of female students to the certificate class of the Calcutta Medical College will be held in the Theatre of that College on Tuesday, the 11th February 1890, and following days.

#### Hours and Subjects of Examination.

Tuesday.—English dictation, Grammar and Composition—from 1 to 4 P.M.

Wednesday.—History of England and India. Geography: General, and of India in particular—from 1 to 4 P.M.

Thursday.—Arithmetic: the first four rules, vulgar and decimal fractions, and proportion—from 1 to 4 P.M.

Candidates should apply in writing to the Principal of the Medical College, Calcutta, not later than Saturday, the 8th February, for permission to appear at the examination.

Applications for permission to reside in the Sarnamayi Hostel should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary to the Bengal Branch of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, 36, Chowringhee, Calcutta.

A. CROFT,

Director of Public Instruction.

The 6th January 1890.

### NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to a decree and order of the Calcutta High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction made in suit No. 1 of 1881 (wherein Chatterput Sing is plaintiff and Meer Mahomed Cazeem Jobury and others are defendants) and dated respectively the 15th of August 1887 and the 17th of December 1888 by the Registrar of the said Court in his sale room in the Court House on Saturday the 8th of March next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the following properties :—

Lot No. 1.—Putnee Lot Nawanankar Aslee with Dakhilee situate in Pergunnah Sreepore in Zillah Purnea Sub-Registration district and Thannah Arrareah the annual Sudder Jumma of which is Rs. 3,525.

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Lot No. 3.—Lot Mirzapore Aslee with Dakhilee situate in Pergunnah Havelli Zillah Purnea Sub-Registration district Arrareah and Thannah Raneegunge the annual Sudder Jumma of which is Rs. 14,306.

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The abstract of title and conditions of sale may be seen at the office of the Registrar High Court Original Jurisdiction and at the office of Messrs. Beeby and Rutter attorneys for the plaintiff any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

(Sd.) R. BELCHAMBERS,  
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Plaintiff's attorneys,  
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The 9th January 1890.

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BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

*Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
 Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which delights our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract.]—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large-languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

THE

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1890.

No. 408

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

IT was at one time proposed to invite the Queen to Dublin next summer to open the Museum. The Dublin Corporation has since decided otherwise. The Nationalist Members were apprehensive that such an invitation might mean an abandonment of the Home Rule policy and acceptance of the detested Government. They seem to have been reminded of the Melody of the *Dublin Nation* :—

DOWN BRITANNIA.—BY EVA.

Down, Britannia !—brigand, down !  
No more to rule with sceptred hand ;  
Truth raises o'er thy throne at last  
Her exorcising wand.  
I see "the fingers on the wall"—  
The proud, the thrice accursed, shall fall—  
Down, Britannia, down !

*Jubilate* !—rings the cry  
Exultingly from pole to pole,  
With bended knee and glistening eye,  
Glad shouts of triumph roll.  
*To pæan* !—raise the song !  
From sea to shore it sweeps along—  
Down, Britannia, down !

For cold deceit through long, long years,  
For iron rule with blood-stained sword,  
For brave man's life and woman's tears,  
For basely broken word,  
There comes a loud terrific voice,  
Bidding the long oppressed rejoice—  
Down, Britannia, down !

The golden sands of Indian clime—  
The China towers of old Pekin,  
Have seen the desolating print  
Of thy dark hoof of sin ;  
And, ground and plundered to the death,  
Their children cry, with latest breath,  
Down, Britannia, down !

Still wailing at the Eternal Gate,  
See myriad bloody spectres stand ;  
They cry aloud, through night and day,  
Against thy bloody hand,  
For "Vengeance ! vengeance dark and dire !  
O Lord of Glory, show thine ire !  
Down with Britannia, down !"

Yes ! down—if Heaven will aid the brave ;  
If life and strength have but *this* aim,  
Accounting blood and toil as nought,  
So trampled be thy name.

God grant to us the final blow,  
Unto the dust to strike thee low.

Down, Britannia, down !

For this have heroes fought and bled ;  
For this have pined in exile lone ;  
For this the gallows bore its fruit,  
And yet it has not won ;  
But, oh ! 't is worth a struggle yet,  
Though every hearth with blood were wet !  
Down, Britannia, down !

When banded are the good and true,  
We know at last *the word* is said ;  
We march along the glorious way,  
By heavenly teaching led.  
Oh ! 't is at last the holy hour  
For all to cry, with prophet power,  
Down, Britannia, down !

THE Servian Government has authorized the Finance Minister to raise a five per cent. loan of 20 millions of francs at 75 per cent. It is intended by this loan to pay off the railway company and to indemnify the salt monopolists.

THE Russian Expedition to Thibet under Colonel Pevtsoff reached Keria at the end of September last. To avoid the intense summer heat, they proceeded from Yarkand into the mountains south-west of Kashgar. There they remained till the beginning of September. They were of course not idle. They made several zoological, botanical and geological excursions and then made for Khoten passing through Gouma. After a stay of five days in that city, the party proceeded to Keria. On the 16th October, the day following the date of his last letter, the head of the Expedition was to have left for the oasis of Nia. Leaving his surplus baggage there, he intended to examine the mountains on the north-west of Thibet for a practicable pass. Failing to discover the pass, he proposed to pass the winter at Cherchen, entering Thibet next spring by the course of the Cherchen river.

It has been pointed out that the Imperial charters of 1772 and 1789 recognised by the Czars Alexander, Nicholas I and Alexander II, secured to the Baltic Provinces and to Livonia their constitution and privileges. Even the present Czar in his manifesto of March 14, 1881 swore "religiously to respect the rights, privileges, and fundamental laws of his subjects in the Baltic Provinces including Livonia." But an Ukase of December 10 last makes the Russian language compulsory in the law Courts. Another prescribes the same language for municipalities in those Provinces. From the present month, it has been decreed that nothing but Russian is to be taught in the schools. This, it is contended, is a violation of the pledges repeatedly given, to the Baltic Provinces, and is but a development of the policy of warring against all the non-Muscovite elements of the Czar's empire. Germany cannot look on indifferently this Russifying process of the Baltic region. Such is the view taken by the *Times'* Vienna Correspondent.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

DURING his visit to Constantinople, the German Emperor is reported to have formed a favorable impression of the Turkish military forces. According to His Majesty, "the Turkish army was in an excellent state of organization, and well able to meet the military requirements of the empire. A war against Turkey would in future be a bold and difficult undertaking and any Power might well hesitate to expose itself to the risks of such a venture."

\*\*\* read :—

"The wealth of the United States is increasing with fabulous strides. It has quadrupled since 1850, and doubled since 1870. In 1850 the assessed value of the Republic was 5,287,613,148 dols., and the actual wealth 13,652,499,739 dols. In 1889 the former had risen to a total of 23,719,000,000 dols., and the latter to 61,459,000,000 dols. There was a decrease in the decade ending 1870 as compared with the previous decade, due to the war. With this exception, the increase has gone on by leaps and bounds, which may well excite the envy of the States of the Old World. According to the *New York World*, 'the wealth of the United States now exceeds the total wealth of the whole world at any time previous to the middle of the eighteenth century, and the amount invested abroad is alone equal to the national wealth of Portugal and Denmark. The total wealth of only five nations is equal to the mere increase of the United States in the past nine years.'"

A TREATY of Commerce has recently been concluded between Great Britain and Bulgaria.

"Art. 1 provides that British merchandise imported into Bulgaria shall be subjected to a Customs duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem*, without prejudice to the most-favoured-nation treatment either as regards cost of transport or from any other point of view. Such merchandise shall also pay a duty of one-half per cent., as well as the communal taxes established by law in Bulgaria.

Art. 2 declares that spirits, tobacco, salt, gunpowder, and all other articles which, in conformity with the laws of the Principality, are subject to Excise duty, shall pay taxes fixed by special laws, in addition to the duties provided for in the previous article.

Art. 3 provides that Bulgarian agricultural and industrial products imported into the United Kingdom shall pay the same duties as similar products of nations enjoying the most-favoured-nation treatment.

Art. 4 states that the present agreement remains in force until Jan. 13, 1891; and if not repudiated by Oct. 13, 1890, by one of the contracting parties, it will hold good until Jan. 13, 1892."

The *Novosti* throws out the hint, that unless confirmed by the Porte, it is a violation of the suzerain rights of the Sultan affirmed by the Treaty of Berlin.

It has been detected by a Philadelphia physician—Dr. Mark Nardyz, that the so-called "kid" gloves are often times produced from human skin, and that tanning of human epidermis goes on largely in France and Switzerland. It is said that a man's back makes good sole leather. At one time there was such a trade in human skin in Massachusetts, but it was put down by General Ben Butler.

IN Madras, they observe Her Majesty's Birthday as also that of the Prince of Wales. Why should they not add a third birthday to the list of public holidays—that of Prince Albert Victor of Wales? The more, the merrier, say the galley-slaves in the offices. What would the Bank of Bengal?

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Madras Mail* reports a strange birth at Valapallai :—

"A low caste woman gave birth to a child of preternatural appearance. The young visitant to the world had stripes (blue and black) all over the body and the neck. The hair was long and thick. The nails were roughly made and crooked. The face bore very close resemblance to a full-grown wild cat."

THE *Telugu Harp* reports that Mr. M. Kothandaram Pantulu, one of the leading pleaders of the District Court, was sued for a sum of money. He pleaded payment and argued his own case. From certain letters which the pleader had written, the Munsiff found that money was still due. Mr. Pantulu appealed to the District Judge, who too held him liable for the amount. This was too much for the pleader, and he preferred another appeal to the High Court. That Court not only upheld the decree of the two Courts below, but has called on the pleader to show cause why he should not be disbarred.

IN Madras, a gymnasium must be licensed. One Nainswamy Pillay has been fined Rs. 25 for keeping such a school without permission of the Police Commissioner.

AT Bombay, they order things differently. Last week, the Governor himself laid the foundation stone of the Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit Gymnastic Institution. In August of 1858, some citizens of Bombay started a sort of gymnastic institute for physical education of boys. At the end of three years, the Government was moved for and granted a free site on the Esplanade. That removed only one difficulty. They could not make it a free institution, and though it flourished as regards the number of boys, its capacity remained undeveloped for want of sufficient resources, as it had to depend on fitful donations. In course of time, the site granted by Government was required for a public purpose, and the gymnasium had to be removed to another site. It was then, three years ago, Sir Dinshaw came forward with his usual liberality, to give the institution a new life and a permanent habitation. The Government too made a generous grant. It secured to the institution 1,680 square yards of land and sanctioned Rs. 7,500, as half the cost of the building. Sir Dinshaw contributes Rs. 11,000.

POSTAGE on letters between India and Ceylon has been for some months charged at the Indian inland rates. Since the commencement of the present year, the parcel rate has also been reduced to the same inland rate.

DURING January, February, March and April, the mails for Europe and America will leave Bombay on Fridays, those from Europe and America reaching Bombay on Mondays. Mails from the Australian Colonies, China, the Straits and Japan leave Bombay on alternate Thursdays. The Burma Mails are timed from Calcutta every Wednesday and Saturday. But the Wednesday despatches will be detained till Thursday when the inward English mails do not reach Calcutta before Thursday. From Rangoon to Calcutta the mails will leave every Saturday and from Moulmein to Calcutta (direct) every Wednesday.

THE Revd. K. S. Macdonald writes to us explaining the extract in our last about a proposal for free marriages made among the clergy of Derby.

"Until lately almost all marriages in Great Britain were solemnised by Episcopal clergymen. The disabilities and disadvantages under which marriages by Non-conformist clergymen and civil marriages laboured have been removed of late with the result that now only 70 per cent. of the marriages are solemnised by Episcopal clergymen—the remaining 30 per cent. being by Non-conformist ministers."

THE Director of Public Instruction has declared the following holidays and vacations for the year 1890 for the Government Colleges in Bengal :—

January	... { 1st—New Year's day.
March	... { 25th—Sripanchami.
	... { 6th—Dolejatra.
April	... { 4th and 5th Easter holidays.
	... { 12th—Chait Sankranti.
May	... { 28th to 30th ... } Summer vacation.
June	... { 1st to 31st ... }
July	... { 1st to 22nd ... }
	... { 28th or 29th—Eed-uz-zoha.
August	... { 7th—Janmastami.
	... { 25th and 26th, or 26th and 27th—Mohurram.
October	... { 10th to 31st ... } Durga Puja vacation.
November	... { 1st ... }
	... { 11th and 12th—Kali Puja.
	... { 20th and 21st—Jagadhatri Puja.
December	... { 24th to 31st—Christmas holidays.
Collegiate schools will remain open up to the 10th May, and will re-open on the 23rd June.	

*Holloway's Pills.*—Nervousness and want of Energy.—When first the nerves feel unstrung, and listlessness supplants energy, the time has come to take some such alterative as Holloway's Pills to restrain a disorder from developing itself into a disease. These excellent Pills correct all irregularities and weakness. They act so kindly, yet so energetically on the functions of digestion and assimilation, that the whole body is revived, the blood rendered richer and purer, while the muscles become firmer and stronger, and the nervous and absorbent systems are invigorated. These Pills are suitable for all classes and all ages. They have a most marvellous effect on persons who are out of condition; they soon rectify whatever is in fault, restore strength to the body and confidence to the mind.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* writes the following paragraph :—

"Inquiries are made of us whether the report is correct that a letter was received by the Honorary Secretaries of the so called Permanent Memorial Committee from the Private Secretary to His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor to the effect that the Deputation which was to wait on the Prince on the 9th instant would *not* be received, if Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee accompanied it; and whether it was a fact that the deputation met with a cold reception. Wild rumours are current on the subject, but we do not vouch for the truth of any of them. This much, however, is perfectly certain, that Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee was *not allowed* to accompany the deputation."

The Secretaries of the Permanent Memorial Committee had taken no notice of its appearance in the *Patriot* but the *Indian Daily News* having quoted it, they could not remain silent. They have published a contradiction in the latter journal. They say that "as Honorary Secretaries, they did not receive any communication from the Private Secretary to His Royal Highness or any other person whatsoever, to the effect that the deputation would not be received if Baboo Surendranath Banerjee accompanied it," and that there is no foundation for the rumours, and that it is not true that Babu Surendranath "was *not allowed*. He himself, they add, did not go, as he has studiously kept himself in the background so that his personal prominence may not in any way interfere with the success of the permanent memorial movement. The contradiction of the Joint Secretaries scarcely improves matters. All that their letter makes clear is that if there was any such communication, it was not addressed to the Secretaries. Their letter is inconclusive.

MR. C. T. Metcalfe, C.I.E., has retired from the Bengal Civil Service from the 29th October 1889. It is well for him and the Service.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE crisis in Portugal continues, if in an abated form. Considerable animosity naturally prevails against the English residents of Lisbon, and many English *employés* have been dismissed from service. These meditate sending a deputation to Lord Salisbury, urging conciliation. The Portuguese populace, however, is calming down and the press urges the necessity of prudence. In the despatches relating to Africa published by Portugal, an English telegram-writer finds nothing but persistent shuffling on Portugal's part, while Lord Salisbury is praised for firmness. It is also added that in replying to the Portuguese claims, the British Premier especially ridicules the pretensions founded on the ruins of the Portuguese forts, which are two centuries old. Why the older date of the ruins should make the claim in any way, far less, especially, ridiculous, is not explained. Portugal has addressed a Note to the Powers asking for their intervention, and expects a favorable reply. In the meantime, she has the sympathy of Spain and France, while the semi-official German press also speaks favourably. Russian official journals say that England should refer the dispute to arbitration.

Later telegrams are more unsatisfactory. Boycotting British merchandise continues, and foreign commercial agents are thriving. There is a lull in the popular excitement, but the feeling runs high. Several Portuguese subjects holding British decorations have returned their medals. The British Legation at Lisbon is guarded by troops. Rumours are circulated at Lisbon that the English have seized Quillimane.

CRETE is again in trouble. There has been fighting attended with loss of life.

MR. Gladstone speaking at Chester deplored the dispute with Portugal but declined to discuss the question before he was cognisant of the details. Speaking on foreign politics generally, he hoped that England would not imitate America by increasing the navy. He regretted the disturbances in Armenia and Crete.

MR. Goschen also regretted the dispute with Portugal, but attributed it to the unlawful encroachments of the Portuguese agent over territory to which that country had not a shadow of right. The British Government, supported by the confidence of the nation, would, he said, carry the matter to a successful conclusion. As to the Budget, he said he would rejoice if he was able to relieve taxation in any way, but discouraged any immediate hopes.

THE influenza shows some abatement. Telegrams about its ravages are not so frequent. One report gives the number of deaths in London in last week at 126. The Vienna doctors claim to have discovered the influenza bacillus which is similar to pneumonia. The epidemic seems to have crossed overland and appeared in Teheran.

OF the notable deaths from influenza is that of the Duke of Aosta, who caught it from his wife. The Princess of Wales is well.

LORD Napier of Magdala had wished for the plainest funeral, but his admiring countrymen, and in particular the officials, were differently minded. They determined that a brilliant career in the service of his country demanded a fitting display to mark public appreciation and sorrow, and decided that in point of magnificence, Lord Napier's funeral should surpass any similar demonstration since the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. He was accordingly laid to his last rest in St. Paul's Cathedral "to the mourning of a mighty nation." The hero of Abyssinia sleeps by the side of "mighty Nelson" and the Iron Duke. An imposing military procession passed from the Tower of London to the Cathedral. The route was densely crowded. The Duke of Cambridge attended as the representative of the Queen, and placed a wreath on the coffin from Her Majesty bearing the words, in her own writing, "As a mark of respect and admiration from the sovereign to one who served her so faithfully." The Cathedral was filled with officers. Sir Peter Lumsden represented the Indian Army. The Prince of Wales also attended.

GREAT storms are reported from various parts of the United Kingdom, attended with enormous damage to property and the shipping. The gales continued for some days last week, causing a tremendous tide along the South coast of England, and swamping the Esplanades at Brighton, Hastings and Sandgate.

THE Socialists in Europe seem to be gaining "caste." One telegram says that no less a man than Prince Bismarck has consented to attend and address a Socialist meeting. A later telegram reports the defeat sustained by the Government in their endeavour to carry through some anti-Socialist proposals. The Reichstag rejected an important clause, empowering expulsion in the Socialist Bill in defiance of the Government. The Emperor has held a Conference with the Ministers on the Socialist question.

THERE was great uproar in the French Chamber of Deputies, caused by the Boulangists objecting to M. Joffrin speaking. The Chamber had to be adjourned three times owing to the tumult which reigned. M. Deroulede who took the lead was ordered to leave the Chamber, and on his persistently refusing to obey the order, was ejected by the military.

IT was notified in September last that

The Marquis of Salisbury had received a note from the Roumanian charge d'Affaires, stating that persons wishing to obtain information as to the position and credit of Roumanian manufacturers and merchants, should apply direct to the Roumanian Chambers of Commerce. It appears that such applications are sometimes erroneously addressed to private individuals, who have an interest in recommending particular firms.

MR. E. H. Walker, Her Majesty's Consul at Coruna, in a report dated 1st August last, encloses copy of a Royal order in three languages, Spanish, French, and English, dated the 22nd September 1888, prescribing the regulations that have to be observed by foreign vessels visiting that port. The regulations in question may be seen on application at the Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens, S. W.

IN these days of tuft-hunting, when men amongst us, and even women, are sighing and dying for honors, it is really refreshing to hear of any noble example in the direction of true manliness and self-respect. The mail brings the intelligence of the death of a Parliamentary veteran, Mr. Christopher Talbot, the Gladstonian member of Mid-Glamorgan-shire, at the venerable age of 87, who refused a peerage, rejoicing in his plain name to the last. Was he noble the less for want of a title?

THE Prince after touring in Sir Auckland Colvin's satrapy left for Lahore yesterday. At Lucknow where his Royal Highness arrived on the morning of the 18th, he was received by the Lieutenant-Gov.

ernor and the principal officials, after which the chief talukdars present were introduced. The Lucknow railway station was prettily decorated and thronged with spectators. In front of the Government House a *shamiana* had been erected, and it was here that the North West Provinces deputation presented the address of welcome. The address was read by Sir John Edge. After the Prince's reply, the Royal Party returned to Government House, and after breakfast, the Prince proceeded to open the Dufferin Female Hospital. The prince was driven in a charabanc drawn by four horses to the scene of the ceremony, stopping in the way to see a gathering of about 1,000 Native Christians who sang a hymn in Hindustani. After declaring the hospital open, the Prince left to witness the Residency and other sights of Lucknow. In the afternoon there was a Garden Party at the Wingfield Park, the scene being picturesque from the rich dresses of the talukdars. In the night there was a *fete* in the Kaiser Bagh given by the talukdars. The illumination of the buildings and grounds was beautiful. His Royal Highness witnessed the fireworks from the minaret, after which he returned to the dais, where *hars* and *atar* and *pan* were served to the Prince by the President of the Talukdars' Association, to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor by the Vice-President, and to the Staff by the Secretary. The Royal Party arrived at Cawnpore on the 20th. Visiting the public gardens at Cawnpore, the Prince Albert planted three willows and two cypress trees round the memorial over the spot of the massacre not far from the well. The special train then carried the Prince to Bhurtore where the Maharaja has made arrangements for a day's shooting. The party then returned to Agra, where the Prince presented new colours to the 4th Bengal Cavalry which had marched in to Agra from Jhansi for the ceremony. On the night of the 22nd, the Taj was illuminated with electric light. The next day the Prince went out pigsticking. The Ball given by the Maharaja of Bhurtore was a brilliant pageant, the Prince dancing with Miss Colvin, and Mrs. Martelli. Lahore is filling with feudatory Princes.

We read in the *Indian Daily News* under the head Summary of News, Bengal, Hooghly :—

"The entire little station of French Chandernagore has been thrown into a state of great excitement and commotion by the announcement of the Republican Government that every resident who has attained his twentieth year must enrol himself as a soldier, and, as rumour goes, after learning the rudiments of drill and discipline, will have to go to Cochinchina, and to places wherever his services may be deemed necessary by the Republic. In addition to diet and clothing, every soldier shall receive a salary of Rs. 10 per mensem, and shall be entitled to all the privileges of military men. Those that are above twenty have been given the option of volunteering to serve in the cause of the Republic, if they like to do so. This announcement has already struck terror into the hearts of the native residents of the place, who have memorialized the French Government that such a hard-and-fast law of conscription is entirely unsuited to Bengal, and will prove to be of the greatest hardship to them all. The French Governor says that the orders of the Republic are imperative, and that he has no hand in the matter. Those Congress people who burn to enrol themselves as volunteers under the British Government should not lose the present opportunity. Let them remove to the French station, become naturalized subjects of the Republic, and then they can march into Cochinchina or elsewhere, and show their valour and prowess by winning laurels in the Republic's service. They will thus set an example to their Bengali fellow-countrymen, and at the same time falsify the gloomy forebodings of the Europeans that Bengali Baboos are not at all fit to be soldiers."

The feeling is not confined to Bengal. In Pondicherry, the Chairman—a Hindu visitor from Madras—of an anniversary meeting of the Hindu Union School, is reported to have said :—

"We will be proud to be connected in some way with that magnificent Army of the French nation, whose annals are replete with glory, but I feel that I am expressing the views of my countrymen when I say that the necessity of being sent to Saigon to be disciplined there will be felt as a hardship by the community. It will militate against the religious sentiment and caste restrictions upon which the fabric of the Hindu social system is rooted. But it is to us a source of consolation that this step will not be taken hastily, and without serious consideration, and that the Government of France will faithfully act up to the pledge given to us to the effect that the policy of the administration will be so shaped as to preclude any interference with the immortal and highly-valued rights of the people. The measure in question will not only, from sufficient ground, be extremely unpopular with the Hindus, but also with the other communities under the French flag."

The truth about the matter is that the decree has just been proclaimed, though it does not come into operation before October next, and the byelaws have not yet been framed. There is panic at Chandernagore, and people have begun to leave or avoid the French

settlement to avoid conscription. It is time for the Administration to allay the fears by another beat of drum. The Governor, ignorant of the ways of our people, blindly proclaimed the decree passed in Paris.

We approve of the action of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta in regard to the Calcutta Public Library. A venerable institution, rich in its past traditions, could not be allowed to die without giving a wrench to one's ideas of the fitness of things. The argument that its benefits are confined to the higher and better educated classes, and that on that consideration it is not entitled to be subsidized from the purse of the general body of rate-payers, apparently had great weight with the General Committee of the Corporation. That argument has, indeed, some force, but there are limits within which it should prevail. If the outlay of a small sum of Rs. 8,000 a year from the funds of a rich Municipality like that of Calcutta, could rescue a great institution founded and maintained for the cultivation of learning among the respectable classes of the citizens, it were the height of philistinism to withhold it. The Corporation lives for all classes, high and low, and, under the lately amended law and indeed the liberal spirit of the scheme of local Self-Government, enjoys much greater latitude of discretion in ordering its expenditure than before. The promotion of education is one of the objects under the present law to which the Municipal Funds may legitimately be devoted, and although we would be the last person in the world to allow any great abuse being made of the enlarged discretion which the law now gives to the City Fathers, we do think that in the present instance their action deserves support and approval. The Public Library is an institution of which any great city may well be proud, and its extinction for want of support would have been a shame to the Calcutta community. It has for a long time been going abegging before the public and the Government, and the municipal grant now sanctioned may be regarded as only a grant made by the public of Calcutta interested in its preservation through the organized agency of their City Corporation. All honor, therefore, to Dr. Sircar for his gallant support of a noble though failing, cause.

His conduct on the present occasion is worthy of his scholarship and his antecedents. A man who has spent quite a fortune on his own private library could not but feel keenly for the fate of another. Dr. Sircar has saved the honor of the community, and we congratulate him on his splendid success. A contemporary has been led to denounce his conduct in this connection in very strong terms. But we are sure he would have spoken with more temperance and respect if he knew to what expense Dr. Sircar has gone and what he spends even now for providing himself with his own literary and scientific requisites. Dr. Sircar had no selfish motive in moving his amendment, and if he were at all to blame,

"The love he bore to learning was in fault."

THE attempt of the Suburban devil tooust the town brotherhood has once more failed. They have been at it since the amalgamation of the Suburbs with the town. The Commissioners at their meeting of Thursday rejected the proposal to give out any printing work of the Corporation on contract. They will retain their own establishment, increasing the staff and materials for the additional work thrown on the Department.

LAST night, Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur entertained native Calcutta to Nautches, in celebration of the marriage of his two eldest sons Moulvis A. F. M. Abdur Rahman—Baqister-at-law—and A. K. M. Abdus Subhan, Deputy Magistrate and Collector. The rush of guests was great. From the highest downwards all sections of the community were there, including not only the residents but the notabilities present in the metropolis. The rains interfered with the arrangements for the reception of guests but the Nautches were kept up till nine this morning, and those who remained enjoyed them the better for the showers. There could be seen the Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad and his brother, the Mysore and Oudh Princes, the Maharaja of Vizianagram, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, the Maharaja of Durbhunga and his brother.

MR. C. W. Boltoh has been marked as the next Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. He is already holding unofficial Levees of the Commissioners.

M. NORET, the Governor of French India, is expected at Chandernagore next week.



**REIS & RAYYET.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1890.

**THE CONVOCATION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.**

THE last Convocation of the Calcutta University was of more than usual interest. The occasion of the first Native Vice-Chancellor's appearance to discharge the annual academic function drew many who might have otherwise excused themselves from attending. Not a few were there, simply as a matter of etiquette, and to offer their tacit or express congratulations. At any rate, the Viceroy was influenced by this special consideration in coming, though his Excellency was all the same desirous of marking his interest in the University by his presence. Lord Lansdowne paid a glowing and eloquent compliment to Dr. Gurudas Banerjee and warmly congratulated him on his appointment. His Lordship was peculiarly happy to find that his choice in this instance had met with satisfaction from all quarters, and that there was not one discordant note to mar the general expression of approval with which Mr. Justice Banerjee's nomination to the Vice-Chancellorship had been hailed. His Lordship could not refrain from making a passing allusion to the usual attitude of the press towards the Government and its measures. He said he had been long enough in the country to be aware that in such cases it was not always easy to please every one, and he was all the more gratified, therefore, at finding the singular harmony of opinion that had been manifested in the present instance. Lord Lansdowne then referred to the constitution of the Senate. The way in which nominations had been made to the Senate in past years had served to swell the governing body of the University to a cumbrously large number, and explained the necessity of gradually reducing it. In pursuance of this idea, his Excellency said he had refrained from filling up the entire number of vacancies in making his nominations this year, and this plan would be continued until reduction to the desired extent was attained. In regard to future nominations to Fellowships, Lord Lansdowne announced his desire of making a new move, and one, certainly in the right direction. He wished to have the assistance of the University in filling up a portion of the vacancies. His idea was that the M. A.'s should make one or two nominations from themselves, which, if not open to serious objection, would be accepted. His Lordship's final decision on the question would be announced at the next Convocation; meanwhile this suggestion was thrown out, at a rather early stage, to show that in a case of this kind, his Excellency wished to take the University into his confidence.

The Vice-Chancellor's address embraced a variety of topics of educational and general interest, and was characterised by great moderation and practical knowledge of the subject. The tone of gentle suasion was all that could be wished, and where he differed, or even remonstrated, his modesty was unmistakable. He disclaimed all intention of making any ambitious effort and warned the audience not to lay up disappointment for themselves by expecting anything extraordinary or brilliant. A brief retrospect of the past, and a forecast of the immediate future, with the interposition of just a few remarks suggested by his official experience, was all that he aimed at, and if this did not promise any great treat to those who had come to hear a great address, nevertheless he claimed their attention on the ground of the in-

trinsic importance of a movement like that of the University. Several hundreds of young men who represented the cream of the intelligence of the rising generation and who were destined to influence in a variety of ways the future of a great province are annually sent out to the world. A machinery of such vast potential energy ought to command interest on its own account. With this preface, Mr. Justice Banerjee proceeded to dwell upon the great progress, as marked by the steadily increasing numbers of candidates at the several examinations, which the University had attained since its foundation about a third of a century ago. This was, indeed, a result worthy of congratulation, but there was a shadowy side to the picture. The Vice-Chancellor asked if the results of the Examination were altogether as satisfactory as the great increase in the numbers of competitors. Speaking of the percentage of failures, he said that the normal proportion had hitherto ranged from 40 to 60, which, if not quite satisfactory, was accepted without comment. This normal limit had, however, been considerably exceeded in the last year, not only in the Entrance Examination in which the proportion of failure stood so high as 70 per cent. but in all the other examinations in which it was higher than usual. The Vice-Chancellor's remarks on this subject are deserving of attentive and earnest consideration at the hands of college and school authorities and of the public. He said:—

"These apparently unexpected results naturally evoked much discussion. There came from various quarters a good deal of thoughtful criticism and sensible suggestion, and also a mass of thoughtless talk and senseless abuse. In thus speaking rather unceremoniously of our critics, I am not at all speaking in anger or defiance, but am simply stating a plain fact. Nor have I any reason to be intolerant of criticism. I am not one of those who think that our University system is perfect, and does not admit of improvement. On the contrary, I firmly believe that with honest intentions and earnest exertions we can always progress from good to better, and that free and fair criticism is one of our best guides in the path of progress. Only I would gently remind our critics that when they have to find fault with an institution like this University, which is earnestly striving to do good work, they ought not to cry it down in language calculated to bring it to ridicule, and to undermine in infant minds the foundations of respect for authority. Unjust failure at an examination may defer for a year the progress of those who have suffered, the wrong done having every chance of being set right in the year following; but if they are taught to glory in their failure and to despise examinations and examining bodies, depend upon it that the habits of laziness and irreverence that this will engender will be sure to mar their prospects for ever. The Senate has appointed a Committee to inquire into the causes of these large failures, and as the Committee has not yet submitted its report, it would be premature for me to hazard any opinion on the subject. One thing, however, I may say, as it is not any matter of opinion, but is a fact, or rather the admission of a fact, by those interested in denying it. In reply to the inquiries made by the Committee, the heads of the institutions which sent candidates to our examinations have almost invariably admitted with commendable candour that the candidates that were found fit to pass in their judgment were not much larger in number than those who have actually passed, though some have stated that, between the date of application of candidates and the date of examination, many candidates were expected to be able to make up their deficiency. The results, therefore, were not altogether unexpected by those who knew best. But whether expected or unexpected, these large percentages of failures indicate an amount of waste of time, energy, and money which the University ought to prevent if possible. These large failures may be due either to the standards being difficult, or to the examination being unfair, or the candidates being badly prepared. Very few persons, however, seriously complain of the standard being too difficult, and opinion seems to be divided between attributing the failures to unfair examination and to bad preparation."

This is one of the burning questions of the day in connection with the University, and although Dr. Banerjee disclaimed any intention of anticipating the decision of the Committee of Enquiry, he plainly hinted that if there was room for improvement in the methods of the University examinations, the system of teaching was not less responsible for the result. This is a view which cannot fail to be accepted on all hands. Who that has any experience of our educational institutions and their methods, does not deplore the extensive prevalence of cram? While, however, we freely concede this point to



the Vice-Chancellor, we must, at the same time, say it does not wholly account for the unprecedented failures of the year. Nor does Dr. Banerjee himself deny that the University has faults of its own, and that the public have just grounds of complaint against it. We have no objection to the University insisting upon a high standard of proficiency or even steadily raising that standard in its examinations, but a standard once adopted, should not show marked oscillations from year to year. For such sudden changes in the severity of the standard, the competitors as well as the trainers cannot be prepared, and they place them at an unfair disadvantage. That there have been such oscillations will be admitted. That there have also been other abuses in the examinations has also to be admitted. The University itself has had after enquiry to pronounce a number of examiners to have been guilty of great neglect and perfunctoriness in their work. For the rest, the faults which have crept into the methods of teaching in our schools and colleges, are to no small extent due to the character of the examinations as prescribed by the University. If cram largely prevails, it is the direct effect of the examinations as they are now conducted. It cannot be difficult to so regulate and modify the examinations as to make them a real test of intelligent knowledge as distinguished from superficial cram. The Vice-Chancellor himself is perfectly alive to all the aspects of the question, and when it has been declared that there is earnest intention on the part of the authorities to purge the University of its abuses, let us be content to wait in hope.

The most important part of the address was Dr. Banerjee's reply to the charge of barrenness which is laid against the Calcutta University. Without having a particularly strong case to rebut the charge, he was, nevertheless, not prepared to take quite a cynical view of the question. His observations on this as well as on other points were both thoughtful and of practical value.

#### THE PROSPECTS OF ART IN CALCUTTA.

THE opening of the first Exhibition of the Calcutta Art Society took place the other day in the lobby of the Indian Museum under the presidency of the Viceroy and before a respectable gathering of gentlemen and ladies. Sir Steuart Bayley, President of the Society, opened the proceedings with a good speech. After complimenting Mr. Westmacott to whose inception and energy the Society owes its successful foundation, Sir Steuart entered into some explanation of the necessity of the institution and of its objects. He said:—

"The cynics will tell us that the only reason for its existence is that other similar Societies exist in Simla and in Poona, and therefore Calcutta thought it necessary to put forward its own claims. There is, of course, a substratum of truth in this as there is in most cynicism, just the half truth which gives cynicism its value by calling attention to the existence of a lower and baser element in all human endeavour, and so conducing to a stable judgment lest we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. But even if this view were sound it only throws the question one step further back, and induces us to look into the reasons which led to the formation of such societies elsewhere. Well, the reason is not far to seek. We have in India a number of amateurs with a feeling for art and a desire for improvement who work under great difficulties—want of leisure, and in the plains a climate which is in every direction antagonistic and baffling. These are two of the most noticeable difficulties, but, above all, is the rarity of competent criticism, especially of that best form of self-criticism which comes from contrasting one's own work with the superlative work of great artists. In other countries students can benefit not only from the great historical collections, but also from annual exhibitions of all the best work done by the greatest living artists. In India amateurs are entirely cut off from both provinces of education. Well, then, amateurs bring their work together at an Exhibition like this with the object of seeing what others achieve, and of improving their own work by a

standard of comparison. But besides our amateurs, there is the public, who do not paint pictures, but take an interest more or less real in those that are painted for them. They get amusement and instruction out of an Exhibition of the kind, and by giving prizes for competition, help to improve the standard."

Sir Steuart then acknowledged the liberal encouragement and patronage which the Society had received from the Viceroy, and looked upon it as an augury of happy omen that the Society should hold its first Exhibition under the auspices of a nobleman to whom the patronage of art was an heritage and whose family had for several generations been conspicuous for their generous encouragement of art and artists. After bearing testimony to the help received from professional artists and from Mr. Jobbins, Principal of the Calcutta School of Art, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal concluded with a strong appeal for funds for the supply of a habitation for the Society and its collections.

Lord Lansdowne then rose and made an excellent and hearty speech. Modestly disclaiming any pretensions to art, his Lordship said there was an ancient proverb that men should learn religion from the irreligious, and it was upon a similar assumption with regard to Art that he rested his claims to be an authority on the subject. His Lordship then referred to the great importance of art-culture to any community claiming a place in the civilized world, and said it was very desirable that Calcutta, which was the seat of the Government of India and the centre of political and commercial activity, should also be a centre of artistic activity also. He then passed his judgment on the collection displayed in the first year's Exhibition. Though, of course, not one by the side of which the Royal Academy or the Paris Salon might be said to sink into insignificance, still judging it as a first attempt and making allowances for all the difficulties always surrounding a first attempt, there was no reason to be ashamed of it. His Lordship's criticism of the pictures went far to belie the modest personal references with which he began. Lord Lansdowne dwelt upon the advantages possessed by Calcutta for the cultivation of portrait painting:—

"There is no place in India in which, year after year, a greater number of notable persons is gathered together. High officials, gallant soldiers, great leaders of commercial enterprise, Indian Princes, and gentlemen of high station are all in the habit of resorting annually to Calcutta. Only think what a collection of the portraits of Indian worthies might have been formed, if, in years past, it had been the custom for every distinguished man who came here to have his picture painted! I am glad to see that a special prize is offered by my friend Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, of whom by the way an excellent likeness from Mr. Archer's easel is exhibited, for portraits painted by his fellow-countrymen, and I cannot avoid referring to the pleasure which it gave me to see some extremely promising work in portrait painting exhibited by students of the Calcutta School of Art—notably a most conscientiously executed three-quarter length of a gentleman, whose name is not given, by Mr. A. P. Bagchi, the Teacher of the School of Art, and an extremely clever and really powerfully painted picture by Mr. Lalit Mohun Bose, a young artist educated at the same school,—a picture which has, I understand, won the Maharaja's prize.

I am disposed to take a very sanguine view of the future of portrait painting in this country. The Art itself, far from being strange to India, is indigenous in the country. No one who has had an opportunity of examining the old Indian drawings and paintings to be found in your museums and collections can have failed to be struck by the extraordinarily conscientious character of the human likenesses. It is quite true that the execution is often to our taste hard and unsympathetic, and that the drawing does not accord with modern ideas of Art. The same remark, however, might be made of some of the works of the earlier Dutch and Italian artists. This, at any rate, may be said without fear of contradiction—that your Indian students have displayed a rare power of reproducing upon canvas with correctness and fidelity any object which they have striven to depict. This characteristic is displayed to a marked degree in the studies from still life exhibited at the lower end of the room, and also in the pen-and-ink architectural and technical drawings exhibited alongside of them. These are qualities which only want careful training and the inspiration of true artistic feeling and artistic taste in order to become fully developed into real artistic excellence, and I sincerely trust that the School of Art, which has been ably presided over by Mr. Jobbins, will in no respect relax its efforts in this direction."

His Lordship then illustrated the value of the accomplishment as an aid to the personal happiness of its fortunate possessors, from reminiscences of his late tour in the North-Western Frontier.

"I do not know any accomplishment which adds more to the happiness of those who are fortunate enough to possess it, and to that of their friends. It is an accomplishment which stimulates the power of observation; it affords the most interesting of recreations to those who are hard-worked, and the most agreeable of pastimes to those who are happy enough to have leisure hours at their disposal. The superiority of a person who can paint or draw over one who can do neither asserts itself at every turn. I will mention one case in point which came within my notice not long ago. I had the misfortune, during my recent tour on the North-West Frontier, to meet with a railway accident. It was an accident of the mildest and most harmless description, but it involved a temporary arrestation of our journey. Some of us bemoaned the hard fate which obliged us to spend several hours in a remote locality with which we had no special desire to form a closer acquaintance; some abused the engine, others found fault with the line, some thought of the anxiety which their non-arrival would occasion to their wives; others, more materially minded, asked whether there was any chance of getting dinner before midnight. But a not inconsiderable number of our party belonged to the noble army of artists, and it was most striking to observe how what was a misfortune to the rest of us was regarded as a positive piece of good luck by them, for before our train had been five minutes off the metals, quite a little host had seized upon dominating positions and had begun with the utmost good humour to transfer the scene of our mishap to their sketching-blocks. This is only one illustration of many which could be given of the advantages of being able to use pencil or brush, and many more will, I have no doubt, occur to you. But we have come here to see the pictures, and I will not detain you longer except for the purpose of reiterating what has been so well said by his Honor—the expression of the obligation which we are under to the Members of the Committee for their exertions on behalf of this Exhibition. Few of us, I expect, have any idea of the amount of labour which such a task involves. To the Members of the Committee it has, I am sure, been a labour of love, but that ought not in any degree to diminish our gratitude. And, ladies and gentlemen, if our thanks are due to the Committee, they are certainly due, in a special degree, to one Member of it—the gentleman who has undertaken the duty of Honorary Secretary, and whose perseverance, courtesy, and deep conviction of the strength of his cause have contributed in no small degree to the success of the Exhibition."

The Viceroy with Lady Lansdowne then spent some time in examining the exhibits, and having declared the Exhibition open left, when the meeting broke up.

#### THE UNCOVENANTED SERVICE DINNER.

THE public dinner given in the Town Hall on the night of Wednesday the 22nd in honor of Mr. King, M. P., by the members of the Uncovenanted Service, was a marked success. Among the guests, there were several distinguished members of Calcutta society, the Bench, the Bar, the Civil Service, the mercantile community and the Press being all represented by their conspicuous and leading men. Altogether some 160 persons sat down to a splendid banquet, purveyed by M. Bonsard. The Town Hall was most effectively decorated, and presented a brilliant spectacle. The most notable features of the decorations were two transparencies, one painted over the stage representing the diminishing rupee, and another over the gallery showing a number of walking sticks, bearing the names of the different branches of the Uncovenanted Service, laid out on a cushion marked "Civil Service Association," the whole being bound together by a blue ribbon marked "Unity." The design of these devices was appropriate to the occasion, and the whole of the arrangements is pronounced to have been creditable to the executive committee as well as to those that were in charge of the illuminations and other decorations. Sir Alfred Croft was in the chair.

• Quite as affective, if not more, were the speeches after the dinner. The speech of the evening was, of course, Mr. King's, but the whole speaking was of a high character. Nothing could have been happier than the Chairman's several speeches. Sir Alfred Croft showed an admirable tact in turning even the formal toasts to the Queen and the Viceroy into opportunities in his hands of driving home the great argument he had to urge for the Uncovenanted Service, and the relief of its grievance. The main point

which was the subject of discussion on the occasion was the reduction, in consequence of the present state of exchange, of the stipulated pension of Rs. 5,000 a year to which senior members of the Uncovenanted Service are entitled on their retirement under the terms of the old contract between them and the Government. When they came out to this country, a pension of Rs. 5,000 meant a pension of £500, and so little did Government anticipate the serious depreciation which has since taken place in the exchange value of silver that in the Pension Code, and in all official despatches, the sum of £500 was regularly used as the equivalent of Rs. 5,000. The present condition of exchange was entirely unforeseen by both parties to the contract. The old members of the Uncovenanted Service now find that by the time they have served their term and earned their retiring pension, that pension has dwindled by about one-third of what they expected to enjoy. To their representations about the hardship and suffering in which they find themselves involved by such an unforeseen accident, the Government has one reply. It points to the terms of the contract, and what the service complains of is that this, if strictly just, is not equity. This is in brief the case between that Service and the Government, and now let us see how Sir Alfred Croft makes use of the usual loyal and complimentary toasts which as Chairman he had to propose, for the practical purposes of the business in hand. In proposing the Royal toast, Sir Alfred, referring to what is sometimes said about the waning influence of the principle of loyalty to the throne on the present generation, gave an emphatic and graceful contradiction to such a supposition, and pointed to the events of a fortnight ago as a sufficient refutation of the calumny. The little speech was then rounded off with a most effective peroration—effective, that is, as an appeal for generous treatment of the uncovenanted servants. He said:—

"And, gentlemen, it is the special privilege of those on whose behalf I speak, and indeed of the great majority of those whom I have the honour of addressing, to be not only the subjects of the Queen but her servants; and in that relation it is and will be no less our pride than our bounden duty to render her Majesty always and in all circumstances, loyal and faithful service to the utmost of our strength and ability."

The force of the hit will be felt. The Viceroy's toast was in the same felicitous manner turned to account, for another powerful appeal. Sir Alfred showed a rare knack in covering the strongest argument for the Uncovenanted Service in the glowing tribute of praise he paid to the Viceroy. The concluding sentence is a gem in its way, and nothing can surpass the cleverness and delicacy with which the chief argument for the Service is urged upon the acceptance of the Government.

"To investigate questions of difficulty by the light of broad principles of equity and right, to pass beyond the formal terms and limits of a proposition to the wider political issues that it involves—these are the attributes of a statesman; they are the qualities by the exercise of which Lord Lansdowne has won his way to distinction and fame; and they are those by which we are confident that his Excellency's policy will always be determined."

Sir Alfred Croft's speech in giving the toast of the evening was equally admirable. He spoke with no less moderation than with force, and paid his compliment to the champion of the service and the guest of the evening in words marked by thorough literary finish. We may quote one passage.

"Well, these arguments have been urged from time to time, but unhappily without avail. And, then, in our darkest hour of need, when we found ourselves chained to the rock of the Indian service, with the cruel and hungry jaws, if I may be permitted so violent a metaphor, of the depreciated rupee waiting to drag us down and devour us—then suddenly out of the sky, to the rescue of this uncovenanted Andromeda, sprang forth in full panoply our Perseus, eager to do battle with the monster. But, to quit the realm of metaphor, this intervention of Mr. King at once raised the discussion to a higher level and into a freer air."

The way in which large questions of this kind are regarded in the House of Commons differs, and perhaps necessarily differs, from the way in which they are regarded by a bureaucracy like the Government of India. Anyhow, the shifting of the arena of controversy, the hearing of our cause by a fresh set of judges, and, above all the unlooked-for support of Mr. King's untiring and enthusiastic advocacy—these new elements could not but turn to our great advantage, and they inspired us with new hope."

The other speeches at the banquet were equally of an excellent order. The speech of Mr. King was characterised by his usual forcible eloquence. It was an elaborate and earnest vindication of the claims of the Uncovenanted Service—its dignity and its importance and its achievements. The toast of the Chairman was given by the Hon'ble Justice Prinsep who spoke in sympathetic terms of the movement. The object of the movement, he said, was not to embarrass the Government, but to make it manifest that the Government was not acting in the full interest of the services concerned, in turning a deaf ear to their representations. The toast of the Press was given in a humorous and graceful speech by Mr. Justice Norris whose personal references were received with bursts of laughter. Mr. Macdonald of the *Englishman* responded to this toast in a speech that provoked many cheers. Altogether, the dinner was a perfect success and the character of the speaking was of more than usual interest.

### THE WELCOME TO THE PRINCE IN CALCUTTA.

ON previous occasions of honoring Royal visitors in the metropolis of British India, the Municipal Commissioners took the lead. The only instance in which it was otherwise, was that of the Duke of Connaught. Even then, though there was an independent Committee, the then Municipal Secretary, Mr. Robert Turnbull, was the Treasurer and had a very important position on it. He materially assisted Mr. Apar in the management of the affair, and Mr. Ghose in the settlement of the details of the entertainment.

In entertaining the last Royal visitor, the Corporation and its Chief were kept out in so far as it was possible to keep them out on such ceremonial occasions. A Committee was organised. The leading spirits of the Committee soon asserted themselves. Mr. Apar, in consequence of his previous experience, soon proved to be of great help to the Committee and his efforts brought the arrangements to a satisfactory termination. Calcutta is much indebted to him, as almost all the local arrangements, excepting the entertainment details on the night of the *fête*, were left to him. The details of the entertainment were taken up by the other members and the President himself whose earnest endeavours and indefatigable industry were highly praiseworthy. The unique character of the several items of the entertainment, such as the Khuttuck dance, the Bhootea wild gyrations, the performance of the Lathials from Pubna, which formed the best portions of the *fête*, were all due to the originality of Mr. Apar. The refreshment arrangements were also chiefly due to him and to Lady Wilson. The European community of Calcutta will gratefully carry the reminiscence of her excellent arrangements for a long time in their memory. The gratitude of the city is also due to Mr. Jobbins for the tasteful display of the coloured lights in the tree illumination of the Maidan and the Eden Gardens which drew admiration from the Royal party and all appreciative sight-seers. To confess the truth, the illuminations on this occasion in the town of Calcutta far outshone the effects of similar ones on other occasions, for they were too commonplace and did not suggest any idea of originality or give evidence of any scientific skill.

Men of affluence, of taste, and of working habits, fairly contributed towards the success of this entertainment. But for their earnestness, the *fête* would never have been the brilliant success it was, though we are given to understand that in some departments the arrangements had been slightly unsatisfactory, for example, the native refresh-

ment place which was literally besieged by native policemen in consequence of which no respectable people could get access to it.

The principal pavilion of refreshments, though stocked with right royal commestibles and drinkables, was the resort of only European policemen and Jews and Parsee gentlemen after the retirement of the Prince's party.

A. C. M.

### THE ENGLISH SPARROW IN THE UNITED STATES.

Captain W. F. Segrave, Her Majesty's Consul at Baltimore thus reports under date the 23rd August last, the destruction of property by birds and more particularly by the sparrow in the United States :—

The inhabitants of this continent have turned their attention to the house sparrow (*Paper Domesticus*), and all their energies are now devoted to his destruction.

The sparrow, unlike the indigenous animals of this continent, is a wily bird and will die hard, and if the people of this country continue to pursue their present tactics, it will be by no means prudent to predict that their efforts will be crowned with success.

The universal ill-will borne to the house sparrow, here called the English sparrow, is somewhat astonishing to English people who are accustomed to regard him as a domestic, companionable bird, remarkable for instinct and cunning, who balances the, no doubt, considerable amount of mischief which he perpetrates by a still more extensive benefit which he confers on the householder and agriculturist.

In this country he is said to be the deadly enemy of the gardener and fruit-grower. It is alleged that he destroys vast quantities of grain, that he defiles buildings, that he refuses to eat American insects, and that he actually protects and causes an increase of worms and caterpillars by driving away those native birds which would prey upon them.

Previous to 1850 the house sparrow was unknown on this continent. In that year eight pairs were imported into New York, but for some unknown reason they failed to obtain a footing and did not thrive or multiply. Some years later they were brought over in large numbers which bred and spread gradually over the neighbourhood.

But the sparrow was not firmly established in this country for many subsequent years. Indeed, it was not until 1870 that he may be said to have commenced his migration westward.

From that time to the present he has, with marvellous rapidity, spread over at least half of the continent.

His adaptability is phenomenal as he thrives and multiplies, not only in the tropical heat of the Southern States, but in the arctic temperature of Canada.

His fecundity is marvellous. In Maryland and the neighbouring States he is said to hatch out from four to six broods in a season, with an average of about five birds in a nest. And an ingenious individual has calculated that under the most favourable conditions the progeny of one pair of sparrow would, in 10 years, amount to over 275,000,000 of birds.

If all the sins which are here laid to the charge of the sparrow have no more reliable foundation than that of driving away and destroying the native birds, they are surely a well and unjustly abused family.

The vast majority of the native birds found in the Northern and Middle States are not permanent residents but are migratory, and are therefore possibly looked on by the sparrow as strangers and interlopers. But the native birds are driven out and exterminated in consequence of the wholesale slaughter which is carried on in the season of migration, which is also the season of pairing, and in the interest of milliners, whose customers persist in adorning their persons with feathers.

At this season every idle loafer and boy who can afford a ten-dollar gun, is busy stalking the lovely birds which are moving northward, and each of whose skins represents a certain number of cents.

In Canada, where wholesale slaughter is not carried on as a business, possibly because the native birds are not endowed with such gaudy plumage, no such charge is made against the sparrow.

On the contrary, he who pleases may see them feeding in company with the native birds, in perfect harmony, all over the country.

It is a well-known fact that numerous species of native birds have become almost extinct in Florida, where nevertheless, the sparrow is altogether unknown, not having as yet found his way to that State."

Take for instance, the American robin (*Merula migratoria*) which American ornithologists regard as one of the most valuable



insectivorous birds, and which they charge the sparrow with having driven out of the land.

The American robin is a migratory bird, about as bulky and large as an English starling.

In spring and early summer every game seller and provision dealer displays strings and bunches of robins hanging outside his stall. Every eating-house advertises "Robin on Toast," one of the most favourite dishes of the masses when they are sufficiently in funds to justify the expenditure, and with this enormous destruction just at the breeding season, the world is gravely informed that the little sparrow is responsible for the exaggerated price of "Robin on Toast" and for the increase in worms and caterpillars which the said robins would have destroyed but for the wicked sparrows.

It may be safely asserted that a traveller will see more robins in a day's drive in Nova Scotia than in a month in the Middle Eastern States in this country, and yet it is not pretended that the sparrow is less aggressive in Canada than he is in the United States.

Another cause to which may be attributed the vast multiplication of sparrows on the continent lies in the enactments which are in force in many States, termed 'Scalp Acts.'

This Pennsylvania 'Scalp Act,' which may be said to be model on which similar legislation is based in other States, provides a bounty of 50 cents (2 s.) each on hawks, owls, weasels, &c., and a fee of 20 cents to the official taking affidavit.

It is stated that an average sum of 60,000 dollars is paid in this State annually in bounties, representing the destruction of about 100,000 of the abovenamed animals, the vast majority being hawks and owls.

It is calculated that the annual loss in poultry killed by them amounts in value to about 1,250 dollars. Thus you have a community expending 60,000 dollars to save farmers a loss of 1,250 dollars.

But this estimate by no means represents the actual loss to the tax-payer, for it may safely be calculated that each hawk and owl would destroy a vast number of sparrows, mice, and destructive insects.

Therefore, omitting all reference to the huge increase in the number of these noxious animals, when Nature's means of holding them in check has been removed, the lowest computed estimate of the value of each hawk and owl to the former would be about 2 dollars annually.

The enormous loss incurred by the tax-paying public in carrying out the short-sighted policy of destruction can thus be easily calculated.

But Nemesis is close upon their heels.

The great 'blizzard' of March 1888 destroyed multitudes of sparrows, and as a consequence, the past and present summers have seen a vast increase in grubs and caterpillars.

Already in many large cities the inhabitants through the public press are complaining of the destruction of their ornamental trees, the diminished number of sparrows being unable to keep in check the vast increase which has taken place in noxious grubs, worms and caterpillars.

#### THE HEARSEY-ALLEN CASE.

The inquiry into the charge of libel brought by Capt. Hearsey against Mr. G. W. Allen of the *Pioneer* was resumed on Wednesday the 22nd January in the Police Court before Mr. F. J. Marsden, Chief Presidency Magistrate. Mr. Avetoom, instructed by Messrs. Remfry and Rose, appeared for the complainant and Messrs. Pugh and Gasper, instructed by Messrs. Sanderson and Co., appeared for Mr. Allen.

Mr. Avetoom, in opening the case, said that the defendant in this case was Mr. Geo. Wm. Allen, who was managing proprietor of the *Pioneer* newspaper, published in Allahabad, and which is also circulated all over India; the complainant was a gentleman who bore a name distinguished in this country—Capt. Hearsey. He charged the defendant with having published a libel which had formed the subject of previous actions. That libel was written under circumstances which were most ungenerous and un-English. It was a wicked thing to do inasmuch as when the article appeared the complainant, Capt. Hearsey, had that very day been sentenced to one month's imprisonment by the Magistrate at Allahabad for assaulting Mr. Chesney, the editor of the paper. Whatever might be the character Captain Hearsey bore in Allahabad, in Calcutta at all events he was known to be a person who had a reputation, which had been damaged by the article in question. The circumstances under which the articles were written shewed that it could have been written with no other object in view but to hurt the complainant. He would be able to satisfy the Court as to the publication of the libel in Calcutta. Indeed, he would go further and show that the person who wrote the article in the *Pioneer* of the 26th January was the defendant, and he submitted when he had done all this the *onus* of proving non-publication in Calcutta would lie on the defendant. That would appear clearly on the authorities which he would place before his Honor, and when he had made out a *prima facie* case, it would be for the magistrate, either to try the case summarily or send it to the sessions. The learned counsel

here proceeded to briefly read the libel commencing "one Andrew William Hearsey," and remarked that the prosecution had put in an additional charge of abetment under section 109. Before proceeding to call any witnesses, he thought it his duty to inform his Honor that one or two witnesses for the prosecution were not in attendance. One of them was a gentleman who had to attend a civil case at Scramore and the other Mr. Byrne was seriously ill. He would, therefore, ask for a further adjournment after all the witnesses present in attendance had been heard. He then called—

Geo. MacLachlan Chesney, sworn :—I am the editor of the paper called the *Pioneer*. I have been editor for the last five years. The paper is published at Allahabad and has a circulation all over India. I know the defendant in this case, Mr. Allen. He is the managing proprietor of the *Pioneer*, and has been so for many years. As editor it is part of my duty to see the leading articles. By leading articles I mean the articles which appear on the front page. The leading article which appeared in the front page of the *Pioneer* was seen by me. On the 25th, 26th and 27th January 1889, Mr. Allen, the defendant, was the managing proprietor. The article beginning "One Andrew William Hearsey" refers to the complainant. I have seen copies of the *Pioneer* for sale at Messrs. Wheeler & Co.'s bookstalls at various railway stations. I have not seen any kept for sale at Messrs. Newman & Co. Messrs. Fitch & Co. are the Calcutta agents of the *Pioneer* and were so on the 25th, 26th and 27th January last. The *Pioneer* is sent from Allahabad by post and train to Calcutta. I have no personal knowledge whether the *Pioneer* is sent to Messrs. Newman & Co. Mr. Allen wrote the article complained of. I have been subpoenaed to produce the original manuscript of that article, but I have not produced it because it is not in my possession. I should think it was destroyed. I have no idea when it was destroyed. There is no rule in the *Pioneer* office as to keeping the manuscripts, but I do not suppose they will be preserved for more than a couple of months. I have no press-copy of the article. I have been subpoenaed to produce the press-copy. I am not certain that the press-copy has been destroyed, but I presume so. I presume it was destroyed about two or three months after it went to the press.

Cross-examined by Mr. Pugh :—I remember proceedings being taken against me in reference to this same article by the present complainant. Mr. Henderson appeared for the complainant at that time. The complainant was examined and his deposition was taken as to the truth of the matters complained of in that article.

Mr. Avetoom objected to his learned friend going into former proceedings and, after some discussion, the Magistrate decided that his learned friend had a right to do so. The cross-examination was then continued :—

Mr. Chesney :—I remember his being cross-examined by Mr. Gasper, upon the same subject. It was stated in the article complained of that Mr. Hearsey had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for an assault committed upon me. But with regard to the previous article for which Captain Hearsey assaulted me Mr. Allen had nothing whatever to do. At the time when those proceedings were taken Mr. Allen was in England. Mr. Allen returned from England in the last days of October. The correspondence in the *Pioneer* office passes through my hands. Since Mr. Allen's return no application has been received from Mr. Hearsey, or on his behalf, making any inquiry as to who was the writer. So far as I know the name of the writer of the article has never been demanded by Captain Hearsey, or on his behalf, at any time. I received a communication from Mr. Allen in England on the institution of proceedings against me. It was a telegram to this effect which I produce :—"Avow me solely responsible, Hearsey scrap. Urge consequent delay November, Allen, London." [Mr. Avetoom objected to this telegram being tendered in evidence.]

Re-examined by Mr. Avetoom :—Proceedings were also taken against me in Howrah.

Mr. Pugh objected to his learned friend referring to the Howrah proceedings.

Mr. Avetoom said that his object was to show that, when the proceedings were taken in Howrah, Mr. Allen was in India, but his learned friend's clients did not voluntarily come forward and reveal the authorship of the article, and yet by producing the telegram the prosecution desired to show how generous Mr. Allen was in at once coming forward and saying "give up my name and let the proceedings be taken against me." After some discussion the Magistrate refused to permit the learned counsel to refer to any matters which did not properly arise out of the cross-examination.

The next witness called was—

Charles Allen Dickson, sworn :—I am manager of Newman & Co. Newman & Co. are booksellers in this city and sell also periodicals and papers. We take the *Pioneer*. We receive it from Allahabad by post. I am not aware of any arrangements being made with anybody in the *Pioneer* office as to the sending of copies of the paper to Calcutta. I have been subpoenaed to produce letters from the *Pioneer* office. I produce them.

Mr. Avetoom here asked for the letters.

Mr. Pugh, interrupting, asked his Honor if this was a proper mode of proceeding.

Some discussion ensued during the course of which—

Mr. Dickson said he was not at all prepared to show these letters unless he was compelled to do so: he had simply produced them in obedience to the subpoena.

The Magistrate finally did not permit the learned counsel to inspect the letters.

Howard Hensman, sworn:—I am one of the correspondents of the *Pioneer* newspaper and have been so for some time. I am also a member of the Bengal Club in Calcutta. I know the defendant, Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen is also a member of the Bengal Club in Calcutta. The Bengal Club take in the *Pioneer*, and have done so for some time. I was in Calcutta on the 26th January last. I read the article complained of there, but I do not know that it was from this very paper. The *Pioneer* newspaper is invariably kept on the table of the Bengal Club. I really do not know whether the defendant, Mr. Allen, is publishing in Calcutta. I do not know who arranges about sending the paper to various places in India; it does not come within my department at all. I have never seen the complainant to my knowledge all my life. I cannot swear as a fact within my own knowledge whether Mr. Allen carries on a business in Calcutta.

Mr. Avetoom proposed to put several other questions as to whether the witness saw Mr. Allen reading the paper in the Bengal Club, but the Magistrate over-ruled them as being in the nature of cross-examination.

Mr. W. H. Fitze, who was summoned by the prosecution, was the next witness called, but, as he did not respond to his name and as it was proved that the subpoena was served on him, the Magistrate issued a warrant of contempt against him. Some discussion then ensued as to further postponement in view of the absence of several

witnesses for the prosecution, which was interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Fitze, who apologised for his delay in coming. He was then put into the box and his evidence taken.

Mr. William Henry Fitze, sworn:—I am merchant and agent. I am the Calcutta agent of the *Pioneer* newspaper. My firm have been agents since the *Pioneer* was established. We were acting as Calcutta agents of the *Pioneer* on the 25th, 26th and 27th January last. We in the ordinary course of business receive copies of the *Pioneer* from Allahabad for sale in Calcutta. I believe we received copies of the *Pioneer* of the 25th, 26th and 27th January 1889 from Allahabad. We were appointed Calcutta agents of the *Pioneer* by Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen is the gentleman sitting over there. We also receive advertisements for the *Pioneer* and send them on to the manager.

Some discussion then ensued as to the postponement, Mr. Avetoom asking that further proceedings be adjourned in order that the prosecution might have an opportunity of calling further witnesses to complete the evidence of publication in Calcutta. Mr. Pugh said that he was anxious to examine Mr. Hearsey; and would not detain him for more than five minutes. He based his application on section 208 of the Code which runs as follows:—"The magistrate shall, when the accused appears or is brought before him, proceed to hear the complainant, if any, and take in manner hereafter provided all such evidence as may be produced in support of the prosecution, or on behalf of the accused, or as may be called for by the Magistrate." The Magistrate declined to do so until the prosecution had closed their case.

After some discussion, the case was adjourned to the 4th of February.—*The Statesman*.

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA. A SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CALCUTTA,  
under Act II. (B. C.) of 1888,

WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 30th January 1890,  
at 4 P.M.,

#### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To consider the proposed Bye-laws regarding the construction of buildings, and ventilation and the extent to which space must be left for free circulation of air; framed under Section 412 of Act II (B. C.) of 1888, clauses (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j).

2. To confirm the three months' privilege leave granted to Mr. Browne, and approving Health Officer's proposal for Office arrangement during his absence, provided it does not involve an expenditure exceeding Rs. 100 a month as recommended by the Suburban Improvement Committee held on the 3rd December.

3. To sanction the commission of 5 per cent. upon the sum of Rs. 100,100 agreed by the Suburban Committee to be paid to Mr. Kimber for supervising the construction of Suburban water-works as recommended by the Suburban Improvement Committee held on the 27th December 1889.

4. To confirm the proceedings of the General Committee at a Meeting held on the 4th January 1890.

5. To confirm the proceedings of the Market Committee at Meetings held on the 5th December 1889 and 15th January 1890.

6. To confirm the proceedings of the Complaint Committee at a Meeting held on the 18th December 1889 and 15th January 1890.

7. To confirm the proceedings of the Bustee and Town Improvement Committee at a Meeting held on the 26th November 1889.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation.

24th January, 1890.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have not already sent in their Subscriptions, will greatly oblige the Executive Committee by doing so without delay.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,

S. E. J. CLARKE,

Jt. Hon. Secretaries.

Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

### H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR RECEPTION FUND.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

The Honorary Treasurers have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the following amounts subscribed to the above Fund:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously advertised	60,125	0	0
The Hon. Raja Rameshwar Singh Bahadur of Durbhanga	500	0	0
Prince Samerandra Chundra Deb Burmon, Burra Thakoor Bahadur of Tipperah	500	0	0
Kumar Benoya Krishna Bahadur The Hon'ble Sir W. Comer Petheram, Kt., Q.C., C.J.	250	0	0
Messrs. Geo. Henderson and Co.	250	0	0
Nawab Willyet Ali Khan	200	0	0
Babu Juggurnath Khunah	200	0	0
Messrs. Hamilton and Co.	200	0	0
Babu Chattrapat Singh	125	0	0
The Moharaja of Shoosung	100	0	0
Raja Hurra Nath Roy of Nowgong	100	0	0
Kumar Judoo Nath Deb, Kula Aawl	100	0	0
Kumar Ramanikant Roy	100	0	0
Nawab Meer Mahomed Ali	100	0	0
Nawab Syed Ali Khan Bahadur	100	0	0
Nawab Dildar Ali Khan Bahadur	100	0	0
Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur, C.I.E.	100	0	0
Ranee Hamunto Kumari of Puttea	100	0	0
Prince Mahomed Rohimoodin	100	0	0
The Hon'ble Sir A. Croft, K.C.I.E.	100	0	0
The Hon'ble Justice O'Kineally	100	0	0
" " Beverley	100	0	0
" " Trevelyan	100	0	0
" " Norris	100	0	0
" " Tottenham	100	0	0
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" " Chunder Madnub Ghose	100	0	0
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Total ... 67,750 0 0

Further lists of payments will be acknowledged hereafter.

DURGA CHURN LAW,  
A. WILSON,  
Hony. Treasurers.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,

Honorary Secretaries.

#### NOTICE.

IN accordance with the Resolution of the Government of Bengal in the General Department, dated the 6th March 1886, published on page 541 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 31st of the same month, notice is hereby given that an examination for the admission of female students to the certificate class of the Calcutta Medical College will be held in the Theatre of that College on Tuesday, the 11th February 1890, and following days.

#### Hours and Subjects of Examination.

Tuesday.—English dictation, Grammar and Composition—from 1 to 4 P.M.

Wednesday.—History of England and India. Geography: General and of India in particular—from 1 to 4 P.M.

Thursday.—Arithmetic: the first four rules, vulgar and decimal fractions, and proportion—from 1 to 4 P.M.

Candidates should apply in writing to the Principal of the Medical College, Calcutta, not later than Saturday, the 8th February, for permission to appear at the examination.

Applications for permission to reside in the Sarnamayi Hostel should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary to the Bengal Branch of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, 36, Chowringhee, Calcutta.

A. CROFT,

Director of Public Instruction.

The 6th January 1890.



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BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

*Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
 Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detain our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

THE

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DROIT ET AVANT.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1890.

No. 409

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

ALFRED.

(BORN AT WANTAGE, IN BERKSHIRE, A. D. 849).

Written A. D. 1849.

*By the late Martin Farquhar Tupper.*

COME, every true-born Englishman—come, Anglo-Saxons all !  
I wake a tune to-day to take and hold your hearts in thrall ;  
I sing the king—the Saxon king—the glorious and the great,  
The root and spring of everything we love in church and state.

'T is just a thousand years to-day—oh, years are swift and brief—  
Since erst uprose in majesty the day-star of our chief.  
Since Wantage bred a wondrous child, whom God hath made the cause  
Of half the best we boast in British liberties and laws.

Last-born of royal Ethelwolf, he left his island home,  
Ulysses-like, to study men and marvels in old Rome ;  
And, thence in wrath returning, overthrew the pirate Dane,  
And, young as Pitt, at twenty-two began a hero's reign.

Oh ! Guthran swore, and Hubba smote, and sturdy Hinguar stormed,  
And still like locusts o'er the land the red marauders swarmed ;  
But Alfred was a David to scatter every foe,  
The shepherd, psalmist, warrior, king, unblamed in weal and woe.

Aye, hiding with the herdsman, or harping in the camp,  
Or earnestly redeeming time beneath the midnight lamp ;  
Or ruling on his quiet throne, or fighting in the fen,  
Our Alfred was indeed an Agameinnon, king of men !

Unshrinking champion of the right, in patriot strength he stood ;  
Declare it, three score fields of fight, and mark it down in blood !  
Unflinching chief, unerring judge, he stoutly held the helm ;  
Tell out those thirty years of praise, all Albion's happy realm !

A Solomon for wisdom's choice, that he loved learning well  
Let Oxford chimes with grateful voice from all their turrets tell ;  
A Numa and Justinian too, let every parish sound  
His birthday on the merry bells through all the country round.

A Nestor, while in years a youth, he taught as Plato taught ;  
A Constantine, a Washington, he fought as Scipio fought ;  
A Wellington, his laurelled sword with Peace was glory-gilt,  
And Nelson's earliest wooden walls of Alfred's oaks were built !

Oh, gallant Britons ! bless the God who gave you such a prince—  
His like was never known before, nor e'er hath been since ;  
The fountain of your liberties, your honors, and your health,  
The mountain of your sturdy strength, the Ophir of your wealth.

And now arouse thee, royal ghost ! in majesty look round ;  
On every shore, in every clime, thy conquering sons are found.  
By kingdoms and dominions, by continents and isles,  
The Anglo-Saxon realm is *fifty hundred thousand miles !*

Aye, smile on us and bless us in thy loftiness of love—  
The name of Anglo-Saxon is all other names above !  
By peoples and by nations, by tribe, and sept, and clan,  
*Two hundred millions* claim it in the family of man !

They claim it, and they claim thee too, their father and their king !  
O, mighty shade ! behold the crowds who claim thy sheltering wing !  
Thou hast o'ershadowed, like an Alp, the half of this broad earth ;  
And where thy shadow falls is light and Anglo-Saxon worth !

The energy, the daring, the cheerfulness, the pride,  
The stalworth love of freedom with religion well allied,  
The trust in God forever, and the hope in man for time—  
These characters they learnt of thee, and stand like thee sublime !

Where'er thy gracious children come, a blessing there they bring ;  
The sweet securities of home around that place they fling ;  
Warm Comfort, and pure Charity, and Duty's bright blue eye,  
And Enterprise, and Industry, are stars upon that sky.

Stout Husbandry amid those fields with soft Contentment meets,  
And honest Commerce, early up, is stirring in those streets ;  
And all the glories of the sword and honors of the pen  
Make us the wonder of the world, the cynosure of men !

And, hark ! upon my harp and tongue a sweeter note of praise—  
How should a Saxon leave unsung what best he loves always ?  
O dearer, deeper, nobler songs to thrill the heart and mind,  
The crown of womanhood belongs to *English womankind !*

Young maiden, modest as the morn yet glowing like the noon—  
True wife, in placid tenderness a lustrous silver moon—  
Dear mother, loving unto death and better loved than life—  
Where can the wide world match me such a mother, maid, or wife ?

Fair Athelwytha Alfred's own, is still your spirits' queen,  
The faithful, the courageous, the tender, the serene,  
The pious heroine of home, the solace, friend, and nurse,  
The height of self-forgetfulness, the climax of all verse !

And now, great Alfred's countrymen and countrywomen all,  
Victoria ! Albert ! graciously regard your minstrel's call !  
Up, loyal, gentle, simple folk ! up, first, ye men of Berks,  
And give a nation's monument to Alfred's mighty works !

In Anglo-Saxon majesty, simplicity, and strength,  
O, children ! build your father's tomb for very shame at length ;  
The birthday of your king hath dawned a thousand years this day,  
It must not die before you set your seal to what I say.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE new Protestant Church at Bethlehem, in Palestine, was but half finished in 1888, when it was stopped by order of the Sultan. That order has now been rescinded. It is due to the intercession of the German Empress during her recent visit to Constantinople.

THE four columns at the two entrances of the Hall of Fame in the Arsenal are to be capped with busts of Scharnhorst, Stein, Roon and Bismarck. Such is the order of the German Emperor.

AN Anglo-Italian steamship company has contracted for three direct sailings monthly between Naples and London.

AN American claims to have invented an electrical magic lantern by which he can reflect advertisements on low dark clouds overhanging large towns. He is said to have secured several contracts from advertising firms in the New World.

MR. G. F. Watts, R. A., has presented to the Leicester Art Gallery his celebrated picture, "Orlando pursuing the Fata Morgana." It was first exhibited in 1848 at the British Institution. The present is intended to mark the donor's recognition of the services which a Leicester townsman, Mr. John M. Cook, has rendered to "make the nation's name respected by admirable administration and honourable dealing, more especially in Egypt." Mr. Watts has besides a faith in the humanising influence of Art collections.

It is reported from Sheffield that

"The bulk of the ivory sold at the periodical sales finds its way here, and enormous quantities are used in the cutlery and silver trades. The growing scarcity and ever-increasing cost of ivory has, however, compelled manufacturers to turn their attention to the production of various substitutes. One of these is celluloid, and thousands of tons of this material is annually worked up in Sheffield. One firm alone, who made a speciality of this article last year, sold upwards of 1,800 dozen table-knives with ivory-grained celluloid handles. Great improvements have been made in the manufacture of this material recently, and certainly the prejudice entertained against it is not shared by Sheffield cutlery manufacturers, who boldly assert that it is superior to ivory in some respects, although it only costs about one-sixth the money. No amount of heat will cause combustion unless the celluloid is brought into direct contact with flame. It stands hot water better, and retains its beautiful creamy polish longer than ivory, for which it seems to be a really perfect substitute so far as Sheffield trades are concerned."

THE "Journal de la Chambre de Commerce de Constantinople" of the 9th November last says that the Egyptian Minister of Finance has definitely decided that the current season must not exceed 15,000 feddans of land in all provinces of Upper and Lower Egypt, for cultivation of tobacco, and that any authority for a larger area must not be granted.

THE port of Jeddah is being improved. A quay has been constructed. A powerful crane for loading and discharging ships has been placed on the quay and a railway laid from the quay to the custom house. This will greatly facilitate the working of ships, and probably give an impetus to the trade of the port.

THE Ministry of Agriculture at Rome estimated the wine crop of Italy in 1889 at 22,200,000 hectolitres, or a deficit of 10,300,000 hectolitres on the crop of 1888. Four-fifths of the crop last year were good, the remainder being of medium quality or bad.

THE fish-tinning industry in Auckland, in New Zealand, according to a local paper, is developing to important dimensions in various parts of the province. In addition to the important tinning establishment of Ewing and Co., in the Kaipara waters, there are now two tinning factories started and in working order at the Bay of Islands. The fish tinned at the latter place are mullet. There is likely to be a great stimulus given to the export of frozen fish to the Australian colonies.

BARON Theodore d'Ungern Sternberg has published an account of his ascent of the extinct volcano Elburz, the crest of which is now capped with eternal snow. He set out from the village of Oransby on

August 9. His party consisted of himself, Mr. G. J. Staritsky, a land surveyor, his guide, a Tyrolean named Franz Hofer, four hunters, and one servant. On the second day they reached the first châlet in the valley of Bakhsan, the same place from whence earlier climbers set out on their respective ascents. But the Baron avoided the beaten track—the Terskol gorge, of Mr. Freshfield or the Asaon glacier, of Professor Mushketoff. In five hours and a half the Baron and his party reached an altitude of 10,860 ft., or the limit of perpetual snow. One day was spent in fixing precisely the snow limit, and it was found to vary at different points from that altitude to as much as 12,200 ft. The camp on the second night was pitched at 11,977 ft. above the sea, but the nights were not very cold, the thermometer registering 6 degrees centigrade. The scene presented by the Caucasian range above and the mountain stream of the noisy Bakhsan 4,340 ft. below is described as having been magnificent, while Elburz itself reared its lofty crest into the heavens, whose blue almost approached blackness. The Baron took the precaution to take with him the tent, wraps, and provisions. Favoured by fine weather, he safely crossed the several dangerous crevices between 14,000 ft. and 15,000 ft. At an altitude of 15,368 ft. Staritsky became ill, and when he had proceeded 500 ft. higher he skirted the mountain and made his descent by the well-known track on the northern side. At this point the real difficulties of the ascent began for the Baron and Hofer. Each barrier of snow which promised to be the last was succeeded by another. The Baron thus describes his sensations:—

"There was a perfect calm and the sun burnt us. Not a breath of air came to refresh our lungs, which acted with increasing difficulty. Nothing, absolutely nothing, served to distract our attention in those gloomy solitudes. Only the firm determination to attain our objects sustained our strength, and time seemed infinite in those infinite regions. Our tongues and throats were on fire, and to slake our thirst we had only frozen snow, which gave us momentary relief to be followed by still greater torture."

At the altitude of 17,840 ft. a splendid view was obtained of the Black Sea, but Mount Ararat was nowhere. In the further ascent an icy wind from the west caused the travellers much trouble, filling the ears and mouth with small particles of frozen snow. The travellers reached the summit at an altitude of 18,469 ft., and they found a crater on the top of Elburz. The Baron states that there are remains of two craters on the summit of the west cone, which is the true crest of Elburz. Baron Sternberg remained only 10 minutes on the top, but even in that brief space he was slightly frost-bitten. The descent was attended with much danger, as the cord had been left with Staritsky, and when Baron Sternberg reached the pass he did not find his companions, with whom he had also left his tent, wraps, and provisions. He however found the hunters at an altitude of 11,370 ft., where they encamped for the night on a bed of lava and by the shores of a frozen lake, but without coverings or fire. Staritsky was not found till the following day, when it was discovered that instead of descending he had passed the night in the pass, where he would probably have died but for the fact that he had the tent and furs.

THE following holidays will be observed in the Calcutta Court of Small Causes during the year 1890:—

"New Year's day	...	1 day ...	January 1.
Basanta or Sree Panchami	...	1 day ...	" 25.
Dole Jattra	...	1 day ...	March 6.
Good Friday and Easter Saturday	...	2 days ...	April 4 and 5.
Mohabishab Sankranti	...	1 day ...	" 12.
Eed-ul-Fitte	...	2 days ...	May 20 and 21.
Empress' Birthday	...	1 day ...	" 24.
Dasahara Ganga Snan	...	1 day ...	" 29.
Eed-uz-Zoha	...	2 days ...	July 28 and 29.
Jannastomi	...	1 day ...	August 7.
Mohurum	...	3 days ...	" 25 to 27.
Dusserah Vacation, including Moha- lyn, Doorga and Lakhmi Poojahs, Fateha Doaz-Dohum, Kali Pooja, Bhatriditia and Kartick Pooja	...	34 days ...	October 13 to November 15.
Juggodhatri Pooja	...	2 days ...	November 20 and 21.
Christmas holidays	...	8 days ...	December 24 to 31.

The above days are inclusive. All Sundays are holidays. The second day of the Hindu festival 'Sree Panchami' falls on Sunday, and the Mahomedan festival Fateha Doaz-Dohum falls within the Dusserah Vacation."

A BOMBAY report says that the Secretary of State has accorded to Mrs. Crawford and her daughter subsistence allowances or pensions of £300 and £70 per annum.



A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Government of Bengal, ruling that no officer attached to the Secretariat or any of its connected offices shall become correspondent of any newspaper without the permission in writing of the Chief Secretary as well as that of the head of the office to which he belongs.

THE Bengal-Nagpur Railway between Purulia and Chakradharpur, a distance of 72 miles, has been opened for goods traffic. That makes 120 miles opened since the 15th December. There still remain 140 miles to connect Nagpur with Assensole.

THE Mohunt of Tirupati has been completely humbled. After a long and protracted investigation, he has been found guilty and sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment. To enable the prisoner to appeal, the Sessions Judge, on representation, made the first month's imprisonment simple. The Assessors did not consider the case proved, but the Judge was fully convinced of the guilt of the accused, and characterized the Assessor's verdict as perverse.

THE Cheap Passage movement threatens to fall through. Messrs. William Watson & Co. have resigned the agency. They consider the scheme not practicable and the rates of passage money ruling between Europe and India quite equitable, regard being had to the limited traffic and the numerous departures.

SIR LEPEL and Lady Griffin have arrived in India. They pass through Calcutta to Burma.

THE Parsees have beat the English team—Mr. Vernon's Eleven—by four wickets.

THE Rupee has been valued at one shilling and five pence for adjustment of financial transactions between the British and Indian Governments for the next financial year.

IN the late investigation into the case of tampering with question papers in the B. L. Examination of the Madras University, material assistance was rendered to the Registrar by several graduates. That the examination of the University might be beyond suspicion, a re-examination has been ordered.

THERE are other scandals in Madras. Large tracts of Zemindari land in the delta of the Kristna were under concealed irrigation through the collusion of subordinate officials, thereby causing a loss of revenue to Government, estimated at half a lac annually. A great portion of the loss will be recovered by penal assessment.

THE Madras Budget is more than ever highly satisfactory. The revenue for 1890-91 is estimated at 387 lacs, and the expenditure at 288½ lacs. But for a minus entry of 17½ lacs on account of a special contribution to the Imperial Treasury, and an expenditure of 4½ lacs on account of the Ganjam famine, there would have been a considerable surplus.

AT Thursday's meeting of the Calcutta Corporation, Babu Amarendra-Nath Chatterjee carried his amendment that "having regard to their importance, the building regulations be referred back to the Bye-laws Committee for further consideration and report, with reference to the suggestions and directions of the general public bodies who were officially invited to express their opinion thereon." The Bye-laws Committee, it was hoped, would expedite their report as much as possible, in view of the great practical difficulties now felt, not only by the executive but also the builders in the absence of proper regulations. The other bye-laws referring to drainage, cess-pools, privies, the markets, &c., were considered *seriatim* and passed with slight alterations.

The proposal to give Mr. Kimber 5 per cent. on the sum of Rs. 1,00,100 for supervising the construction of suburban water-works, gave rise to considerable discussion, and the meeting ultimately agreed to the 5 per cent. commission on the cost of the work done before the amalgamation. The Chairman's rider to include the value of the pipes in such cost was lost. The raid against the Printing Department continues. If the Department is not to be abolished, the men

must be replaced—very likely by others from the suburbs. A Committee of twelve Commissioners to enquire into the working of the printing department and report on any changes in the personnel of the establishment and other things likely to improve its efficiency, was moved and carried unanimously.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE rejection of the Socialist Bill by the Reichstag seems to have caused some disappointment to the Government which had pressed for a division. The Emperor William in his speech from the throne at the closing of the Reichstag promised the introduction of further laws for the benefit of the working classes, and expressed a hope that these classes should learn to look to Parliament, not for violent measures, but for the improvement of their condition.

The military forces of China and the condition of the Russian forts on the Chinese frontier, were the subject of discussion at a conference, held at St. Petersburg, at which officers of superior rank and several Grand-Dukes were present.

The President of the United States, in receiving the Ambassador of the Brazilian Republic, congratulated him on the peaceful change that had been made in the *régime*, and professed the most friendly feelings with the new Republic.

Count Andrassy is reported to be in a moribund condition. The Grand Duke Nicholas is suffering from cancer, and has been ordered to Nice.

A firman of the Sultan lately promulgated in Crete is reported to have restored quiet.

A serious riot of university students is reported from Cracow. The military had to be called out, and charged with the bayonet, one student being wounded.

HER Majesty the Queen of England is expected to be at Aix-le-Bain in March.

A telegram calls the late storms in the United Kingdom "phenomenal." The floods have destroyed bridges and carried away large numbers of sheep and cattle. Huge seas were washing the coasts, doing damage to the esplanades, piers, &c., to the extent of thousands of pounds.

Mr. Justice Manisty was early in the week reported to have had a stroke of paralysis while on the Bench. There was some temporary improvement, but again there has been a relapse. Four other judges are also disabled through various illnesses. Another notability, Sir William Gull, the eminent physician, has had a stroke of paralysis. He has since died.

One million of Russian gold was paid into the Bank of England on a single day, the 26th January.

Private settlement of Mr. Benzon's case having failed, he has been examined by a Magistrate, before whom he made a clean breast of his embarrassments, and admitted having forged the cheque for one thousand pounds in the hope of recovering his losses by gambling.

A movement is on foot for a memorial to Lord Napier of Magdala and a Committee has been formed to invite funds.

Dr. Tanner has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for slandering Mr. Arthur Smith Barry, member for South Huntingdon, and calling him "a hound and cowardly bastard" at a meeting of the Cork Board of Guardians.

Lord Wolseley, in an article in an American magazine, condemns the uniforms of the English army, and likens generals in British uniform to "dressed monkeys."

In an interview with a reporter of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Mr. Bradlaugh spoke of the great benefit he had derived from his Indian trip, though he still suffered from petty ailments. Of the Congress he evidently carried the most favorable impressions. He said that the varied and representative character of the Congress had more than ever convinced him of the ignorance of Englishmen about India and its affairs.

THE weather in Calcutta continues chilly since the rains on the night of the 24th January. We are informed that on the 20th January, in



Zillah Bagoora, Thana Shibgunge, it rained and hailed violently. The hailstones kept the ground for three days without melting. We hope the meteorological reporter will notice the fact. The recent rains appear to have been general all over the country, and brought on seasonable weather in the fag-end of winter which has been of abnormal warmth this year.

The Prince arrived at Lahore on Saturday the 25th January. The reception, as elsewhere, was official. The Nawab of Bhawalpur, the Raja of Nabha, and other Chiefs were present. The roads to Government House were gaily decorated. In the forenoon, His Royal Highness was engaged in exchanging visits with the Native Chiefs, and in the afternoon, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor and Staff, paid a visit to the city. From the Delhi Gate, the party mounted elephants and proceeded on these to various points of interest, including Ranjit Sing's tomb, where the priests sang a special hymn in honor of the Prince. In the evening there were fireworks and illuminations which His Royal Highness witnessed from one of the bastions of the Fort, after which a procession was formed to go back through the illuminated streets which presented a most picturesque appearance. A conversation was afterwards held at the Montgomery Hall, where Native Chiefs and officers of Native regiments mustered strong, many of the latter being introduced to the Prince who touched their sword hilts. During the evening an address was presented on behalf of the European and Native community. The address was enclosed in a handsome gold casket, and referred to the rapid progress made in the Panjab in the extension of railways, the advance of education, the pacification of the Khyber tribes and in other directions, during the period of 14 years which has now elapsed since the visit of the Prince of Wales. The Prince in his reply spoke of the Queen's immense interest and sympathy towards her Indian subjects, of which His Royal Highness said he could give no better idea than by telling them that, notwithstanding her inability to visit her Indian Empire, which she never ceases to deplore, Her Majesty has, by the greatest diligence, acquired some knowledge of the Hindustani language. The Prince then said:—

"Other provinces of India may be richer than the Punjab, some may present scenes of greater beauty, but there is no province in India that can boast as the Punjab can that it is the bulwark of defence against foreign aggression, or that can be termed with some significance the guardroom of our Eastern Empire. As the Punjab is one of our greatest recruiting grounds, so it is also the home or place of service of a large portion of the Army in Northern India; and it is particularly gratifying to me to think that it is here, in this soldier's land, that I shall see, at Muridki a force of cavalry such as is seldom brought together in any part of the world."

On the 28th, a Grand Parade of all troops was held at the Muridki Camp. The troops, numbering 7,000, were after the arrival of the Prince, walked, trotted and galloped in the usual manner. In the walk past, the cavalry of Patiala, Bhawalpur, Jhind, Nabha and Kapurthala took part and presented a creditable appearance. There was then the gallop past, after which the troops formed into line in review order. The Commander-in-Chief, in presence of the Prince, then addressed the officers, some of whom were then presented to the Prince. The Prince left Muridki for Peshwar the next morning.

At His Royal Highness's arrival at Peshawar, on the 30th, he was met at the railway station by Colonel Ominany, Commissioner, Colonel Warburton, Political Officer for the Khyber, General Keen, and other heads of departments. The forenoon was spent in driving through the city. At Gor Katri, the Prince alighted, and the Municipal Commissioners who had assembled were introduced to His Royal Highness. From this place the Prince had a fine view of the surrounding country. The next morning, the Royal party started for Jamrud, where His Royal Highness presented the medals for the Black Mountain Expedition to Major Aslam Khan and other native officers and men of the Khyber Rifles. To curtail the ceremony, only ten men had their medals pinned on by the Prince who then addressed them speaking in high terms of the bravery shown by them in the expedition as well as the alacrity with which they had volunteered for the service.

After a ride through the Khyber, and meeting the Chiefs of the Shinwaris at Lundi Kotla, the party returned to Jamrud where Major Aslam Khan provided a sumptuous tea, and thence to Peshawar where there were dinner and theatricals in the evening. The Prince started at midnight for Rawalpindi.

In September 1888, the Committee of the Caspian Fisheries paid into the Astrakhan branch of the Russian State Bank the sum of 5,000 roubles (about £500) for the discovery of means for the protection of fish against infection, and for the treatment of people suffering from the effects following the consumption of poisonous fish.

The prize is open to men of science irrespective of nationality who will be able, within 5 years, to

(1) Determine by careful analysis the physical and chemical nature of fish poison.

(2) Investigate by experiments on animals the action of fish poison on the heart, circulation of the blood, digestive organs and nervous system.

(3) Determine the rapidity of the absorption of the poison in the digestive channels.

(4) Ascertain and describe the symptoms which distinguish healthy fish from those in a diseased condition.

(5) Indicate the measure to be adopted for preserving fish against the development of fish poison in them.

(6) Discover an antidote for and the nature of the medical assistance to be rendered in cases of fish poisoning.

Essays on the subject may be written either in the Russian, Latin, French, English or German languages and to be sent in print or manuscript, not later than the 1st (13th) January 1893, to Ministry of Imperial Domains, which will submit the compositions to a commission consisting of the Chairman of the Medical Council of the Ministry of the Interior as President, two members appointed by the Academy of Science, one by the Military Medical Academy and another by the Society for the Preservation of Public Health.

The commission will report the result of the competition to the Minister of Imperial Domains not later than the 1st (13th) January 1894, and the Minister will, in accordance with the conclusions of the commission, give necessary orders for the payment of the premium to the author of the essay or work which shall be acknowledged as containing the most satisfactory solution of the propounded problem. At the same time, the non-solution of Nos. 4 and 5 of the foregoing questions will not be considered as an obstacle to the award of the premium in full, should the other four questions be satisfactorily dealt with. In case it be considered that not one of the essays or works submitted has solved the problem in its most essential parts, the commission may award as a secondary prize the sum which shall have accrued as interest during the five years on the sum of 5,000 roubles to the author of the work which shall have satisfactorily dealt with a portion of the programme, and which may facilitate a further study of the nature of fish poison.

A POINT, which was regarded in some quarters with doubt, arose in connection with the *Pioneer* first libel case. The point in question is, whether the legal advisers of the journal had any power to interfere with the course of events in the High Court so as to save the case from being wrecked by an objection which they and their clients had tacitly agreed to waive. True, the objection regarding the sufficiency of proof of publication was raised voluntarily by the trying Judge although when the charge against Mr. Dare, the publisher, had been previously dropped as an act of courtesy, it had been dropped on the clear understanding that responsibility for publication would be frankly admitted. But, it is urged, the defendants were prepared to keep their promise, only the Judge would not let them, and they were powerless to set aside his Lordship's objection. This does not sound very straightforward. As for their being powerless under the circumstances, a single word admitting responsibility would have set the wheels of the law revolving in a moment. That this is so is shown beyond a doubt by the procedure in Lord Euston's case at Bow Street the other day. Mr. George Lewis, on opening the case, began to marshal the usual evidence of publication. He had actually a solicitor present to swear that he had bought a copy of the offending paper at a certain spot, on a certain date. The old farce had begun, when Mr. Lockwood, Q.C., promptly cut it short. "It is unnecessary," he said, "to proceed with the evidence, as the publication of the article is not disputed, or the ownership of the paper." Had these words been spoken in the High Court, the fanciful, overwrought objection would have vanished and the country would have been spared the reproach of a litigant wandering like a lost spirit from Court to Court seeking a fair trial. The position is certainly anomalous. It is generally admitted that the High Court decision is unsound, and yet, in courtesy, it

may be deemed binding by obsequious subordinates. On the other hand, while a trial is thus barred, there is nothing in the law that can prevent the complainant from keeping on asking for a trial till he has exhausted the round of all the Courts in India. It is plain, therefore, that the position adopted by Mr. Justice Norris should, for the sake of the law, be argued fully and before a full bench, so that what at present is a perfect anomaly may be authoritatively decided one way or the other. This could be done by the Local Government instructing the Crown lawyers to apply for a hearing on this very point with respect to Mr. Currie's ruling in *Howrah*.

MR. Allen, like Mr. Chesney, offered to admit publication in the case now pending before Mr. Marsden. But the prosecution, warned by previous experience, has taken time till the 4th inst. to produce full evidence of publication in Calcutta.

ON the 27th January last, Captain Hearsey filed in the Calcutta High Court, a suit for Rs. 50,000 damages against Mr. Allen, managing proprietor of the *Pioneer*. If the suit is allowed to proceed, Mr. Gasper will have another opportunity of cross-examining the Captain on his whole career.

THE following estimates have been sanctioned for the next official year in Bengal.

Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor ...	Rs. 96,000
Staff and household of the Lieutenant-Governor ..	30,500
Tour expenses... ..	34,000
Legislative Council ... ..	22,800
Civil Secretariats ... ..	4,88,000
Board of Revenue ... ..	2,73,000
Commissioners ... ..	5,21,000
Civil Offices of Accounts and Audit ... ..	98,000
	<b>Rs. 15,63,300</b>

The Accountant-General had estimated Rs. 15,71,000 for the said purposes.

Orders have been passed to include in the next year's budget Rs. 17,000 for a grant to the District Charitable Society in case it is decided to extend the compound of the Leper Asylum in Calcutta or to remove it to a more suitable site, and to exclude a grant Rs. 500 in aid of the Sailor's Home at Chittagong.

THE whole of the British troops quartered in Fort William has been told off for certain manoeuvres down the river from the afternoon of Friday the 14th to Monday the 17th. The general officer commanding the Presidency Division has invited the Calcutta Volunteers to move into Barracks during the said period and undertake all duties and guard in the Fort. Here is an opportunity, which is rarely offered, for our Volunteers to do regular duty.

W. BLOCKLOCK, Vice-Consul for the United States in Samoa, complains to the Washington State Department that the largest amount of cotton goods there is of British manufacture, the reason being that the principal trade is in British hands, and the only steam connexion is with British colonies. American cottons, however, are superior, and American prints especially are gaining favor every day, being the only goods of this class that can be guaranteed for fast colors.

FOR conversion to Christianity, the late Prosonno Coomar Tagore disinherited his only son Ganendro Mohun Tagore and willed away his vast property to his kinsmen Jotindro Mohun Tagore and others. The Christian Courts to which Ganendro appealed gave an estate for life to Jotindra only with remainder to Ganendra absolutely. The last mail has brought the intelligence that Ganendra died on the 5th January, from an attack of paralysis. He leaves, we believe, only one daughter and a number of creditors, who had advanced him money on the strength of the Privy Council judgment in *Tagore vs. Tagore*.

It is an ill wind that blows no body good. Even the present rate of exchange, trying as it is to all and sundry, affords an illustration. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, the retired Judge of the High Court, will draw his pension in India in sterling pounds, not in depreciated rupees.

THE vacancy caused in the Syndicate of the Calcutta University, by the translation of the Hon'ble Dr. Gurudas Banerjee to the Vice-

Chancellery, has been filled by Mr. Anand Mohan Bose, the Mofussil practising barrister. Two other names—those of Father Neut and Baboo Bankim Chunder Chatterjee—were proposed, but the meeting, under previous priming, was in no mood to discuss the respective merits of the three men, and voted solid for the Mofussil man.

THE Faculty of Law of the Calcutta University has recommended Pundit Prannath Saraswati for the next Tagore Law Professorship. He is exceptionally fortunate in securing the nomination in the first year of his candidature.

THE Maharaja and Maharani of Cooch Behar gave a Garden Party at the Woodlands on Thursday afternoon which was largely attended. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne were present.

MR. Justice Wilson has been appointed to hear Original appeals, the Chief Justice taking his place on the Original Side for two or three days.

NAWAB Munirul Mulk, the last surviving son of the late Salar Jung I. is dead. He had been suffering for some time and died on the 26th January of pneumonia. He was 26 years of age.

THERE have been some interesting weddings in Calcutta. The other day, at the Armenian Church, Mr. A. T. Apcar, M.A., LL.M. Cantab., barrister-at-law, was joined to Miss Balthazar in holy wedlock. After the ceremony, the party adjourned to No. 3, Camac Street, Mr. Apcar's residence, where the Maharaja of Durbhanga presented a costly diamond spray to the bride. Among Mr. Apcar's native friends, Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadoor and Mr. Abdur Rahman, his son, were present.

A notable feature in the wedding of Mr. Swinhoe's daughter which was solemnized on Wednesday was the presence of a numerous party of native gentlemen who had been invited on the occasion. Mr. Swinhoe spared nothing to make his guests happy. There were *nautches*, and native confectionery provided.

NAWAB Abdool Luteef Bahadur gave a grand dinner to the Mahomedan community on Sunday last, in celebration of the wedding of his sons. About a thousand guests sat down to a feast served up in right Oriental style.

#### IN MEMORIAM. ROBERT KNIGHT.

SUDDEN the Indian sky is overcast,  
And all the land is shrouded deep in gloom ;  
A wail goes forth from many an Indian home,  
And tears from old and young are streaming fast.  
  
For where is he, our fearless champion bold,  
India's unflinching advocate and friend,  
Whose lofty purpose and whose cherish'd end,  
Were—Justice, Truth, and Righteousness 't' uphold ?  
  
Alas, the gen'rous soul is now no more !  
Hush'd the large heart, whose love our hearts had won !  
O noble Knight, thy mortal warfare o'er,  
O weary pilgrim, thy long journey done,  
  
Rest, from thy loving toil and labour rest,  
Repose in peace in thy Redeemer's breast !

RAM SHARMA.

#### MR. KNIGHT

As delineated amongst the Elect in Ram Sharma's *Last Day*.

And now comes one who, in a maddening world  
By passions torn, and full of jealousies,  
And all uncharitableness,—amidst  
The juggles of diplomacy, the pranks  
Of power, and summersaults of clowns in brief  
Authority enrobed,—all calmly, quietly,  
And silently, much noble work achieved  
In loyalty to Conscience and his God.  
Ah ! who now cares for either ? Politics  
Knoweth no God, and, surely, 'tis no man's  
Business to mind the other ! And doth not

The world without both get on all the same—  
 Nay, better far without such hind' rances?  
 What more clear than that Vice in purple shines,  
 While Virtue goes about in sorriest rags?  
 So reason Vanity Fair's blind frequenters!  
 Villainous inference from premise false!  
 But spurning the vile Gospel of the damned,  
 With ken beyond the hazy, fleeting Present,  
 And fixed unalterably on Jehovah's  
 Blazing throne, on the Christ that bled for man,  
 He thro' the weary years did consecrate  
 His mind and all its powers to his kind.  
 A dauntless Knight! he battled gallantly  
 For his weak brethren in an alien land,  
 And smote the sniters with a heavy hand,  
 His potent pen, e'en like Ithuriel's spear,  
 No falsehood base, or unctuous hypocrisy  
 Enduring. Champion, lover, friend of Truth,  
 Such life as thine, so good and beautiful,  
 So full of love and human-heartedness,  
 Springing up e'en midst influences vile,  
 Like a white lily from wild sedge and slush,—  
 Is truly sweet and grateful to the Lord!

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1890.

### ROBERT KNIGHT.

A NOBLE spirit has passed away. A man of rare personality is gone. India's devoted, loving champion,—the never-failing friend of the poor and oppressed,—the Knight *sans peur et sans reproche* of the Indian Press is no more. After a somewhat long struggle with a complication of liver and other complaints, he expired on Monday last. That the end could not be put off long was anticipated. Yet did it seem to come quite too soon, and it was not wholly expected, when it came. The change to Darjeeling had done some good; only the benefit did not continue, and he had to be brought down to Calcutta, but his condition was not regarded quite so critical, and it was even hoped that a change to England might bring him round. It had accordingly been decided that in March he should return home. Fate, however, had determined otherwise. The symptoms took a worse turn, and weak as he already was, he was prostrated, and rather suddenly succumbed. The veteran journalist almost died in harness—a martyr to work. The perplexities of his position had kept him to his work in the midst of illness, almost to the last. An enquiry into the origin of his life-long perplexities and embarrassments would open up a view of the brightest side of his life. A thoroughly good man, full of trustful confidence in men, of ardent religious tendencies, he could not hear of a brother man's distress but his soul would flow over, with generous impulses, and he must run to the sufferer's rescue, often to his own peril. All Mr. Knight's difficulties were the self-inflicted penalty of his self-forgetful generosity. He was a great publicist, but he was perhaps a greater man. It is an irreparable loss. His place will not be easily filled. A rare influence has departed from journalism. He was a finished public man—of great knowledge and wide experience of affairs. For reading, he had a passionate thirst. His collection of books, especially on finance, currency, statistics and cognate subjects, was of the rarest. As a writer he wielded a powerful, trenchant style that struck home like cold steel. He was an ardent hater of wrong and injustice, and the staunch friend of the weak and downtrodden. He was all this as a publicist. But as a man, his claims

on our regard are higher still. It is the combination of his personal and public virtues that was the secret of his marvellous influence. Great has been our loss. Its extent will not be fully appreciated now. As time goes on, it will be seen in its true perspective.

The veteran dies a martyr to work. He literally worked himself to his grave. The *Indian Statesman* did not exhaust all his energies. He had other literary as well as business avocations. Work was a sort of religion to him—next to duty to his God. He worked himself to death. And yet if one man could stand such strain better than another, that man was Mr. Robert Knight. His was a wonderful vitality. His capacity for work was boundless. Alas, work alone would not have precipitated the catastrophe! Work under the inspiring smiles of fortune would have rather tended to still more season his natural powers of endurance. But Work and Care proved too much, and he succumbed.

The whole country mourns for Robert Knight. Never had a journalist so won the affections of those for whom he labored. His loss is felt almost as a personal bereavement. His name is a household word to all sections of the Indian people. His popularity is as real as it is extensive. A man of the rarest gifts of head and heart, his writings sank deep into the consciousness of the people. This wonderful popularity had a moral basis. A popularity which has stood the test of nearly half a century—grown steadily in depth and volume—never waned—not once passed under a temporary shadow in an eventful, public career in which he necessarily made many enemies—must have been kept alive by character. His goodness was unique. His benevolence bordered on the romantic. His rectitude had conquered the frailties of man's lower nature. Those who had the privilege of knowing him, know of what fine elements he was made. The virulent opposer of wrongs—the hard hitting critic of public men and measures—was the sweetest, the tenderest-hearted of men. He had too much of the milk of human kindness. His benevolence was of the patriarchal type. He would thrust his good offices upon those whom he found in distress. He gave help unasked. He would ask you about the state of your affairs, when delicacy sealed your own lips, and he would move heaven and earth for your good, not unoften at the sacrifice of his own. Had there been more of the world in his nature, he would not have died now. Indeed, as we have said, he succumbed to over-work, to anxiety, and to embarrassments. And all his embarrassments which he valiantly tried to cope with and which he had in a manner conquered at last, were the effects of his self-sacrificing goodness and benevolence. He incurred personal liabilities that he might help others. His chivalrous support of *protégés*—his unworldliness—his simplicity and almost unbusiness-like ways in his dealings with the hard world—brought on all his later perplexities.

Mr. Knight came out to India at the age of twenty-one in connection with some mercantile firm in Bombay which he soon quitted for journalism. He became editor of the *Poona Observer*, and in a short time made his mark. Now came the Indian Mutiny, and unhinged the Anglo-Indian mind. The celebrated Dr. Buist was at this time editor as well as part proprietor of the *Bombay Times*. Dr. Buist had been a great friend of the natives, but the Mutiny turned him against them, as it did so many others. He began to propagate the wildest proposals of ven-

geance upon the people. With the zeal in a new faith, he devoted his undoubted talents to stir up the worst feelings of the Government and of private Europeans against the natives. The people of Bombay were alarmed. Hindus, Mahomedans and Parsis, —all cast about for a way to stop the evil.<sup>9</sup> The flood of bad bile which the infuriated doctor kept pouring forth every day must be checked at all hazards. The means was found, and the discovery was characteristic of commercial Bombay. They set their heads together, and they began to buy up the shares of the *Bombay Times* as they were available in the market. In a short time something less than half these shares passed to their hands. They had managed this so quietly as to excite no suspicions. At any rate, Dr. Buist who had no inconsiderable interest in the property knew nothing of the *coup* that was to be sprung upon him. Having now gained a hold on the business, they convened a meeting of shareholders to consider the policy of the paper and the conduct of the editor. They condemned the policy of Dr. Buist and resolved to remove him. Dr. Buist became mad with rage, and having the paper yet in his hands, inveighed against the new shareholders in the foulest terms of abuse. This, however, only precipitated the crisis. Dr. Buist was removed, and Mr. Knight was called to his place. Comparatively a new and untried man, with no experience of India to speak of, Mr. Knight had no small reward in this responsible appointment for the way in which he had conducted his first journalistic duties in this country. It was as signal a proof of confidence as the native community of Bombay could well give. Nor on his part did he disappoint them. Upon taking charge of the *Bombay Times*, he gave it the imperial name it still bears. The *Times of India* thrived well in his hands, and rose to a higher plane of politics. Indeed, in all Mr. Knight's long and varied journalistic career, provincialism and narrowness have never characterized his concerns. The *Times of India* was in name as in substance a paper for the country. During the indigo riots on our side of the country and the sitting of the Indigo Commission, no Bengal journal, save the then *Hindoo Patriot* stood up so manfully for the cause of the oppressed tenants as did this Bombay paper. During the Mutiny his conduct of the paper did much to moderate, if not, to turn back, the tide of angry feelings which ran high against the natives. The *Times of India* in his hands made itself felt by the powers that be. Many were his journalistic triumphs. His exposure of the Inam Commission at last brought the Bombay Government round to his side. His services to Native States were simply invaluable. When he had once espoused a cause, he never rested till he had won. He would keep harping on the same string. His earnestness was phenomenal. A notable instance of this was the pertinacity with which he advocated the reform of the currency. The cause of bimetalism could not have a more powerful advocate, and before his death he had his reward in the acceptance which that cause had commenced to meet with at the hands of its late opponents. For journalism he had a natural *penchant*. His head was full of grand projects. He once meditated starting a *Times of Asia*. It was during his connection with the *Bombay Times* that he projected and successfully carried out the system of telegraphic communication between this country and Europe, which he after-

wards sold to Reuter. No better proof of the fertility of his resources and of his enterprise could possibly be given. He was really marked out for the calling of a journalist, and if he may be called the Father of the Indian Press, he was also the founder of the Indian Telegraphic Service. After conducting the *Times* with his characteristic power for some years, he severed his connection with it, and started the *Bombay Statesman*. Mr. Knight then left for England, and so high did he now stand in the esteem of the Bombay people for all his services during the Mutiny as well as in connection with the Inam Commission, that they paid him public honor on his departure and presented him with a purse of a lac of rupees. Mr. Knight in leaving the editorship of the *Times of India*, likewise sold his proprietary rights in the journal. The *Statesman* in Bombay he also sold afterwards. He now came to Bengal. Here he tried to turn his great knowledge of finance and political economy to account, and started the *Indian Economist*, the *Indian Agriculturist* and other journals. This was a new field in journalism which his especial knowledge admirably fitted him to occupy. The ability with which he conducted these journals and his exceptional knowledge of the hard subjects of economy and statistics soon established his fame in Bengal as they had done in Bombay. Sir George Campbell, then Lieutenant-Governor of these provinces, had known him from a long time before, and had observed his ability. It was probably at the instance of Sir George, now at the head of the Provincial Government, that Mr. Knight came to Bengal. Sir George Campbell determined to have the benefit of his knowledge and counsels in the general administration of his territory. The post of Assistant-Secretary in the Agricultural Department of the Government of Bengal was purposely created to make room for him and it was offered to Mr. Knight. Mr. Knight's incumbency in this office was a short one. In fact he was never made for office, and it is no wonder he hurriedly emancipated himself from its trammels to be free to criticise the then Indian administration. Sir Richard Temple was at this time the Financial Member of the Government of India under Lord Northbrook, and some articles having appeared in the *Indian Agriculturist* in condemnation of the famine policy of Lord Northbrook, Sir Richard Temple, the real adviser of that policy, and then the exponent of the wisdom of the East in the heyday of his influence with that Viceroy, did his best to set the Supreme and the Local Government by the ears. It was represented that the criticisms of *The Indian Agriculturist* really belonged to Sir George Campbell, and not to Mr. Knight. Much bad blood was excited between the two Governments and, at Sir Richard Temple's suggestion, the Government of India entered upon a course of vindictive persecution of the Government of Bengal. The real victim, however, was Mr. Knight, the editor, the heaven-born Civilian's only loss being that of Mr. Knight's counsels in his administration. Mr. Knight's *Agriculturist* was started and maintained, as such technical journals alone could be, with a handsome Government subsidy. The first act of persecution was suddenly to reduce this subsidy to half, and subsequently to stop it altogether. Mr. Knight threw up his place in the Secretariat in a huff. Made for journalism, he could not bear the restraints of office. There was much in the policy of Government which he condemned, and which he ardently wished to show



up in its true colours. The loss to Sir George Campbell's administration was gain to journalism and to India. Mr. Knight was now free to devote his whole talents to his own proper vocation. He again started the *Statesman*, and after establishing its popularity upon a stable basis, returned home leaving Mr. Riach, already on his staff, in charge of the paper. Nor in England, was he inactive. With the cooperation of his friend Colonel Osborne, he started and conducted for a short time the London *Statesman* with the object of informing and interesting the English people in Indian questions.

Mr. Knight began and ended his journalistic career with the same political creed. His principles never changed—his sympathies for the people of India never cooled. This is no small proof of high character. The difficulties of such a singular position to an Englishman in the midst of the hostile camp of Englishmen may easily be conceived. His sacrifices for maintaining it were incalculable. The temptations to change, few can resist. But he heroically braved all. The temptations of the world—the weakness of the flesh failed to prevail. In every struggle—and his whole life must have been a series of such struggles—the conscience invariably won. These were the triumphs of the spirit, to be followed by as great political triumphs which rewarded his pen.

Such was the man whose death we mourn. In the present sorrow, let India but remember a tithe of what he has done and what he has suffered in her cause, and her heart will overflow with loving admiration and gratitude.

#### THE JURY TRIAL IN THE MOFUSSIL.

AMONG the many demands of the *Congresswallahs* is the extension of the Jury system throughout India. I don't think any one who has a little experience of the working of this system in the Mofussil would recommend it generally for all the places in India. In some Presidency towns where able, impartial, and intelligent jurors are available, it may work well and with advantage. But in most of the Mofussil stations it has proved a total failure, nay, a scandal. I think nothing can be more unfortunate for any section of the community than to have a set of stupid, partial, and dishonest jurymen. In many cases, within my knowledge, murderers, forgers, and other criminals have been let off, because the Jury were gained over somehow or other. The present tendency of the High Court is not to interfere when the Jury have acquitted an accused. In the Mofussil, the Jury are selected without the least regard to their education, intelligence, respectability, or other qualifications. A petty Muktear, a common Bunnia, an illiterate Chamar, an unprincipled amla, an ignorant Zemindar are usually selected. There are many Jurors who are as much competent as a scavenger understands the science of engineering. They cannot understand even what the witnesses depose, not to speak of their demeanour and other delicate and difficult matters. They doze all the time the pleaders address the Court or argue. Sometimes the foreman is the entire Jury, and his opinion is unhesitatingly adopted by the other Jurors. Often times, the Judge's opinion is the verdict of the Jury, and they openly declare it as their own.

On one occasion, a man was charged with culpable homicide before a Magistrate and discharged. Immediately after, he received a summons to serve as a Juror in another similar case in the Court of Sessions. The pleader who had defended him in the lower Court was engaged in the Sessions case. He knew how to work, and got out his client scot-free.

In some districts not very far from the metropolis, they know how to value a juror's vote, and jurors are known to make a good round sum during the Sessions. The rates are sometimes as low as Rs. 10, if no one bids from the opposite side. My own belief is that in such a district any person who can spend Rs. 5,000 can easily murder without impunity any poor person who himself is, or his relations are, unable to

fee the jury. If the jury system is to be retained at all, the mode of selection at random without any regard to qualification should be given up, and the selection made on some fixed and solid principle. Education, respectability and honesty must be the first qualifications in a juror. If we cannot get such men, the system ought to be abolished at once. It is far better to be tried by an honest and experienced Judge than by half a dozen donkeys. The High Court says that 5 men's judgment is better than one man's judgment, but it does not know to what class those 5 men belong and what is their status or qualification. Let it be a rule that the juror should always be selected from among the Pleaders, respectable Muktears, Honorary Magistrates, Municipal Commissioners, Members of the District or Local Boards, or other respectable persons. If you want a good institution you ought to find the proper persons to work it satisfactorily.

I do not believe that my countrymen of superior classes take such interest in public matters that they would willingly undertake the duty of jurors, which is not at all palatable and in most cases is very inconvenient. Our good men try their best to get their names out of the Jury list, because they do not like this sort of troublesome work.

When this is the state of things, how can we aspire to have all western institutions introduced into our country, for which it is not now prepared? It is all very good to talk in meetings and deliver speeches upon the merits of a system of which you have little practical knowledge or experience.

If the agitators had been aware of the miscarriage of justice which is taking place in some districts almost daily, on account of this scandalous jury system, they would have never asked for its wholesale introduction in a country where the Honorary Magistrates' Benches have not as yet proved a success in all cases. In some districts, these Benches are the centre and source of all sorts of injustice and scandal and are mostly presided over by such men whose general education and knowledge of law are most miserable, and who are mostly guided by private motives and recommendations in deciding cases. Their courts are nurseries for all sorts of malicious and false charges, for the purposes of vexation and extortion. Yet in 10 years not a single person has been committed for perjury or for instituting a false complaint. These *Anari* Magistrates as they are called by the masses have been imposed or rather forced upon the people, who do not want them and bitterly complain of their doings. These men have neither courage to punish, nor do they punish adequately to check crime. They are afraid of Badmashes and are often anxious to oblige them, for their own safety. Each instance of their being insulted in public courts by the suitors shews that they command no respect or confidence from the public who vindicate their wrath against them by wicked and improper means. When they feel compunction at the injustice done to them, they summarily take their revenge. These instances are becoming common, and they are sad commentaries upon the so called success of Local Self-Government. Municipal Commissioners have been assaulted by the rate payers for their misconduct, but the matter was kept out of court, and for more than one reason. Men who have little time to devote for the purpose, are appointed Honorary Magistrates.

I think there are many experienced Judges who have repeatedly given their opinion against the present jury system and are well aware of what I have written in this letter. We must ourselves first judge what is good or bad for us before troubling the members of Parliament with our grievances, whether real or imaginary. When most of our rulers in this country do not yet know what are our wants and grievances, it will be a century before the M. Ps. will know our real condition during a hurried tour of a few weeks or months.

A JUROR.

#### THE NAVAL AND MILITARY POWERS IN 1889-90.

The relative strength of the five Great Naval Powers of Europe has not much altered during the year 1889. The adoption by Great Britain of a new programme of naval construction has not yet had time to produce its effect; and although during the past twelve months we have completed for sea a considerable number of battleships, armoured cruisers, and protected cruisers, all the other Powers, with the exception of Germany, have done likewise. When the Naval Defence Act shall have begun to produce its fruit, our available maritime fighting force as compared with that of other

nations will, according to present appearances, occupy a very commanding position; and even at the present moment its strength is far from unsatisfactory. We have consulted and carefully collated official documents bearing upon the subject, and from these we gather that in the event of an outbreak of war, say, to-morrow, we should be able to send to sea within a month, all ready for action, 44 modern battleships and belted cruisers to cope, in case of necessity, with France's 23, Russia's 15, Germany's 12, or Italy's 10; so that no possible combination of any two of the Great Powers against us would put us at a numerical disadvantage so far as vessels of these classes are concerned. The case as regards protected cruisers is almost equally gratifying. We should have 10 such craft to France's 3, Russia's 3, Germany's 2, or Italy's 7. The weak spot in the situation arises out of the fact that in addition to her 23 battleships and armoured cruisers, France has, among her numerous coast-defence ironclads, six or seven which, at a pinch, could take their places in the line of battle. In the following table we have endeavoured to show exactly what forces could, in the event which we have imagined, be disposed of by each of the five Powers. We omit reference, in order to save space, to semi-obsolete ships built previous to 1867, as well as to unprotected cruisers; and confine our attention strictly to those vessels upon which the ultimate issue of a naval war may be expected to depend.

Power.	Battleships.				Armoured Cruisers.				Coast-Defence Ironclads.				Protected Cruisers.				Torpedo Vessels of all Types. No.
	No.	Tons.	Guns.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Guns.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Guns.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Guns.	Men.	
Great Britain	32	260,570	308	15,300	12	76,650	139	5,500	5	18,830	18	900	10	32,290	78	3,650	180
France	14	129,890	213	9,250	9	46,008	104	3,500	17	71,240	86	3,450	3	17,313	48	1,350	156
Russia	9	57,186	52	3,350	6	33,159	81	2,900	6	10,789	16	900	3	10,930	34	1,050	191
Germany	7	49,198	131	4,150	5	34,638	50	1,780	13	13,931	13	960	2	8,800	28	640	149
Italy	10	110,784	110	5,200	...	.....	...	...	...	.....	...	...	7	22,309	58	2,000	129
Totals	72	607,628	814	37,250	32	199,455	374	13,680	41	114,790	133	6,210	25	91,642	246	8,690	805

In torpedo vessels we are not so well off as we are in the other classes of war ships. Leaving them aside, we have 59 ships, 543

heavy guns, and 25,350 men, as against France's 43 ships, 451 heavy guns, and 17,550 men; Russia's 24 ships, 183 heavy guns, and 8,200 men; Germany's 27 ships, 222 heavy guns, and 7,530 men; and Italy's 17 ships, 168 heavy guns, and 7,200 men. But this is not all. The displacement of our ships averages 6,582 tons, while that of the French ships averages only 6,150, that of the Russian only 5,086, and that of the German no more than 3,946; so that, upon the whole, we have bigger ships as well as a bigger navy than our neighbours; and size, it should be remembered, has much to do with speed and weight of armament. Italy alone exceeds us in the average size of battleships and protected cruisers; but the comparative smallness of her navy more than neutralises any advantage which she might be imagined to derive from this fact.

Neither has the relative strength of the military Powers of Europe greatly altered during the year. A German expert has provided us with the following tabulated statement of it as it stands at present. It should be explained that the "1st class" represents the peace strength of the various armies; the "2nd class," the additional strength in war time; and the "3rd class," the still further additional strength that may be arrived at by calling out all the available reserves. The ultimate military strength of each country is numerically represented by the sum of these three classes; but as our informant reminds us, "mere numbers go for very little. Training, general education, excellence of armament, and many other factors will always modify the significance of figures; and it may well be that several of the Powers have the nominal command of many more soldiers than they could transport or feed in war-time."

	1st Class.			2nd Class.			3rd Class.			TOTALS.		
	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Guns.	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Guns.	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Guns.	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Guns.
Germany	442,000	65,100	1,550	318,000	41,600	1,320	795,000	21,000	340	1,555,000	127,700	3,190
France	487,000	75,000	2,060	797,000	41,000	1,540	1,200,000	.....	...	2,484,000	116,000	3,600
Russia	634,000	111,000	1,550	889,000	48,000	2,450	630,000	29,000	1,260	2,151,000	188,000	5,260
Austria	252,000	42,500	850	552,000	32,000	750	150,000	21,000	420	952,000	96,500	2,020
Italy	232,000	32,000	760	840,000	18,000	500	1,400,000	10,000	250	2,472,000	60,000	1,510

These figures—which do not take into account a number of men who are liable to be called upon to join a *levée en masse*, but for whom neither arms nor equipment have yet been provided, even on paper—show that a Continental war might bring into the field no fewer than 10,200,000 officers and soldiers, and considerably over 15,000 pieces of artillery.—*The Daily News* Jan. 2, 1890.

### THE DANGERS OF CANNED PROVISIONS.

The following is an extract from a report dated 23rd August last, by Captain W. F. Segrave, Her Majesty's Consul at Baltimore :—  
Commercially all canned provisions that are hermetically sealed are packed in cans made of tin plate, i. e., sheet iron superficially alloyed with tin.

This article is imported exclusively from England and is subject to an import duty of one cent. per pound. The average import for the past three years has been 3,600,000 boxes, which paid in duties 3,960,000 dollars. There is no tin plate manufactured in the United States, and yet with nothing in the tin plate trade to protect, the duty of a cent. a pound is still imposed on it.

One hundred and thirty millions of cans are every year manufactured in Baltimore city alone, and two million pounds of solder are consumed in making them.

Equal parts of block tin and lead form the best solder, but no doubt a baser description of solder, composed of a larger proportion of lead, is by no means uncommon. A flux of powdered resin or a much more deleterious flux composed of chloride of zinc, containing free muriatic acid, is applied to the tin surface to be soldered and the unfortunate and dangerous practice is to apply this on the inside.

The use of an acid flux for inside soldering is objected to as a possible source of danger, whereas in cans where resin is used, it is asserted and no doubt with good reason, that it communicates its taste to the contents of the can.

To obviate both objections the law which is compulsory as well in France as in Germany, should be passed and enforced in this country, to the effect that all cans containing articles of food should be soldered on the outside.

Laudable efforts have no doubt been made by the trade to abolish entirely inside soldering, but not as yet with such entire success as they deserve.

The first danger from inside surface solder is direct solvent ac-

tion on the lead of an acid fluid, when acid vegetables or fruit are preserved without syrup. The second source of danger as at present is from galvanic action.

There is one special hermetically sealed product, which even in this country and in the trade has a peculiarly evil reputation, and that is the American sardine, in which there is great possibility of danger as at present put up. Notwithstanding the label is French, in the well-known yellow and black letters, the contents are not sardines, nor are they put up in "huile d'olive pure," but in cotton seed oil.

Professor Tonry, of this city, states in a report :—

"I have now before me one of these sardine tins, with the solder on the inside, and fully one quarter of the interior surface of the metal eaten away !

The fish that were contained in this tin were nearly all eaten by 3 persons, 2 of whom were children, and all were taken sick within half an hour after consuming them. The child who had eaten most freely died in 24 hours.

I made a chemical examination of the viscera of the dead child and found lead, lead was also found in the oil and remaining contents of tin."

A Coroner's inquest was subsequently held, the verdict found being that death resulted from lead poisoning from a sardine tin improperly soldered.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—These remedies are unequalled throughout the world for bad legs, wounds, foul sores, bad breasts, and ulcers. Used according to directions given with them there is no wound, bad leg, or ulcerous sore, however obstinate or long standing, but will yield to their healing and curative properties. Many poor sufferers who have been patients in the large hospitals under the care of eminent surgeons, and have derived little or no benefit from their treatment, have been thoroughly cured by Holloway's Ointment and Pills. For granular swellings, tumours, "piles," and diseases of the skin there is nothing that can be used with so much benefit. In fact, in the worst forms of disease, dependent upon the condition of the blood, these medicines, used conjointly, are irresistible.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have not already sent in their Subscriptions, will greatly oblige the Executive Committee by doing so without delay.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.

Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

### H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR RECEPTION FUND.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

The Honorary Treasurers have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the following amounts subscribed to the above Fund :—

	Rs.
Amount previously advertised	67,750
The Raja of Moyambhunja	100
Raja Rajendra Narain Roy of Bhowal, Dacca	100
Raja Syed Dilwar Reza Khan of Kishengunge	100
Mohamudapadmayaya Pandit Mohesh Chandra Nayaratna, C.I.E.	100
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BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

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 (the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1890.

No. 410

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE PILGRIM MOTHERS.

EXOTIC blossoms I brought to grace  
Old Plymouth's rocky glen ;  
Proud mothers of a noble race  
Of stern and stalwart men ;  
Strong was the trust with which ye braved  
The dangers of the sea,  
And strong the unseen power that saved  
The mothers of the free !

When swiftly o'er the smiling deep,  
The fragile Mayflower flew,  
While stars their solemn watch would keep  
On yonder fields of blue—  
Full oft your forms, as slight and fair  
As any flower of spring,  
Were meekly bowed in trusting prayer  
To heaven's exalted King.

Cold was your greeting from the shore,  
That seemed in dreams so fair ;  
The wintry tempest's sullen roar  
Sung ye a welcome there ;  
The Indian peered above the hill,  
With wonder in his eye,  
The noisy sea-birds answered shrill  
The tempest-spirit's cry.

Oh ! Pilgrim Mothers ! few the lyres  
Your praises to prolong ;  
Though fame embalms the pilgrim sires,  
And trumpets them in song ;  
Yet ye were to those hearts of oak  
The secret of their might ;  
Ye nerved the arm that hurled the stroke  
In labor or in fight.

The fire of freedom warmed each breast,  
Through many a weary day,  
Where pillowed soft in dreamy rest  
Our infant fathers lay !  
Ye taught them when their simple prayers  
Were breathed beside the knee,  
The lessons that in after years  
Were bulwarks for the free.

Ye taught to spurn the tyrant's claim,  
And bow to God alone !  
Ye kindled in their breasts the flame  
That trembled in your own !

In after years flowed purple gore,  
And fields were strewn with dead—  
Firm hands the starry banner bore—  
Aggression trembling fled !

Oh ! Pilgrim Mothers ! though ye lie  
Perchance in graves unknown,  
A memory that cannot die  
Hath claimed ye for its own ;  
A sacredness to that bleak shore,  
Your dust shall aye impart ;  
Your requiem—the ocean's roar,  
Your shrine—a nation's heart !

ORIOLE.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

ON January 6, the Feast of Epiphany, Her Majesty, according to ancient custom, made the annual "oblation of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" at the altar of the Chapel Royal, St. James. The custom was long observed by the sovereigns in person. Now it is done by deputies. It commemorates the visit of the Wise Men of the East to Bethlehem with similar treasures on the birth of Christ. The late Colonel Yule, following the Persian legend, explains that the gold signifies the Kingship, the frankincense the Divinity, and the myrrh the healing powers of the Child born in the manger.

COUNTESS Fleury, the widow of the General who aided Napoleon III. in his *coup d'état*, is dead. She was one of the brilliant women of the Empire, and took rank as such with the Empress herself. In St. Petersburg, the Count, as Ambassador, and his wife, had made a conquest of the late Czar and his family. It is said, the elegance of the Countess, her dresses, and balls, and the stud of the General dazzled even the fashionable world at the Russian capital. They never counted the money they spent. They considered it an investment for the good of the Empire, and the Empire bore all their expenses.

THE St. Peter's pence, during 1889, amounted to about 120,000/ or 6,000/ less than in 1888. The European States which contributed nothing were Turkey, Montenegro, Greece and Servia.

THEY have, at Stratford-upon-Avon, come upon Shakespeare's table, the only furniture that was wanting to complete the collection for holiday visitors. John Wheeler, aged eighty, has sworn before a Justice of the Peace that the table was long the property of his family and known among them as "Shakespeare's table," and that his grandmother used to say that she had purchased it from a woman who in her turn had remembered purchasing it at a sale at Shakespeare's house in Henley-street.

A BERLIN telegram of January 7 says that Professor Weber, of Halle, affirms that the excitant of disease in influenza is a fungus which was discovered some years ago to exist in nasal secretions.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

ON Saturday January 4, the German poet Theodor Fontane, "the Poet of the Mark," celebrated his seventieth birthday. The same day, in his honor, the Berlin Literary Club and the Berlin Press Association gave a banquet. There were present about 300 persons, including all the artistic and scientific celebrities of the German capital. The health of the poet, the guest of the evening, was repeatedly proposed in prose and verse. A significant toast was proposed by Dr. Von Gossler, Minister of Public Instruction. He toasted "The Berlin Press." It showed that that Press had ceased to be in bad odour with the Government. The Minister admitted that German literature had taken a prominent part in the development of the Empire, and had contributed much to it. He therefore thought it desirable that the relations between the Berlin Press and the Government should become better, and that the former should attain the position in society which it deserved according to its importance.

THE Vienna Board of Health recommends beheading as the quickest mode of execution. The American system of killing by electricity has not yet been sufficiently tested for the final verdict in its favor. Hanging is immediately followed by insensibility and there is no knowing what may happen in the few minutes between insensibility and death. The Board considers beheading as instantaneous, safe and irrevocable.

AN Elgin correspondent in an English paper of the 6th January writes:—

"Yesterday Peter Lating, the Elgin centenarian, entered on his 106th year. He is a carter and still continues to enjoy excellent health, all his faculties being unimpaired; and any day he may be seen in the streets of Elgin in charge of his horse and cart. He is come of a family celebrated for longevity. His father died when 109 years of age, and his great grandfather, who fought under the standard of the Duke of Cumberland at the battle of Culloden, died at the remarkable age of 135. Peter lived in the time of Burns, and his memory is so retentive that he can recall an episode in the life of the Scotch National Bard. He was over sixty before he was married, and since his wife died, over thirty years ago, he has been his own cook, and housekeeper. He has a most robust constitution, his diet being brose, porridge, potatoes, and salt herrings; and he confidently declares that a change in the shape of dainties would be to him worse than drugs. He was never known to have an illness with the exception of an occasional slight attack of rheumatism in one of his legs, and had never any doctor's drugs."

THE weather has been abnormal in the Baltic. Usually, by the end of October or the beginning of November, the winter sets in and the ports are blocked and navigation is suspended. But up to the beginning of January last, the weather was reported to be beautifully mild and autumn-like. There were neither sledging nor icebound waters, and steamers were running.

WE read in an English paper:—

"Professor R. H. Thurston, an American writer, who has devoted much attention to the problem of aerial navigation, summarises some curious results of recent experiments with birds and wings, including those of Professor Langley, the astronomer, which are as yet unpublished. Professor Langley has found that the power exerted by the eagle in full flight instead of being about thirteen horse-power, as computed by Navier and his followers, is actually but a fraction of one horse-power. Mr. Chanute computes the power exerted by a pigeon flying 2,200 feet per minute (25 miles an hour nearly), at 1-200 of a horse-power per pound, or 9 1-3 horse-power for a flying machine of equally good form, weighing one ton, at 25 miles an hour, or about 50-horse power per ton weight at 50 miles. Mr. Alexander makes the maximum allowable weight per horse-power of all the apparatus, 122 pounds; while Mr. Wenham, of our Aeronautical Society, finds, in the pelican, an expenditure of 1-11 horse-power by 21 pounds of bird; this is one-horse power to 231 pounds, or about a horse-power for the weight of a man, allowing ample margin for surplus power. The birds are found to have, according to the deductions from observations of Mr. Thurston's colleague, Professor Wilder, and others, a surplus lifting power of about one half. The investigations of Lucy, Marey, and Pettigrew, and others show that insects flutter wings of enormous area in proportion to their weight, at the rate of 200 or 300 vibrations per second; while the pelican makes but one per second, the area of surface employed being a trifling fraction of that needed by the smaller creature, per unit of its own weight. The vulture is one hundred times as heavy as the swallow, but its wings are only fifteen times as large. The Australian crane weighs three million times as much as the gnat, while the latter has 150 times as much wing-surface per unit of weight. But the power demanded is proportionate to the weight to be carried, and the muscles of birds' wings are found to weigh more than all their other muscles put together. From these facts Mr. Hannel computes the spread of wing that would be required by a flying man at about twenty feet, or say about 150 square feet area. For a machine weighing 3½ tons he makes the needful spread of wing about eighty feet, but Professor Thurston computes it at a much smaller figure."

What is Mr. Percival Spencer's experience? His aeronautical un-

dertakings, he says, have a definite object, namely, "to solve the problem of aerial navigation—to be able to steer an ærostat through the air with the same facility with which a mariner navigates the ocean."

NOTWITHSTANDING the Margarine Act, the Inspector of Food and Drugs for South Derbyshire, during the closing two months of the past year, found upon analysis that, out of the fifty samples of "Guaranteed Pure Butter" received from abroad, very many of them were mixed with from 10 to 30 per cent. of margarine. In our own city, the Ghee Act has proved a dead letter. Notwithstanding occasional prosecution of the vendors and destruction of the adulterated article, pure ghee is not to be had for love or money.

SEVERAL persons residing or trading in the East-end of London have been charged, under the Trade Marks Act, with applying a false description to certain cigars, or with being in possession of cigars to which a false description had been applied. Three of the defendants are partners and are stated to have been concerned in a practice of passing off, as manufactured at Vera Cruz, cigars really manufactured at Shoreditch.

IN 1883, Messrs. Baring Brothers were robbed of a parcel of securities valued at 22,000*l*. Hatfield Thomas Turner and Frederick Clarke were being tried in London when the last mail left, for feloniously receiving five South and North Alabama Central Railway five per cent. Bonds of 200*l*. each, being a portion of the said securities.

THE anonymous donor of 100,000*l*. for a Convalescent Home within easy access of London, is believed to be Mr. Peter Reid. He is a Governor of St. Thomas's, St. Bartholomew's and many other hospitals and charitable institutions. He is one of the most popular of City men. He had been a partner in the firm of P. Cazenove and Co., the members of which have always been noted for munificence. It is the practice with Mr. Reid to devote one-tenth of his income to charity.

THE "Journal de St. Petersburg" of the 26th August last publishes the following:—

"The correspondence of the *Nouveau Temps* at the fair of Nijni Novgorod announces that cottons sell slowly, that their prices have dropped by 5 per cent. compared with those of last year. The rumours of a considerable reduction which one of the largest houses was about to make has produced considerable excitement among the purchasers; those who have arrived from the Caucasus and have already transacted important business have suddenly suspended operations in presence of this rumour. Last year furnished great advantages to the trade of the fair, and the success obtained showed clearly the development of Russian commercial relations with Persia. The preparation of tissues in the Oriental style already occupies a large number of factories; but it is to be regretted that the Persian and Armenian agents allow themselves to be influenced chiefly by cheapness, and purchase cottons of inferior quality, thus discrediting Russian products on the Persian markets. This circumstance, combined with that of the depreciation of Persian money, acts very unfavorably on Russian operations with the East."

Another Russian paper receives similar information from its special correspondent. Thus—cotton tissues sold slowly at Nijni and ready money was scarce.

The significance of the information will be better understood when it is remembered that cotton constitutes not only the principal article of Russian export by the Eastern frontiers, but also the most important manufactured article in the home markets. The large majority of the population, nine-tenths of whom are engaged in agriculture, has always need of cheap stuffs, and especially of Cambric muslins.

A CANADIAN paper sees no sufficient reason why Canada should not produce all or the greater part of the sugar it consumes. The soil and climate are well adapted to the growth and cultivation of the sugarbeet. Efforts have been made in this direction in the province of Quebec. There is a large and well equipped factory at Berthier, for the manufacture of sugar from this vegetable. It has been found that beets grown in the vicinity of Berthier possesses as large an amount of saccharine matter as any grown under the most favourable circumstances in France, Germany, or Austria. That paper is certain that not only that particular locality, but about all the available lands in Quebec, Ontario, and North-West are equally adapted to that industry.

THE Australian fruit is not in favor in France. A special correspondent of the Melbourne *Argus* at the Paris Exhibition writes:—

"It is to be regretted that in France at least, the prospects of business in Australian fruit are by no means promising. In fact, the attempts to find market for the last shipment, in spite of the fact that specimens were recompensed with a first prize, and that most flattering opinions were expressed on their quality in high places, resulted in complete failure. Of the 100 odd cases, which formed shipment of Victorian fruit, the 50 which were available for sale were disposed of at the Central Markets by auction and realized the absurdly low price of 3s per case, or less than a 1d per lb. It must be remembered, however, that this was not in a season when ready buyers for apples can be found in Paris and of course, in this matter also, demand rules prices. It may also be remarked that in the matter of fruit the public of Paris is exceedingly conservative, and will not readily take to anything new. Some months ago some Florida fruit-growers tried to introduce Florida oranges to the Paris market, and failed dismally. The bulk of the first and last shipment was disposed of at prices as low, if not lower, than the Victorian fruit retailed. What Tasmanian fruit remained was being retailed at a temporary stall close to the Tasmanian metal trophy, but, in spite of much energy on the part of the person in charge, with but small success. The prices asked varied from a penny for one apple to a penny for three—prices which, considering the state of fruit, accounted for the slackness in the demand."

Mr. Herbert Gladstone originally claimed 5,000l damages for the libel against himself in the Allahabad *Morning Post*. The *Post* was let off with an apology, and the writer Colonel George Bruce Malleson, of 27 West Cromwell Road, London, was proceeded against in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice. The Colonel had no defence to make, nor would he deny that he wrote and published the libel. The case was consequently narrowed down to the question of the extent of damages. In the Sheriff's Court, for assessment of damages, Mr. Herbert Gladstone deposed that the whole story as published in the Allahabad paper was a fabrication from beginning to end. He did not know Colonel Malleson personally, but he thought it right to come into Court to vindicate his character. He knew nothing as to the circulation of the paper. He did not desire to make money out of the case. So far as the paper was concerned, he accepted the apology which was printed. The jury retired for ten minutes, and assessed the damages at 1,000l.

DURING the 21 days in January that the Indian Museum was open to the public, the visitors numbered 35,429, namely, natives, 26,363 males and 7,402 females, and Europeans—that is those bearing European names—1,236 males and 428 females.

A NEW Public Works Division to be called the Sikkim Division has been sanctioned. It will comprise all works in Sikkim and will be under the charge of Mr. J. C. White. He will be both Assistant Political Officer at Gantok and Executive Engineer of the Sikkim Division.

INLAND steam-vessels commanded by licensed pilots have been exempted from the provisions of section 28, sub-section (1), clause (a), and section 28, sub-section (2), clause (a) of the Inland Steam-vessels Act—VI of 1884. Certificated Serangs will be allowed for two years more to take charge of inland steamers measuring not more than 200 tons gross. After that time, no Serang who will not have obtained a certificate of competency will be allowed to be in charge of any such vessel.

LAST Saturday, Mr. Percival Spencer made a successful balloon ascent and a parachute descent. He essays a higher feat this evening. He will go up two miles and drop from that height and descend in sight of the spectators.

*Holloway's Ointment.*—Miners and Workers in the Goldfields.—This invaluable and renowned Ointment is extensively used and patronized by such people to their very great advantage, being easy of application and portable in small compass. When used in conjunction with Holloway's Pills in accordance with the clear and concise directions for use which accompany each pot and box, there are but few of the diseases which afflict mankind which will not yield to the sanative powers of the combined remedies. Holloway's Ointment and Pills do not deteriorate by keeping nor by change of climate, and as they contain no deleterious mineral drug, they can be used with the most perfect safety under the most adverse climatic and sanitary conditions.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

EMPEROR William has taken up the Labor Question. His Majesty has directed a rescript to Prince Bismarck to sound the British, French, Swiss and Belgian cabinets, and, the Powers agreeing, to invite them to a Conference with a view to meet the wishes and needs of workmen. Only recently, in the Reichstag, any further steps in favor of workmen were deprecated.

Notwithstanding the eulogy passed on the German Press by the Minister of Public Instruction at the Fontane Dinner, the persecution of the Press continues in the Fatherland. The *Cologne Gazette* reproduced from the *Times* an article on the strained relations between the Emperor and his mother. The Emperor took it as an insult, and the editor of the *Gazette* has been sent to prison for two months. The *Kreuz Zeitung* is under a ban too. It has been prohibited in the royal palaces and the reading rooms. The head and front of its offence is that its editor Baron Hammerstein was a candidate at the Bielefeld election, where the Emperor's name was introduced in a manner not agreeable to His Imperial Majesty.

A naval station in the Baltic near Libau is to be established immediately. The cost has been estimated at thirteen million roubles.

Siberia is to be strengthened with more troops. An order has been passed for two new rifle regiments in the Eastern districts.

The crops have failed in Russian and Austrian Poland. There is distress with famine ahead.

An electoral meeting at Strassfurth, in Saxony, has ended in a serious conflict between the people and the police. The police had recourse to firing, killing one woman and wounding four men.

An order from the Horse-Guards allows officers, Warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the Infantry, Engineers and Artillery—excepting the Royal Engineers in India—the liberty to apply for exchange into the Linked Battalions, after eight years' service at home or abroad.

In place of Lord Napier of Magdala deceased, General Chesney has been given the appointment of Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers. Whatever other people may think of it, the Military Member himself finds no meaning or worth in the appointment. He only awaits the official intimation of the death to draw the Colonel's allowance which is now his portion.

The oldest Judge in England, the Hon'ble Sir Henry Manisty, of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, aged 80, is dead.

A colliery explosion is reported from Abersychen in Monmouthshire. By the latest accounts, 150 persons have been entombed.

THE Prince arrived at Rawalpindi on the 1st instant and, after witnessing a parade of troops and a theatrical performance in the evening, proceeded to Lahore the next day. On the morning of the 3rd, His Royal Highness laid the foundation-stone of the Jubilee Museum and Technical Institute. His speech on the occasion was characterised by "military brevity" which he thought was in keeping with the military spirit and military material so conspicuous in that province of action. The Victoria Jubilee Hall, erected at a cost of Rs. 60,000, as a memorial of the Queen's fiftieth year was then opened, when the Prince drove to the Government College and the Chief Court. The Shalmer Gardens were the scene of a large gathering in the afternoon, where the whole station was invited to meet the Prince. The Masonic Fraternity of Lahore presented the Prince with a souvenir in the form of a level. The ball at the Montgomery Hall in honor of the Prince was a brilliant affair, His Royal Highness remaining till two o'clock and taking part in most of the dances. After a visit to the Aitchison Chiefs' College, the Prince left for Chunga Munga where he had excellent sport. The Prince was at Amritsar on the morning of the 6th, where, at the Town Hall, he was met by several native gentlemen, and shown different articles of local manufacture. One of the principal carpet manufactories was visited. After a drive through the public gardens, His Royal Highness left in the night for Kapurthala, where the next morning he had capital sport in the pig preserve. The Prince's visit to this State is described to be a great success, all being charmed with his courteous and considerate ways.



THE *Overland Mail* of the 17th January, under the title "Unthrif at the India Office," commences an article thus :—

"Some time ago Lord Cross, with a laudable desire to reduce, if possible, the burthen on the Indian revenues of the Home Charges, appointed a Committee to review the expenditure at and through the India Office. It sat, it examined, it considered, it reported. Nothing much has come of the inquisition beyond the Act for enabling the Secretary of State to save a few thousands a year by reducing the number of his Council. Since then peace has reigned, and a sense of vindicated virtue prevails in the large building in Charles's Street."

The extract does not exactly describe the situation. Lord Cross is more mindful of the interests of India. In his Despatch No. 144 (Financial), dated the 4th July 1889, the Secretary of State for India thus advises the Government of India :—

"From the examination of the Home Charges which has been made by the Committee, Your Excellency will see what a very large proportion of them (about 78 per cent.) consists of fixed payments for interest and superannuation, in which no reduction can be anticipated for many years. The payments for the recruiting and depot charges and transport of troops are equally necessary; no immediate diminution of the payment to officers on furlough can be effected; and the cost of the stores indented for from India can only be reduced as the resources of that country may gradually be utilised to a greater extent \* \* \*

\* \* \* It is, therefore, evident that no material reduction of the Home Charges can result from the direct action of the Secretary of State, and that it is only by the careful watching of the probable consequences of measures adopted by the Government of India that any real check can be placed upon them. \* \* \* And if the departments in India can be accustomed to use articles made in that country when of an ordinary character and not needing special inspection during manufacture, they might be procured of sufficiently good quality, even though somewhat inferior to those which would be obtained by paying a higher price in England; and thus a perceptible diminution might be made in the payments in this country. I commend these points to the very earnest attention of Your Excellency's Government."

The *Mail* is not content with the opening remarks, but hints at a possible source of reduction of the Home Charges. By a comparison of the Director-General's figures, it points out that the India Office suffered a loss of \$3,643 in six years from 1883 to 1888, or an annual average of 8,940, in excessive insurance on Railway stores as compared with actual losses. The Government pays 1 per cent., whereas the insurance could be done in India or London at 3/4ths to 1/2 per cent. The article thus concludes :—

"There are rumours in India that when the report of the Director-General for 1883 appeared, that official received an intimation from the India Office that he was not to allude to the subject again. He certainly was acting strictly within the limits of his official duty in pointing out that the India Office was paying far too much in the insurance of these stores, for it is quite certain that, if the Secretary of State does not deem it prudent for the Government to insure its own stores, notwithstanding the manifest advantage it would gain by doing it, insurance could have been effected during all this period for less than one-half the rate the Government has been paying. Evidently the insurers have been making a good thing out of it. Some member of Parliament would be doing a useful service by asking early next session for some explanation of this seemingly unthrifty mode of conducting business."

It is the usual way. Till very recently, the Calcutta Port Trust was pursuing the same unthrifty course when a sturdy member protested and protested, and the insurance of its Warehouses was thrown open to competition and insurance effected at very much reduced rates.

The Secretary of State has found his way to a partial relief of the Home Charges by relaxing the rule of ordering all articles for India through the India Office. Further relief may be found in a more equitable system of accounts in the capacious building in Charles's Street.

COLONEL Alikhanoff has been deprived of the Merv command. A Turkoman deputation arrived at Merv to lodge a complaint against the chief of the Merv military district before the Commander-in-Chief, General Komaroff, of the Transcaspian Province. The Colonel ordered the men to be dispersed. Under that order, they were attacked by a body of soldiers, several of the deputation being killed and many wounded. Pending investigation into a charge of arbitrary and cruel conduct, the hero of Panjdeh has been for the moment humbled. This furnishes the *Pioneer* with opportunity to indulge in a fling at the Bengal press. It writes :—

"A few years ago the hero of Panjdeh as a promoted native was much in the mouths of Bengali papers who used to point out that under the British Government there were no Alikhanoffs in India. After this last incident the want should cease to be much of a grievance."

But our contemporary forgets that the promotion and the punishment point to the same supremacy of Justice in the counsels of the Russian Government. Alikhanoff is sacrificed in pursuance of the same

statesmanlike policy that raised a qualified Native to the command of a military district.

THE *Times* has at last found it prudent to compromise with Mr. Parnell and has paid him £5,000 damages for the publication of the Pigott letters. The Solicitor-General had declined the leading brief for the leading journal.

We publish elsewhere the conclusion of the Hearsey-Allen proceedings in the Police Court. The Chief Magistrate has made up his mind to commit Mr. Allen to the Sessions which begins on Monday, the 17th February. He would not himself pass any orders even if the defence admitted publication in Calcutta or pleaded guilty. He considers it a case preeminently for the Jury and the High Court. Mr. Allen seems to have grown sick of the prosecution, and no wonder. He would have been glad to get off with a nominal fine. He has now a great precedent in the course taken by the *Times* regarding the Pigott letters, and why not earn peace for his own concern and the public by compounding with Captain Hearsey? The Captain is determined not to be kept out of them till he has found justice in our courts.

THE Chief Justice has decided to open the first Sessions of the year in person. At Allahabad, Sir Comer Petheram signalized himself by the indignant attitude he assumed against the late Mr. Laidman in his persecution of Captain Hearsey. The same Captain is now an applicant for justice at his Lordship's hands against a higher and mightier individual.

We have so far refrained from noticing the Durbhanga temple destruction case. Before making sure of one's facts, it is not safe to speak, far less to take sides. In the meantime, party-feeling is running high, and not in Durbhanga alone. The loudest newspaper agitation has been set a-going. The usual methods of holding public meetings and adopting resolutions and memorials have been employed, and the telegraph has also been laid under requisition. We have received telegrams too. The evidence, already published, would seem to indicate that the Municipal Executive have borne themselves very arbitrarily in the matter. Into the merits of the case, however, we do not enter now, for the good and sufficient reason that the enquiry by Mr. Boxwell, Commissioner of the Division, is not closed, and his report will soon be before the public. We have just one word to say in the meantime, and that is to express our regret, if not surprise, at the indiscreet manner in which the agitation is being conducted by some writers in the press. An ordinary case of, at the worst, municipal high-handedness has been raised to the gravity of a race question and a question of religion. That there is no race question in the business, is best proved by the evidence which several Mahomedans have freely given before Mr. Boxwell in support of the case for the temple. True, the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality happens to be a Mahomedan, but what does that prove? Are things really come to such a pass that the Vice-Chairman could, even if he chose, be all-in-all, and turn his office into an opportunity of feeding his religious bigotry, supposing he had any? Are the Municipal Commissioners nothing? Was not the District Magistrate, Mr. Beadon, the Chairman and the head Executive of the Municipality? Mr. Beadon has since assumed the entire responsibility for the proceedings, and the sensational story of race and religious antipathy on the Vice-Chairman's part must now fall to the ground. Indeed, the proceedings were easily explicable otherwise from the first, viz., that if any order were issued under the Vice-Chairman's signature for the removal of the temple, it was done in the usual course of business. At the worst, it is one of those Municipal vagaries of which we hear so often. But why turn it into a question of race, and foment religious antipathies and widen the gulf between sections of the people which every right-minded man wishes to see bridged over? As well might the attempt of Sir Henry Harrison and a minority of the Calcutta Municipal Commissioners in the late Jain temple case of Burrabazar be traced to a similar origin!

THERE are now several measures before the Supreme Legislative Council of India. Some of them are intended to remedy the defects in existing enactments. Others are required for extending the local application of some laws to newly acquired territory or to other

territory where they have not been heretofore extended, and the opportunity is taken to introduce such amendments in them as are suggested by experience of their practical working. The most important of these measures is, perhaps, the Bill for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of which the Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins is in charge. In introducing the Bill, the Home Member made a speech characterised at once by keen sympathy with the objects of the measure, thorough grasp of the subject in its varied bearings, and moderation and practical experience. He began with freely acknowledging what some of the Local Governments had done in past years towards the prevention of cruelty to animals. There are special enactments on the subject in Bengal, Assam, Madras, the North-West Provinces, and Bombay, and if these constituted the whole of British India, said Mr. Hutchins, there would hardly be much necessity for pressing the matter further at present. There are, however, other important provinces which have no legislature of their own. These depend for their laws on the Supreme Council, while the only provision for the prevention of cruelty to animals in force in these provinces is Section 34 of the Police Act V of 1861. The Hon'ble member then showed the insufficient and unsatisfactory character of this provision. This section cannot be extended beyond the limits of a town nor can it take cognizance of any cruelty which is not committed on a road or in a street. It was further hedged in with other restrictions which made it an exceedingly precarious instrument for the object it was meant to secure. As, however, it is all the present law on the subject in these provinces, it requires to be amended, and the opportunity is availed of to prepare a general law which can be adopted by an Local Government.

The English law for the prevention of cruelty is perfectly general and reaches all kinds of the offence whether committed in private or in public, in towns or in rural tracts. There are considerations, however, which make it inexpedient to introduce in this country a general enactment of such a comprehensive character, however desirable it might be on abstract grounds and in the interests of humanity. "The habits of the people, the varying character of the agency by which the law will have to be enforced, the enormous size of the rural tracts, the paucity of competent tribunals—these, and many other things have to be borne in mind, and therefore it is that most of the existing enactments can only be put in force in towns, while in all, the Executive Government has retained in its own hands the power of prescribing the places to which alone it shall apply." The Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins, while fully alive to these considerations and quite satisfied of the wisdom of proceeding with caution and carrying the people with the Government in a matter of this kind, is of opinion that the time has come for taking a step in advance. He is inclined, in consultation with Local Governments, to give the proposed enactment immediate operation everywhere, or at all events in all towns, particularly when the limitation is accepted that it is to reach only acts of cruelty committed in public; or, if that is not considered possible, to merely declare the particular acts of cruelty which are covered by Section 3 penal wherever committed, like the acts provided for by Sections 4 and 5. On these points, the opinions of Local Governments will be taken. In the meantime, however, the Bill has been framed upon the old lines and with existing limitations. Local Governments, it is very wisely said by the Hon'ble Member, will be very much chary about extending its operation if we gain a right of entry into private houses, and the prevention of open cruelty over a wide area is likely to do more good than thorough measures within more restricted limits. The power of entry is only claimed in Sections 4 and 5 in regard to two specific acts, *viz.*, the killing of an animal in an unnecessarily cruel manner, and the employment of an animal on work for which it is unfitted by disease, infirmity, wounds or sores. The barbarous practices of butchers of flaying live goats, or of cutting out the tongues and allowing them to bleed slowly to death in order to whiten their flesh, will be covered by Section 4, while Section 5 is taken from the Bengal Act.

A general law for the prevention of cruelty to animals in its numerous shapes of barbarity for the whole of British India, leaving Local Governments and minor administrations to regulate its application to their territory to any extent they might deem expedient, is a good idea. But the great difficulty of enforcing such a law lies in the inadequacy of the machinery for carrying out its humane objects. We badly want a sympathetic Magistracy to make the law an effective protection of dumb animals. As it is, the law is but a dead letter in all but the great Presidency capitals, and even as regards

these, the credit for the enforcement of its provisions, such as it is, in a great measure is due to the zeal of the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty.

At the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council on the 31st January last, the Hon'ble Mr. Scoble introduced a Bill for amending the Factories Act of 1881. Our readers are aware of the agitation made in England on the subject of factory labor in India. This agitation was started by English manufacturers in their own interests, though, of course, ostensibly in the interests of mill operatives at Bombay and at other Indian manufacturing centres, whose condition was represented to be an extremely hard one and such as required the interference of the legislature. The introduction of the English Factory Acts into India was strongly recommended as the best remedy for the evil. All this display of philanthropic zeal for the alleged sufferings of Indian labourers was, however, really meant to cover an attack on the rising cotton industry in this country, and the true motives of the agitation were soon discovered. There were, nevertheless, powerful interests involved in the success of the agitation, and in the House of Commons it had influential supporters. In consequence of this, a Commission was appointed by the Bombay Government to consider the subject in all its bearings, while the Government of India on its own part also turned its earnest attention to the question. The conclusion arrived at by the Government of India, after making enquiries of Local Governments and other authorities, is contained in a despatch to the Secretary of State of 5th March 1889 and is as follows:—

"It is a well-attested fact that the *employés* in Indian factories reach a standard of comfort and content which is not attained by persons in their own rank of life who are engaged in pursuits of a different nature. Machinery moreover is, owing to the comparative absence of competition, driven in the factories in India at a pace so slow that it would not be tolerated in England; and it is estimated that in many of the mills in India about twice as many operatives are employed as would be employed in mills of the same capacity in England. It follows that the work of the operative in an Indian factory is far more desultory and less exhausting than that of an operative working in England, and that provisions which are rendered necessary by the exacting nature of the labour in English mills are not demanded in the interest of the Indian operatives, who would indeed be prejudicially affected by them."

The English Factory Acts being inapplicable, the present Bill has been introduced, to make only such minor amendments as experience, and a consideration of the great mass of evidence, which has in the meantime been collected on the subject, have shown to be necessary. The proposals in the Bill are thus summarised by the Hon'ble member in charge:—

- (1) to extend the operation of the Act to factories in which not less than twenty persons are employed;
- (2) to raise the minimum age at which children may be employed in any factory from seven to nine years;
- (3) to limit the hours of employment for women to eleven hours a day;
- (4) to secure to women, as well as to children, proper intervals for food and rest during the day, and not less than four days' holiday in each month;
- (5) to secure a proper supply of water for the use of operatives;
- (6) to ensure proper ventilation and cleanliness in factories;
- (7) to prevent overcrowding likely to be injurious to health;
- (8) to give Local Governments greater power to obtain returns and make rules for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Act."

These provisions are moderate, and quite calculated to secure the interests both of the operatives and their masters. But there is some difficulty in carrying out the law in regard to these big unwieldy concerns. So far, the official Inspectors of Factories have not had the pleasantest experiences of them. The power obtained in the last provision should be firmly enforced.

WE have elsewhere referred to Sir Charles Elliott's excellent address at the Medgesseh distribution of Prizes. Nothing could have been conceived in better spirit. A warm friend of the cause of native education and progress, in general, and particularly of our Mahomedan fellow-subjects, his encouraging advice and suggestions deserve to be carefully and gratefully laid to heart. The avenues to appointment in the Government Service may be closed, but that need not depress our students. Education itself is an instrument of independence. More of the students should devote themselves to mechanical training. Pure literature with its many branches ought also to furnish occupation to others. He expressed his regret and surprise at there being so few literary men in this country, and noticed Mr. Justice Banerjee's Convocation speech on the subject in the most sympathetic manner imaginable. Novel-writing was recommended as an art in which an imaginative and

ingenious race like the Mahomedans were sure to succeed, while there were many departments of inquiry, researches into local history, into language, into dialectic differences, into social customs, into folk-lore, into the growth of religious opinions—all which, said he, were subjects on which one would expect dissertations to flow freely from an educated Native pen. Why is their number, he asked, so small?

Of books by native writers, Sir Charles said, their number is increasing without any increase in the quantity of information they contain. Newspapers also are increasing, but the writers are not more "accurate or laboriously desirous of getting at the real facts they discuss," and he gave a ludicrous instance of inaccurate history in a native author's account of Warren Hastings. The concluding portion of the address must have been highly acceptable to his Mahomedan audience. He said:—

"Success in the world does not depend solely on education, nor even mainly on education: it depends principally on conduct. This is where you Mohamadans may hope to excel your Hindu brethren, who are, as is generally thought, quicker to learn and more skilful in passing examinations than you are, but who have not your great history or your memories of a glorious past. In Bengal it is true that a far larger number of the higher official posts is held by Hindus than by Mohamadans. In Upper India, on the other hand, a far larger number of such posts is held by Mohamadans than by Hindus. Now, what is the reason for this difference? It is not that they are better educated; there are fewer Mohamadans B. A's. and M. A's. in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab than in Bengal; there are fewer who know English than in Bengal. If you ask any one who knows Upper India well he would tell you that the Hindus are generally subtler, quicker, than the Mohamadans; but the Mohamadans have got the habit of command. They are manly themselves, and they know how to deal with men. They are not afraid of responsibility. They inherit the traditions of Government. They respect themselves, and therefore others respect them. Young men of the Medresseh, this is the example I commend you to follow: and if you are beaten in the schools by nimbler intellects, say to yourselves, 'at least I will not forget the traditions of my ancestors, and I will strive to excel and to gain a position of honour and influence by manliness of character and uprightness of conduct.'"

We do not know how the comparison will be relished by our Hindu friends. But the Mahomedans of the day are certainly not to blame if they are, in fact, heirs to traditions of sovereignty and to all the moral advantage of being born to such traditions.

It was a capital address all through, full of the spirit of hearty sympathy, and showing a thorough grasp of the question of Indian education in all its bearings.

DR. SIRCAR has appealed for further funds in aid of his Association for the cultivation of Science. The Association has yet to be assured of a permanent position, and the Founder is naturally anxious on that score. Towards this, permanent professorships have to be provided for, and a suitable house for the Laboratory. It were a pity to suffer the institution to languish for want of adequate support. The Government and the wealthier classes have indeed done a good deal, but more should be done to confirm what has been so far achieved. The benefits of scientific education conferred by the Association have only to be realized by our countrymen and the general public to ensure a cordial response to Dr. Sircar's appeal. He had, however, better not be sanguine as to the surplus of the H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund. He must look to other quarters. Lord Lansdowne has taken up the appeal. The Viceroy has consented to lay the foundation stone of a new laboratory. The day has not been fixed, but it will be some time in the middle of next month.

THE *Indian Mirror* would not allow a native of this country to be called a Native, but would always call him an Indian. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* proposes to honor every Indian as a Babu. The object aimed at by both is the same or, at any rate in the same line of *haute politique*. The *Mirror* seeks to stamp out the idea of lowness sometimes given to the word Native by abolishing it altogether. The *Patrika* advocates the extension of the honorific title to the whole of India, to oppose a serried phalanx of Babus against the attacks of the European press on the Babus proper of Bengal. But will the Babu Sahebs relish the recipe?

WE hear from Bhopal that Moulvie Siddiq Hassan, the husband of the Begum and the virtual ruler, is seriously ill. During the whole

of last year, he had been permitted to administer the affairs of the State, although from behind the *Purdah*. In consequence of her earnest and repeated solicitations—at the instance of the husband—the Government dispensed with the services of Colonel Ward and allowed the Begum to choose her own Prime Minister. On the high recommendation of her husband, Her Highness selected Moonshee Imtiaz Ali, a Pleader of Lucknow. And the Moonshee has, as in duty bound, been performing his duties, under instructions from the patron, communicated through two of the most notorious characters in Bhopal—Mirza Inayat Ali Beg and Mirza Afzal Ali Beg.

MIRZA Agha Ali Khan Bahadur, known throughout Oudh and the North-Western Provinces as the Aghaee Saheb and Nazim Saheb, has just died at Lucknow. During the reign of the late King of Oudh Wajid Ali Shah, he was for many years the Nazim or Commissioner of the Sultanpore Division. In that capacity, he was on the most intimate terms with the British officials in the border Districts, and when the Mutiny broke out, he went over and sided with the British. After the reoccupation of Oudh by the British Government, he was, from his experience, intelligence, wealth and influence, of great help to the authorities, in the peaceful settlement of the country. Ever since 1858, he had invariably been the most trusted, honored and valued adviser of the authorities of Oudh from the Chief Commissioner and Lieutenant-Governor down to the Assistant Commissioners and other minor officials. Being one of the wealthiest men of Lucknow, besides being a man of letters and extraordinary energy, he was looked upon by all classes in Oudh with great respect and confidence. He had served the Oudh Government for 24 years, and been the honorary adviser of the British for upwards of 30 years. He was about 85 years of age when he died, retaining his faculties unimpaired till the last.

He leaves a worthy son, in Mirza Mahomed Abbas, the Assistant Commissioner at Hurdul in Oudh. Mirza Abbas is one of the first young noblemen who were selected for the Statutory Civil Service. He once or twice also officiated as a Deputy Commissioner. The young man inherits a vast fortune, but we hope he will not give up a life of active usefulness and sink himself in the life of ease and idleness of many of the wealthy of Oudh.

THERE is a familiar figure vanished from the higher grade of the Subordinate Executive Service. Baboo Ramakhoy Chatterjee has just retired on pension. He has exceeded the official age of 55 and had had some extensions. But, unlike his brethren who seem to grow young in the service, he makes room for others below him. A Hindoo of the old type, he never outraged the feelings of his countrymen. In office and in society, he always commanded respect. Wherever he has been, he always left a good and lasting impression. He was last at Cuttack, where, on his departure, they presented him with a farewell address with expressions of gratitude "for the kindly smile you always had for every body, the sound advice and counsel you gave to all who sought them, and for the devotion with which you administered to the wants of the sick."

BABOO Sarat Chandra Roy Chaudhuri, of Chanchal, in the Malda District, has attained his majority and will be released from the bondage of the Court of Wards on the 11th. The investiture will be marked with some *eclat*. The festivities have been fixed for the 26th.

THE Governor of Pondicherry is on a tour of inspection of all the French possessions in India. He has visited Karikal and Mahe. Last Saturday, he arrived at Chandernagore and to-day he leaves for Yunnan. We may inform the Natives who took alarm at the new military rules about conscription, that His Excellency has arrived at the opinion that the rules should not be applied to the native-born subjects of the Republic.

SIR John Edgar has been poorly in health for some time, and, under medical advice, takes long leave from the 1st May next, returning to his

post in November. In his absence, Mr. Colman Macaulay officiates as the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Peacock's time is nearly up. Sir Henry Harrison replaces him on the Board of Revenue. Mr. Smith must pine away in the Presidency Commissionership. Mr. Bolton, from the Board of Revenue, as we announced before, comes in as Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. The late Chairman of the Suburban Municipality has a sort of claim to the headship of the amalgamated Corporation. The position is a difficult one, and in the dearth of talent in the Civil Service, no one else probably is coming forward for the office. Mr. Bolton is a smart and intelligent officer.

FROM the commencement of the present month, Rai Bahadr Shurruth Chunder Ghose, late in charge of the Eden Gardens, has been put in divisional charge of the Shibpore Workshop, where he will have greater latitude to prove his mettle, as at Akra.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1890.

### THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

THERE has been some criticism in the press and on the platform of Dr. Gurudas Banerjee's defence of the Calcutta University from the charge of barrenness. The charge is an old one and has often been repeated, and it is not unnatural that a native Vice-Chancellor, himself a distinguished graduate of that University, should attempt an explanation. The defence, however, is somewhat weakened by his own admissions, and is an explanation rather than a defence. Dr. Banerjee practically admits the charge. He confesses that long as is the roll of graduates which the University has sent forth to the world, their literary and scientific achievements, so far, have borne no proportion to the number. Admitting this, Dr. Banerjee denies that the barrenness of results is at all due to any defect in the University system of education. This is a strong opinion, and it should not surprise him, if, in the face of the actual results, people hesitate to accept it without adequate grounds. Dr. Banerjee from his long connection with the University must be in a good position to judge of its system of education, and an opinion coming with his authority cannot be summarily set aside. The subject, however, is a difficult one, and without a thorough knowledge of the internal economy of our Colleges, one can scarcely be in a proper position to take part in its discussion. The popular impression as to the character of the Calcutta University is far from flattering, and Dr. Banerjee's own complaint of cram gives color to that impression. Cram may have a wider range than the lower examinations, and even if it were confined to these, it may still affect the higher education.

Dr. Banerjee accounts for the poverty of results with some plausibility. He says the University is yet in its infancy, and the first batches of its graduates, who generally belonged to the struggling middle classes, were naturally absorbed in the more lucrative professions. They found better prospects in the Judicial and Executive Services and the Legal and Medical professions, while there was little encouragement for labors in the fields of literature and science in the shape of fellowships and in other shapes in which such labors were remunerated in Europe. There could therefore be

no fair comparison between the Calcutta University and the Universities of the West. The latter were, in the first place, far older, and, further, they had special endowments for the encouragement of original scholarship. The present barrenness, however, need not continue. There were hopeful indications, said the Vice-Chancellor, of a different state of things in the future. The professions were already overstocked and this was just the time for the endowment of fellowships to attract the best talents to the fields of original culture. Dr. Banerjee, while he admitted the comparatively meagre results of University in this direction, was not prepared to admit the charge *in toto*. The University had borne some few fruits, and if the harvest was small, it contained promise of a fuller one under more favorable circumstances. On this point he said :—

"I shall say nothing of the professional work of those who have taken themselves to the learned professions, but confine myself to work purely of a literary or scientific character. I am happy to be able to see that the best living poet of Bengal, and the first and the best living Bengali writer of fiction, are both graduates of the Calcutta University, and they have enriched the literature of Bengal with all that the gorgeous magnificence of the East and the sombre grandeur of the West could contribute. If their labours and the labours of those that have followed their footsteps had been better known to our European friends, it might have helped to remove much of that reproach to which our graduates are subjected. Nor must I omit to mention the labours of another distinguished graduate of this University, the learned and indefatigable Secretary to the Science Association. Aided no doubt by the enlightened liberality of his countrymen, and the valuable co-operation of a distinguished foreigner, he has done all that could be expected to lay the foundation of the study of science. If he has made no scientific discoveries, it is because he has been less selfish than he might have been. He has not occupied any limited ground and concentrated his intelligence and energy therein to enable himself to make any contributions to science, but he has attempted to clear up much larger ground, ground sufficient for the cultivation of science by himself and his countrymen, and this he has to some extent succeeded in doing. It is time now for his countrymen to invest more of their pecuniary and intellectual capital in the enterprise, and the prospect of a fair harvest would not be far distant. In the abstruse regions of mathematics, a distinguished young graduate has commenced work and has already given fair earnest of a promising future."

We have now, we hope fairly, stated the Vice-Chancellor's views on the subject. These views have not passed unchallenged. Let us see how they have been received in different quarters. It has been said by some that Dr. Banerjee would have done well not to enter upon such a controversy without having a better case. Why so? The reproach of barrenness has often been made against the institution, and there is no reason why it should not be boldly met, if possible, or an explanation offered. The Convocation of the University affords the best occasion for the ventilation of such questions, and in so far as a discussion on the subject has been started by Dr. Banerjee's remarks it is a public gain. The University cannot lie under imputations on its character without causing discomfort to its governors. In the earlier days of the University, one of the most distinguished of its Vice-Chancellors, Sir Henry Sumner Maine, entered upon an elaborate vindication of it from the charge of cramming, which he learnedly justified as a method for the imparting of a maximum of knowledge within a minimum of time. His successor had undoubtedly a better case to fight for. We are already in possession of his views, and it would now be desirable that the discussion were followed up by experts with knowledge of the inner details of collegiate education.

The Vice-Chancellor's proposal for the endowment of fellowships has elicited a rejoinder from the *Pioneer* who cannot allow any state funds to be devoted to advance the cause of higher education, when so little was being done for the primary education of the mass of the population. But Dr. Banerjee never asked for state funds. He merely threw out



a hint that the present time was opportune for the foundation of fellowships, and expressed a hope that the idea might commend itself to the wealthy noblemen of the land.

The *Englishman* dissents from the Vice-Chancellor's theory on the subject of barren results, and says:—

"Perhaps the least satisfactory part of the Vice-Chancellor's address was that in which he attempted to explain the 'barrenness of results,' which is a standing reproach to our educational system. It is vain to ask what work worthy of the name has been done by Indian students in the fields of literature and science. There is little encouragement, we are told, for original intellectual work in the shape of fellowships and endowments; but surely Dr. Banerji does not mean that the supremacy of English and German scholarship is solely or even mainly due to the existence of rich endowments. It is notorious that much of the best intellectual work both of recent as well as of former years has been done by men who never touched a penny of public or private donations, and whose lives were a perpetual struggle with hardship and poverty. Leaving the pursuit of literature out of the question, as a hopelessly poverty-stricken line of business, the personal history of modern scientific research is almost a continuous record of heroic and self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of knowledge, without hope of pecuniary recompense. The story of such lives as those of Hugh Miller, of Dick of Thurso, of George Stephenson, and of a host of other 'self-made' men,—and the list might be indefinitely extended,—affords a complete and crushing reply to the pretext that poverty is at the bottom of this educational mystery."

Sir Charles Elliott also noticed the subject in his other day's admirable address at the Medresseh. Speaking of want of leisure as an obstacle to original intellectual pursuit, he said that it was only the busiest men who, as a rule, achieved anything. Sir Charles's remarks were conceived, however, in the kindest spirit. Mr. Justice Banerjee, he said, could only point to one author of admirable poetry, another author of admirable fiction, a gentleman who has shown great research in medicine, though he has not been so fortunate as to make any important discovery, and one accomplished student of mathematics, but where he could only refer to one, nothing less than fifty would satisfy Sir Charles. The results are, indeed, disappointing, and are hardly to be reconciled with Dr. Banerjee's high estimate of the University system of education.

#### GROUP SANITATION OF MUNICIPALITIES.

Dr. Gregg, Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, has submitted a report on the drainage, conservancy and water-supply of the municipalities lying on the left bank of the Hooghly north of Calcutta. The report bears evident marks of great care and pains which Dr. Gregg has taken in acquainting himself with the sanitary defects of this important area, while the moderation of his proposals, and his apparent desire to carry the people with him with due regard to all circumstances, and, above all, the funds which may be available for his purposes, give them much practical value. As regards conservancy, Dr. Gregg does not propose to force the system of night-soil service on those municipalities which are of a semi-rural character. In the more thickly peopled towns, however, the latrine system, he tells us, must be introduced and strictly enforced. But the great difficulty in this connection is to find suitable trenching grounds, and this difficulty is not easily overcome. It is, so far as we know, felt more or less wherever the system is now at work, but the state of things in the Cossipore-Chitpore municipality seems to be most serious. This municipality had been all along emptying its night-soil into the Calcutta night-soil sewers, but the Calcutta Municipality have lately intimated their intention of prohibiting the practice in future, and there is no available land in the municipality itself for trenching purposes. If this is true,

says Dr. Gregg, it will place the municipality in a serious predicament, and may result in an epidemic of sickness. Similar difficulty exists in other municipalities, and we may as well recommend that a general enquiry may be made into the matter. The Baranagar Municipality, for instance, has no suitable trenching ground. The one it has is most objectionable in its situation, and is credited with all the unhealthiness in the neighbourhood. At any rate, the Municipal Commissioners have condemned it themselves, and determined to change it for another. They have, however, been very dilatory in carrying out their own determination.

In regard to water-supply, Dr. Gregg's ideas are characterized by the same moderation. He is not ambitious of introducing the costly system of filtered water-supply, except in the crowded municipalities of Cossipore and Maniktolla. The present arrangements for the supply of drinking water from tanks in these municipalities are considered sufficient, if care is only taken to keep their water as pure as possible. While we appreciate Dr. Gregg's moderation in this respect, we cannot help expressing a desire that some less costly method for the supply of filtered water within small local areas, such as some English Engineering firms had lately been advertising, were tried for such small Municipalities. At any rate, an experiment might be made.

The drainage of the municipalities is a more complicated subject. Dr. Gregg, after several inspections of the drainage basin which he often made in dug-outs at no small personal discomfort, has recommended the re-excavation of the Bag-Julla Khal, and the erection of three sluices, one in this *Khal*, and the two others for Dantia and Khorda Khals. As these Khals receive the drainage of the municipalities of North, and South Dum-Dum, South Barrackpore, Baranagar, and Cossipore-Chitpore, he recommends the cost of these works for their common improvement to be proportionately borne by them. This subject has been for years under consideration, and credit is due to the present Sanitary Commissioner for having at last brought it to a practical issue. We have no wish to throw any obstacles in the way of a speedy decision being arrived at on the matter. But one thing we must not omit to say in this connection, namely, that much difference of opinion prevails amongst the Municipal Commissioners of these towns as to the necessity of these sluice-gates. What they hold, and, as appears, not unreasonably, is that the Khals have silted up from obstructions caused 1st by the Railway embankments, and latterly by the laying of the Calcutta Corporation's main water pipes in the beds of some of these Khals. If these obstructions are removed and the Railway Company provide adequate culverts on proper levels, there would be no need of these costly sluices.

#### PROFESSOR VAMBERY ON THE UNION OF HINDUS AND MAHOMEDANS.

"Budapest University,  
December the 31st, 1889.

TO THE EDITOR OF *Reis & Rayyet*.

I have read your letter dated December the 10th with great interest, having had the pleasure in finding in your views and intentions the experimental solution of a question, which has long time engaged my full attention. In presenting yourself "as an exceptional person, who has always loved the Mohammedans as brethren and who earnestly tried to interpret between Hindus and Mohammedans and effect a union of hearts between two peoples, whose social and poli-

tical interests in India are identical"—you have certainly put before yourself a very useful, but in the same time, a very arduous task. As far as my limited experience and unpretentious notions go, the solution of this problem in Asia has always seemed to me as an unsurmountable difficulty. You evidently know, better than myself, that in Asia the partition-wall between mankind is not the nationality, but religion. The Mohammedan scripture says—All true-believers are brethren, as well as—The unbelievers are *one* nation, a saying, which implies a strict unity between the followers of one faith, and does not admit any partition by race or nationality. I am therefore at loss to understand, how your idea—"to form a nation by a harmonious social fusion of the two component parts of the population"—sublime and high-minded as that idea is, would be carried out without shaking the very foundation of the respective communities? Of course, you are on the best way in proposing to effect that idea—"under the British Crown, which has given us such a strong and equitable government, as we could never hope to form ourselves, which has advanced us to a new life and is daily improving us, and which I devoutly pray will keep us until the time comes under God's Providence when we are in a position to help ourselves."

This argumentation speaks decidedly whole volumes in favour of the soundness of your views. The time will and must come when many of your countrymen and coreligionists will share in these healthy views, but I beg leave to say, that this to me is yet very very far, and that it is much easier to make whole Europe *one* community of a common interest and aim, than to mould the different nationalities and creeds of Hindustan into *one* nation. What you have to do is, to proceed on the way inaugurated by your British teachers without any premature aspirations to institutions unfit and eventually dangerous to the present stage of culture of the great mass of the peoples of India. What you have achieved hitherto under the guidance of great Britain and assisted by the innate splendid mental capacities of your people, is quite unique in the history of civilisation of mankind. Your hitherto made progress offers the best guarantee for the future development of India. You enjoy liberties, which may be the object of envy, not only of whole Asia and Russia, but also of many parts of Europe and the benignant rays of Liberty will certainly increase in the measure as the sun of enlightenment rises over the horizon of your vast and glorious country.

This is the humble advice, I can give you, as one who is not influenced by political, national or religious interests, but who, bearing the welfare and prosperity of poor Asia at his heart, has always felt happy on seeing downtrodden mankind raised to a better future.

As to your questions about the discrepancy between my statements in reference to the character of Sultan Abdul Hamid and those of a Mohammedan correspondent in the *Daily News*—I beg leave to say that the writer in the last named paper is not a Turk, but evidently an Ottoman subject living in London and discontented with the rule of the Sultan—and further I beg leave to call in your memory the fact, that the said newspaper is the mouthpiece of a political party in England, shortsighted enough to declare open war against fifty millions of their fellow citizens and ready to find fault with the Ottomans, who they have styled the *unspeakable Turk*, worthy to be driven bag and baggage out of Europe—whilst my experience of the character of the present ruler of Turkey is taken from a personal intercourse with the Sultan and from a long standing connection with the leading men on the Bosphorus. The difference of means and modes of observation must naturally entail different results.

Thanking you for your suggestive letter, and sending my kindest regards to Nawab Abdool Luteef Khan Bahadur.

I beg to remain yours faithfully,

A. VAMBERY."

#### THE LATE MR. ROBERT KNIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR—It is impossible to realise that Mr. Robert Knight has ceased to live. His death has indeed cast a gloom over the length and breadth of the country, and must have been keenly felt by every Indian. In Mr. Robert Knight we have actually lost one of our best friends and fearless advocates. The services rendered by him to our country for which we should be ever grateful to him, are in-

estimable, and are too well-known to be mentioned here. Always on the side of justice and truth, Mr. Knight has left an example of Christian devotion to the cause of the weak and the oppressed, and his noble example, will, I hope, have some effect upon many an editor. By his death we have been deprived of the services of a statesman of sterling worth and ability. It will be difficult to secure the services of such a man of sound judgment and keen observation, and the gap created by his death will never be filled. The memory of men of Mr. Knight's stamp ought to be preserved. I earnestly hope that some practical and substantial step will be taken to perpetuate the memory of the departed Statesman and Friend of India, who, though by birth an Englishman, was more than a true Indian.

BEHARYLAL PALIT.

POLICE.—FEBRUARY 4, 1890.

(Before F. J. Marsden, Esq.)

#### THE PIONEER DEFAMATION CASE.

The adjourned case in which Mr. G. W. Allen, Managing Proprietor of the *Pioneer*, was charged with libel at the instance of Captain A. W. Hearsay, was resumed to-day.

Mr. Avetoom, instructed by Mr. Rose, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Pugh, instructed by Mr. Upton, for the defence.

Moti Lall Dutt, examined, said :—I am employed in the Dalhousie Institute Club. There is a Library attached to it. Many periodicals and papers are received there. The *Pioneer* is received. This (identified) is the copy of the *Pioneer* I received by post for the Club. It came from the *Pioneer* Office at Allahabad.

Witness was not cross-examined.

Elliot Walter Madge, the next witness called, said :—I am an assistant in the Government Treasury. I have read this article (shown) in the *Pioneer*. I read it on the evening of the 28th January, 1889. I read it in Calcutta. I did not then know Captain Hearsay. I made his acquaintance a few months after that out of Calcutta.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

His Worship observed that he did not intend to dispose of the case here, but would send it before a jury.

Mr. Pugh said he wished to call Mr. Hearsay.

His Worship asked Mr. Pugh if he wished to go on with his case for the defence when it was going to be committed to the Sessions.

Mr. Pugh said he wished to call Mr. Hearsay for five minutes only, after which it would be for his Worship to decide whether he would commit the case or not.

Andrew William Hearsay, called by Mr. Pugh, said :—I am the complainant in this case. I was the complainant in the case against Mr. Chesney and Mr. Dare in this Court. I believe the summonses were issued against them in June last. I remember being examined in this Court in the month of July in that case. This (shown) is my deposition. To the best of my belief, what is stated there is correct.

To the Court.—I have signed it.

Mr. Pugh here tendered the deposition.

Mr. Avetoom objected, on the ground that it related to a separate charge and against a different gentleman. Whatever the witness might have deposed to in a former proceeding against or in favour of another gentleman could not, counsel submitted, be used in this case. It was not for the purpose of corroborating certain statements, but the deposition was put in so that the whole of it, including the cross-examination, might be used.

His Worship observed that the only effect of the objection would be that Mr. Pugh would have to take the witness through each of the questions over again.

Mr. Avetoom submitted that the other side was intending to put in a lot of matter which had been elicited from the witness in that case in cross-examination. This could only be done either for the purpose of corroboration or contradiction. It was evident that it was not to corroborate anything the witness had said, and if it was for contradiction, it could only be done by the consent of the Court, or in cross-examination, which Mr. Pugh could not take advantage of, as Mr. Hearsay was now his witness. Counsel submitted that in the other case the examination-in-chief of the witness was very brief, but he was cross-examined by Mr. Gasper for two days, and the defence now desired to put in all that cross-examination. There were a great many statements made by the witness in cross-examination which could not be elicited now, as Mr. Hearsay was their witness. He challenged Mr. Pugh to state under what section of the Act he claimed to put in this deposition as evidence. He had anticipated this, and had carefully looked over the Act, and he would submit that there was no section under which this deposition could be put in as evidence.

Mr. Pugh, in reply to his Worship, said he was entitled to put in probably the whole of the deposition.

His Worship observed that it would be practically putting in the examination-in-chief and the cross-examination. Mr. Avetoom's contention was, he thought, a good one, that the cross-examination

could not be put in, and he did not see under what section it could be put in.

Mr. Pugh said that if he went on with the examination of the witness, it would be so far as regards the truth of the statements in the alleged libel, and not more.—*The Indian Daily News.*

The Magistrate: I don't think so, I tell you. As far as you have gone, on the evidence before me I consider there is a *prima facie* case to go to the jury, and to the jury it will go.

Mr. Pugh: Even supposing I show from Mr. Hearsey's own lips that these statements are true?

The Magistrate: Even so I should say.

Mr. Pugh: Supposing, for the sake of argument, I did not contend the article was justified?

The Magistrate: I decline entirely to decide whether the article is a libel or whether it is for the public benefit or not. It is essentially a case for the High Court and jury.

Mr. Pugh: Supposing I raised two or three points and left the case to you?

The Magistrate: Even so I should not dispose of it.

Mr. Pugh: Supposing, for argument's sake, I went even further and said my client was advised that the article was not for the public benefit, but that he wrote it believing it for the public bene-

fit, and that if the charge is made against him he would have to plead guilty?

The Magistrate: I don't care. Whether he pleads guilty or not I should still send it to the High Court. He will have to answer to the charge in the ordinary form after it has been framed, and say anything he thinks fit.

Mr. Pugh: Supposing my client were to plead guilty, you would still send the case to the High Court?

The Magistrate: Yes: I should.

[After consulting with Mr. Upton, the solicitor,]

Mr. Pugh repeated this question to the Magistrate and received identically the same reply.

Mr. Pugh: After that intimation it is not for me to take up the case here. I was in hopes we should be able to bring it to a close here.

The Magistrate: It is certainly not a case I should dispose of.

Mr. Pugh said that after the intimation from the bench he had no questions to ask Mr. Hearsey.

A discussion as to the best day to which to adjourn the case ensued, and ultimately it was adjourned till the 14th instant, when the defendant will be committed to the Sessions, which commence on the 17th.—*The Pioneer.*

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed tenders for supply of 9 lacs cubic feet of table moulded Jhama Khua during 1890-91 will be received by the Vice-Chairman and will be opened by him in the presence of tenderers who may wish to attend at 2 P. M. on the 12th February 1890.

2. The Jhama is to be table moulded and of the best quality, to be broken so as to pass freely in all directions through a ring 2½ inches in diameter and to be delivered in equal monthly instalments and stacked properly at the Municipal Depots at Bagbazar, Nimtollah, along Circular Road, Nimuckmehal Ghat and at Alipore on the Tolly's Nullah and at Ballygunge.

3. Tenders may be for 10,000 cubic feet or multiples of that quantity and earnest money of Rs. 100 for every 10,000 cubic feet to be tendered for is to be enclosed with each tender.

4. The tenderer whose tender is accepted must sign a deed of contract duly stamped and registered at his own expense within 15 days after the acceptance of his tender.

The contractor is to supply materials at the Depots free of all contingent charges; he is to pay canal tolls on all materials to be delivered by him on the Canal banks and he will not have the use of Municipal Wagons for carriage of his materials from the river side to Circular Road.

6. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

7. Any further information required can be had on application.

UDOYNARIAN SINGH,  
Superintendent of Stores.

30th January, 1890.

### TO CONTRACTORS.

1. Sealed tenders will be received by the Superintendent up to 20th February 1890, for the supply of cloth, coal, coke, tin ingot, bees wax, planks and other stores (more or less) to the Small Arms Ammunition Factory Dum Dum, from the 1st April 1890 up to the 31st March 1891. The term "more" includes the supply of stores, if required, up to 25 per cent. in excess of the original tender.

2. Printed forms of tenders for the supply of stores for which tenders are invited, are obtainable from this office daily (Sundays and holidays excepted) on payment of one rupee.

3. Tenders should be accompanied by a deposit as earnest money in Bank of Bengal receipt, calculated at the rate of (5) five per cent. on the stores tendered. This deposit will be returned on execution of the contract deed or rejection of the tenders.

4. Preference will be given to local manufacture.

5. Tenders will be opened at this office at 12 O'clock on the 21st February 1890. Parties tendering are invited to attend.

6. Further particulars as to conditions of tenders will be found in I. O. Form 103, which will be furnished with the tender form.

J. G. STONE, MAJOR, R. A.  
Superintendent.

Small Arms Ammunition Factory Office,  
Dum Dum, 23rd January 1890.

### MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Twenty-sixth Annual *Conversazione* of the Mahomedan Literary Society will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 17th February 1890, from 9 to 12 P.M.

ABDOOL LUTEEF,  
Secretary.

### H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR RECEPTION FUND.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

The Honorary Treasurers have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the following amounts subscribed to the above Fund:—

	Rs.
Amount previously acknowledged	75,808
Raja Gobinda Laul Roy of Rungpore	500
Babu Gopal Laul Seal of Colootollah	500
Moollah Ismail of Mandalay	500
Babus Upendra Chundra and Kiran Chundra Roy of Narail	200
The Hon'ble Justice Macpherson	100
Messrs. G. W. Allen & Co.	100
Babu Chundi Laul Singh	100
" Jagat Chunder Roy Chowdhuri	100
" Shicobux Bagla	100
W. H. Ryland, Esq.	50
Babu Ranjee Dass Jhallan	50
" Ramnarain Dass	50
" Isan Chunder Mitter	32
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" Benode Laul Roy Chowdhuri	25
" Brajendra Coomar Roy Chowdhuri	25
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" Saradaprasad Chatterjee	25
" Parsan Chunder Nahar	25
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" Sarat Chunder Roy Chowdhuri	25
Moulvi Abdul Jubbar	25
" Syud Sudruddin	25
" Serajuddin Ahmed	25
Syud Ahmed Ali	25

Total ... 80,200

Further lists of payments will be acknowledged hereafter.

DURGA CHURN LAW,

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Hony. Treasurers.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,

S. E. J. CLARKE,

Honorary Secretaries.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have not already sent in their Subscriptions, will greatly oblige the Executive Committee by doing so without delay.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,

S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.

Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

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## TRAVELS &amp; VOYAGES IN BENGAL

BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

## SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

*Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
 Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

THE

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY.

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1890.

} No. 411

## A DESPATCH FROM ENGLAND.

*London, January 16, 1890.*

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Your representations of English life are so marvellously accurate, that I venture to send you the following over-true picture, which will speak for itself, as—

### A FRIGHTFUL DREAM.

[FROM A STATESMAN'S PORTFOLIO.]

The leaf from the Portfolio says—

Arriving home late one night from, what some people, I find, call my parliamentary enjoyments, I took down at random from a shelf in my library a book which turned out to be the Pilgrim's Progress; and I well remember that I read and re-read the first page. Then I suppose that I slept, and, falling into the author's quaint fancy, "dreamed a dream."

"I dreamed that I walked through the wilderness of this world, and that I lighted on a certain place in which was a Den;" and over it was written Downing Street.

I dreamt that I saw a vast number of little men and women (persons ranging in height from four to six inches) trippingly enter my Den, dressed in every conceivable attire, of every imaginable colour. Most of them were soldiers, in all the uniforms, and no-uniforms, of the world, and in many cases they were accompanied by their little wives. The Frank, the Sikh, the Ghoorka, the Chinaman, the Japanese, the Spaniard, the Red Indian, the American, the Patagonian and the British were there: and I know not whom besides. I had barely time to take in the general features of this scene, when one of the little women—a very distinguished personage, whose breast was covered with stars and orders—cried out in an amusing tone, as of one who would make sport—"Let us have a dance." "No," said another of a grimmer countenance—"a prayer-meeting." Then I ventured to speak. "Mercy on us," I said, "you talk as if a dance and a prayer-meeting were the same thing."

This was received with laughter, which literally rang like a peal of silver bells, and one of the little ladies marching up close to my face said—"It is a Jay; peck at it!—peck at it! All! All!" Another took up the words, and sang—"Yes, old Peregrine Jay of Downing Street." And so they began what they called pecking. That is, smacking my face, pulling my beard, and pinching my cheeks; an occupation which seemed to amuse them greatly. After this had gone on for some time, I said—

"My dears, my name is not Jay. Neither is it Peregrine."

"Oh, yes it is," said the little lady who had first mentioned the name—"Don't you deny your name or I shall—yes, indeed I shall—horse-whip you. Why deny your name, old Peregrine Jay, when I was present at your baptism, and heard your sponsors promise for you Thirty Nine things, all of which you will find in your church-service. Have you a church-service, old Peregrine Jay?" And so the mockery went on till at last they broke into strains of melody, charming as regarded the music, though the words were but these—

Whether we dance, or whether we say  
Wisdom's words to old Peregrine Jay  
Counts for little—He's had his day!  
Sound be his sleep—Let him sleep away!

"And so," said I, in a quiet chuckle to myself, "I am to be known to these lilliputian gentry as old Peregrine Jay. I hope my estimable colleagues may not hear of this. If not, why one name is as good as another so long as we're merry." My reflections were interrupted by the arrival of a fresh rabble—little Bishops, Nonconformist Divines, Deans, Canons, Archdeacons, Unitarians, Methodist Class-leaders, Salvationists, Governors of provinces in India, Members of Vice-regal Council, Brahmans, Buddhists, Archimandrites, and I know not what—a motley crowd, surpassing in picturesqueness even their predecessors, who now stood arrayed on one side of my Den, like figures in a pantomime, while the latest comers entered, singing—

Let us be jolly, and live while we may,  
Sleep ye—but list ye—old Peregrine Jay;  
Wonders will thicken—as thicken they must,  
Till Peregrine, lacking wine water and crust,  
Shall bury his head in old Downing-Street dust.  
Let us be merry, and laugh while we may,  
Misery gathers for Peregrine Jay!

I shuddered a little as this dismal rhyme fell on my ears. Then a little fellow from among the first comers stepped forward and sang—

Church and chapel—H! their battle,  
Sharp and close at hand!  
Men of Right and men of Might  
For Nationhood shall stand.

"What does all this mean?" I said to the little songster.

"It means Sir," he said—"I may tell it to you—  
That when statesmen flatter they seldom are true;  
A system—fast growing—with High, Low, and Jack—  
Including old Peregrine, now on his back."

I was about to resent this in stern and severe language, but before I could utter a word the little rascals, of both the widely different rabbles, began dancing over my body; and worst of all on my face, and especially my mouth and eyes, so that I could neither speak nor see. All at once the dancing ceased, and I saw enter another rabble of living dolls. Ha! What! old Granville hobnobbing with Storey! Dilwyn cheek-and-jowl with Selborne! Bradlaugh arm in arm, on the one side with Harcourt, on the other with Jacob Bright! George Campbell, once Lieutenant-Governor, embracing Justice Stephen, once Legal Member of Council, and burying old feuds for evermore.

"Mercy on me," I muttered—"Why here are all the Lords and Commons, from the great Poet, Wilfred of Brayton down to poor Alfred who sang of 'Cannon on right of them, cannon on left of them!' What a row they do make! There is one of them addressing 'gallant little Wales,' and bidding it refuse to pay its just debts as the best means of disestablishing the church. Another telling gallant little Wales that five-sixths of its sons are non-conformist in creed. Another (telling it that the established church is making enormous strides onward, day by day) calls on all non-conformists to join that historic and progressive church. What a pandemonium it is! What humbug it is!" I had arrived at this point of my reflections when the latest arrivals broke into song, which was taken up, in a kindred spirit,

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by the first and second comers, till my Den resounded with the united melody—Thus—

Hydra-headed—Law-machine,

Out for a day—

Bishops, priests and quakers ;

Infidels and Shakers ;

Men of fibs and men of facts ;

Men of Bills, and men of Acts ;

Men from "India's coral strand"

Mighty in that far-off land :

Hey-hey!—Hey—Ho !

Thus they come and thus they go.

I now began to be seriously alarmed, and was about to cry for mercy, when a new rabble appeared, and to my mind the most unruly-looking of all. As these entered the third arrivals ranged themselves by the side of the first and second.

"Ah!" said I, "there is my old electioneering agent, when I sat for Pigswistle; and there my dear old Editor who did for me true Knight's service by calling black white and white black in my name; and there my matchless canvasser, Martin Magnolia Esquire."—"Let us have a play," shouted my old agent, John Mockington Pockington, the greatest electioneerer extant. Then they sang—

A play for the Hydra-head. Name we the Play—

'Down! Down with the Pride of old Peregrine Jay ;

'The statesman who long hath outlasted his day.'

"Mockington Pockington," I cried, "will you take your feet off my chest? You are suffocating me! Do you hear me, Sir?" Instead of replying in decent prose, the rascal sang, and all the agents and others joined in the song—

Lead us, or leave us, sings Mockington Pockington,

Bracing his chest like the swell of the sea :

Mob is the King now ; and he is the Thing now

Who dares to advance with the time and with Me.

Brave little Wales calls for service in Thumpers,

Tells you why rents she refuses to pay,

Bravely dishonest—Let's pledge her in bumpers !

This is one lesson old Peregrine Jay.

Conscience she calls it—and so must you call it,

If you would lead in this new trenchant day.

List to the popular voice—Then out-bawl it—

Thus thou well knowest old Peregrine Jay.

Paddy too see with his winks so cajoling ;

Innocent Pat—With his Plan of campaign ;

Eloquent words in his service are falling,

Sousing the land like a torrent of rain.

Badger John Bull!—'Tis the thing that will pay—

Take thou this lesson old Peregrine Jay !

"Mockington Pockington"—I cried—"Dost thou actually to my face boast the supremacy of Lies?" The great, little rascal replied jeeringly—

Some men like puddings, and some men like pies,

Politics feed on the roundest of Lies.

See—wolves, bears, tigers, advance to the fray,

Foster and fatten them Peregrine Jay !

And now the liliputian multitude, as with one consent, made a dash upon me, each human figure transformed into that of a bird or beast of prey, or into a serpent with deadly fangs, the human face alone remaining. My old agent Mockington Pockington was a liliputian fox, ferocious almost beyond description. He fastened on my throat; shake him off I could not, though I strained and fought with him as it seemed to me for weeks and months. One foul thing that held fast to me was a horse-leech which cried—"Give! Give!—more! more!" At my heart was a fearful beast, bearing a name which I often had pledged in a bumper as—"The-Clergy-and-Ministers-of-all-Denominations." "Alas, Alas!" I cried—"What have I done to thee thou terrible thing?" The animal replied with a human voice—"List to the horse-leech—'Give—Give!—more—more!'"

Then a terrible voice rang through the Den, as when a man calls for his dogs—"Stockbroker!" "Speculator!" "Ignoramus!" &c., &c., &c., "fasten on this man;" and in an instant panthers, tigers, foxes, jackals, cobras, and rattlesnakes, rushed on to devour me. I closed my eyes, to die. All at once I heard the bark of a dog, and I cried

out, in an agony which I still feel—"Good Dog! Good Dog! At them! At them!"

Then Mockington Pockington was again transformed, his body that of a serpent, his eyes like balls of fire. And he too cried out, but in a voice so soft and musical that mine as compared with it seemed like the grating of a saw—"At him! At him! Good Dog! Good Dog!"

As this was said the bird-manikins rose on the wing, and filled the Den with hideous forms and cries. Then I heard, in a voice, stern deep and solemn—

"Trust to the mastiff—Trust to the dog!"

The sound came like a fresh breeze in a sultry land, and a deep voice sang—

Trust to the dog—See his strong teeth beside thee !

Hold to the right—Though the puppets deride thee.

Fear not, old dreamer—Whatever betide thee,

Trust to the dog! Trust to the dog !—

Mastiff of England!—When manikins bicker,

When cravens wax faint—when dangers grow thicker ;

When strong arms are needed, when high hearts beat quicker,

Trust to the dog! Trust to the dog !

Heed not what manikin babblers are singing ;

Heed not the tidings the foul birds are bringing ;

Hark to the voice which with triumph is ringing ;

Trust to the Dog! Trust to the Dog !

I was about to relieve my long pent up feeling with a fervid exclamation of concurrence in this ditty, when something seemed to fall with a sound like thunder in my Den. Rousing myself to see what it was, I found that I had dropped the copy of the *Pilgrim's Progress* which I had been reading, and that my Den in the wilderness was really my library at home. There lay the book, the key to my dream. I picked up the fateful volume, and holding it before me, said—I fear in a somewhat histrionic way—"O, John Bunyan, most wonderful of dreamers, would that thou wert here to interpret this my dream; to help me to unravel the riddle of the pigmies, to show me how to obtain the protection of the Dog!" My wish was an impossible one; for (as the reader into whose hands this portfolio may fall is almost certain to know) John Bunyan has been a little while dead—dead as a door nail. Guess then, O reader! of my Portfolio. Guess the moral of my dream! For myself I shall do what in me lies to detect the Pigmies in whatever form or disguise they may appear, believing that when the dangers thicken, there is the good Dog ready for the spring in defence of the great British Empire in East and West.

Thus, dear Mr. Editor, this leaf from the Portfolio closes. Between you and your readers and myself, I may say, as a close secret, that I think I can see here (through the thin varnish of Peregrine Jay) more than two "eminent statesmen" who allow to the pigmies more than their due; who (to take your Indian share of the dream) give to Manchester what belongs to India, and to "Party, what was meant for mankind." I think it more than possible that a day not very distant, may try the union of England and India to the strain, and then that you and we shall stand back to back, and shoulder to shoulder, on a basis which will ennoble the historic union, which is capable of greater things, than any known before. Depend upon it the Empire—now silent down to its deepest depths—is the Dog, which will be both heard and felt when the time of trial shall have come.

A FRIEND OF REIS and RAYYET.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Notable Facts.—Intense heat augments the annoyances of skin disease, and encourages the development of febrile disorders; wherefore they should, as they may, be removed by these detergent and purifying preparations. In stomach complaints, liver affections, pains and spasms of the bowels, Holloway's ointment well rubbed over the affected part immediately gives the greatest ease, prevents congestion and inflammation, checks the threatening diarrhoea and averts incipient cholera. The poorer inhabitants of large cities will find these remedies to be their best friend when any pestilence rages, or when from unknown causes, eruptions, boils, abscesses, or ulcerations betoken the presence of taints or impurities within the system, and call for instant and effective curative medicines.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

NEWS from the new Brazilian Republic are not peaceful. Rio is a sort of military garrison, and the whole country may be said to be under martial law.

It is said the late William Gifford Palgrave left behind him an extensive work in poetry. It is autobiographical. It consists of nearly 15,000 lines written in *terza rima* and is named "A Pageant."

THE Reichstag has rejected, by 121 votes to 89, the proposal for the exemption of the clergy from military service, but has agreed to the mitigation of the terms of service for theological students. It has further decided to repeal the law of 1874, under which clergymen who had been deprived of their cures by the State and continued to officiate, could be expelled the country.

IN Berlin they propose to hold an International Exhibition, in 1897.

THE Postal Convention of 1856 between France and England expires on April 30 next. It has been denounced by England.

GREEK is the court language in Epirus. It has been so from time immemorial. It has such a hold on the inhabitants, that the Mussulmans of the district know no other language, and the Koran has to be interpreted to them in Greek. By an order of the Turkish Government, Greek has been prohibited in the Courts of Justice at Yanina, the capital. The change is equally inconvenient to the advocates and the general population, and no wonder a petition has gone up to the Sultan to revoke the decree.

THE Director of the Mint of the United States estimates the world's production of gold in 1888 at 159,490 kilogrammes, valued at 105,994,150 dols. The German statistician Dr. Adolph Soetbeer, of Göttingen, has also arrived at nearly the same figure, estimating the metal at 160,000 kilogrammes, valued at 106,267,000 dols. They, however, widely differ in their estimates of the less precious metal, silver. While the American puts it at 3,427,265 kilogrammes, of an average sterling silver value of 103,556,260 dols, or a coinage value of 142,437,150 dols, the German has arrived at the figure 3,637,000 kilogrammes, of a silver value of 109,932,000 dols, and a coining value of 155,000,000 dols.

THE coal capacity of the world has been a matter of speculation for some time. Here is one of the recent estimates. It does not take into account the immense coalfields in the North American Continent :—

"The low countries, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany and Bohemia, possess coal mines of a surface area of about 59,000 square miles. Russia alone has 22,000 square miles. The deposits of the island of Formosa amount to something like 10,000 square miles, some of the coal veins ranging up to 96 ft. in thickness. The coalfields of Austria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Persia cover about 39,000 square miles, while those of China are estimated at the enormous figure of 4,000,000 square miles. But these are not all. The Falkland Islands, Patagonia and Peru are very rich in coal, while the Southern part of Chili is one immense deposit. In Brazil, veins varying in thickness from 17 to 25 feet are found in numbers, and in the United States of Columbia there is an abundance of the mineral. Mexico and the Vancouver Islands are also well supplied, there being probably not far from 20,000 square miles, while the deposits thus far discovered in Tasmania, New Caledonia and Natal are estimated to cover 1,000,000 square miles, the larger number of these deposits not yet having been worked."

THE American Consul at Manila thus reports on the tobacco cultivation in the Philippines :—

"The abandonment of the Government monopoly in 1882 gave the trade a great stimulus by the investment of private capital in it and a more equitable system of dealing with the native cultivators. There has therefore been a marked increase in the production. Formerly each unmarried native was required to set out 4,000 plants a year, and each married man 8,000, the crop to be delivered to the officials at a standard price, which was just 50 per cent. below that now paid. The gross revenue received from the monopoly was about £800,000 per annum. At present there is a licence tax of about £20 a year for manufacturing tobacco. The principal company engaged in the trade now is the Compania General, which owns large tobacco estates, has a capital of about three millions sterling, employs 10,000 hands, and produces 80,000,000 cigars, 400,000,000 cigarettes, and 5,000,000 lb. of cut tobacco annually. It is a Spanish company; there are also two large

German firms, six Spanish, and a number of Chinese. The best tobaccos come from the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, in Luzon, the annual produce from these being 60,000 to 100,000 tons. The method of cultivating and curing differs but little from that followed in other tobacco-producing countries. All Manila tobacco is made into cigars and cigarettes, plug, fine cut, or pipe tobacco being unknown there. It is classified in six grades according to the size and quality of the leaves. The total area of land under tobacco is about 60,000 acres. Last year the total export of cigars was 112,074,000, of which 26,715,000 went to Spain and 17,871,000 to Great Britain and the British possessions. In 1887 the total export amounted to 121,350 tons, and in 1888 to 184,548 tons."

THE Elect of God continue to be under a ban in the Empire of all the Russias. As a rule, they are not allowed to possess property. An exception is, however, made in favor of the learned—Jewish Doctors or Masters of Laws or Arts. A holder of a diploma of either of the three learned degrees has been granted the right to reside in all parts of the empire and, in virtue of such right, to acquire property in the district of his residence. But there the right ceases. It has been recently held by the Courts that such right is not transferable or heritable. A law student of the Jewish race transferred by a deed his houses and land, in Kieff, to his wife also of the same persuasion with himself, in her own right. The Notary Public objected to sanction the deed. The matter went to Court. It held that the right to acquire property was the result of an exception to the law granted in favor of the Jewish Doctor or Master of Laws or Arts, individually, and was not communicable to his wife or children. The decision has been upheld by the Court of Cassation of the Senate in St. Petersburg.

ARRANGEMENTS were complete when the last mail left England, for a marriage, at St. Mary's Church, Maryport, of a deaf and dumb couple, by a deaf and dumb clergyman.

COLONEL Pevtsoff, the head of the Thibetan Expedition, has justified his confidence. He has found a convenient North-Western pass and has arrived on the great table-land of Thibet. He finds the country round desolate and uninhabited. The southern portion of the plateau is, however, well watered and wooded. The table-land is 12,000 feet above the level of the sea.

THE Mohunt Bhagavam Dossjee of Hathiram Mutt, Tripati, has, as a matter of course, appealed against the sentence of three years' imprisonment. He has ceased to be the Mohunt, having, by a registered deed, transferred all his rights and privileges as such to his senior disciple Mohabir Dossjee. The convicted Mohunt has been lodged at the Vellore Central Jail, where he was removed, with some dignity in his own carriage escorted by a strong body of Police, from the Chittor Sub-Jail. He refuses to take any cooked food, living on fruit and water.

IN Madras city, one Sarvana Moodley has been sentenced to 3 weeks' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 25 fine, for selling an obscene book called *Kokokum* with obscene prints. The Magistrate has also ordered the destruction of the books.

THE Nadiad Agricultural and Cattle Exhibition has been announced for the 19th. His Excellency the Governor of Bombay will open the Show. It was started in the year 1883, and is held biennially. It was accordingly due last year, but that being a bad agricultural season, it comes off now. Although tracing its origin to the then Collector Mr. G. F. M. Grant of Kaira, it is entirely a free institution. It is independent of Government aid, and no charge is made for admission. The expenses are met from private donations. The Railway Companies in Gujerat make a contribution by charging the exhibits single fare for double journey.

THE Bengal Tenancy Act—VIII of 1885—came into operation on the 1st November 1885, the sections—61 to 64—relating to deposit of rent and the Chap. XII relating to distraint being postponed to 1st February 1886. The Act by its own operation does not apply to the Town of Calcutta, the Division of Orissa and the Scheduled Districts specified in the third Part of the First Schedule of the Scheduled Districts Act XIV of 1874, but it is open to the Lieutenant-Governor, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to ex-



tend the whole or any portion of the law to the Division of Orissa or any part thereof. In the year of its operation, the Collector of Balasore recommended the extension of the Act to the Orissa Division. But the proposal received no local support and the Government put it by as premature. There is now a fresh proposition for the extension and from a different quarter. The Director of the Department of Agriculture and Land Records has reported that the laws now in force are hindrances to settlement proceedings now being held. He finds that they do not supply an adequate machinery for adjusting rents, inasmuch as they do not require the rayyets to question the Settlement Officer's proceedings till the record is completed, and that the procedure which they established has proved practically unworkable where it has been contested. He has therefore recommended the speedier process of Chapter X of the Tenancy Act. The Local Government is disposed to think that if the particular Chapter is to be extended, it will be convenient to introduce the entire law. Sir Stuart Bayley has, accordingly, invited the opinion of the Board and of the Revenue officers employed in Orissa, as also of those interested. The opinions should be transmitted to the Government before the 15th April, 1890.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that Mr. H. Lee has begun his work in Midnapur with his usual vigour. When he was last in charge of the district, he won golden opinions. Only a week or so after taking charge, he has gone touring in the interior and has inspected the Sub-Divisional, Sub-Registry and Settlement offices. At the Hamilton School, he distributed prizes to the boys, and Mrs. Lee to the girls. He has taken up the question of the drainage of the villages, where, as the late Mr. H. V. Bayley stated in one of his reports on the district, "a moderate rainfall destroys the crop of the year." With his knowledge of the district, we expect Mr. Lee to deal with the question not as one of Rupees, annas, and pies, or to investigate it with the borrowed light of his subordinates. At one of the sub-divisions at least, the old Tamlook, he may find a good field for work.

A NOTIFICATION dated the 11th February, 1890, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 12th February following, authorizes all Collectors in the Lower Provinces of Bengal to discharge the functions of Revenue Officers under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act VIII of 1885, vesting them with the powers of a Settlement Officer under Rule 1, Chapter VI of the Rules framed by Government under that Act.

DURING 1890, the following Mahomedan holidays will be observed in all public offices and Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the offices of Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt Rowannah and Opium Sale Departments of the Board of Revenue:—

Eed-ul-fitr, which falls on the 21st May, or if the moon be not visible on the 20th May, on the 22nd May.

Eed-uz-zoha, which falls on the 28th July, or if the moon be not visible on the 18th July, on the 29th July.

Mohurram, the last two days of which fall on the 26th and 27th August, or, if the moon be visible on the 16th August, on the 25th and 26th August.

Fatihah-doz-dahum, which falls on the 27th October, or, if the moon be not visible on the 15th October, on the 28th October.

THE Rajchandra College, Barisal, has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Arts up to the B. A. Standard and in Law. When will the rival college be raised to the same standard?

THE latest day for submission of the statement of the requirements and probable expenditure of District Boards shall henceforth be the 15th of November.

THE Calcutta Municipality has in right earnest taken up the question of a dhobikhana. A piece of land, within its added jurisdiction, measuring about 5 bighas and 14 cottahs, No. 3, Woolfubagan, Dihi Punnannagram, district 24-Pergunnahs, has just been declared under the Act. This is a very desirable step in sanitation, and will bring joy and comfort to many homes.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT was opened on Tuesday. The Speech from the Throne opens with the usual announcement of friendly relations with all Foreign Powers. It justifies the action taken in Nyassaland. The acts committed by the Portuguese are regarded as an insult to the British flag, and a violation of Portugal's word to withdraw the military forces from the territory where settlements were formed by Native tribes under British protection. The condition of Ireland continues to improve and agrarian crimes to diminish. The Queen is gratified at the Melbourne Conference and applauds the desire for federation. Her Majesty hopes that the anti-slavery Conference at Brussels will promote the repression of the slave trade. The Bills to be introduced relate to tithes, workmen's dwellings in London, Irish Land Purchase and an elective system of Local Government in Ireland on the same lines as in England and Scotland. Parliament will be asked for better accommodation in camps and barracks, for the distribution, and the health and comfort of the troops.

THE next day, the Upper House adopted an Address. At the debate, Lord Granville regretted what he termed the hasty and harsh policy adopted with regard to Portugal. The Prime Minister, in reply, said that Portugal had been repeatedly warned during the past two years that Great Britain could not recognize the Portuguese claims to the territory under British protection. The acts of Major Pinto demanded prompt action to impress the Natives with Britain's power to protect them.

On the 13th, in the Lower House, Mr. Parnell was to have moved an amendment to the Address saying that unjust and coercive laws in Ireland are invading the liberties of the people and impeding amicable relations with England, and that the House regrets that the Queen's Speech omits to make mention of any proposals for remedying the discontent in Ireland.

The House has rejected by a majority of 48 votes Sir William Vernon Harcourt's amendment declaring the *Times* guilty of a breach of privilege in reference to the Parnell Commission, and summoning the editor to the bar of the House.

SIR James Fergusson assured the House that the relations between the British and Portuguese Cabinets continue friendly. We read at the same time that Lord Salisbury in his latest despatch refuses and ridicules Portugal's claim to arbitrate.

Portugal is arming. Decrees are out for completion of the defences of Lisbon, the arming of the Forts with new guns, laying of torpedoes in the Tagus, and the reorganization of the Army. There is a proposition to buy some light war ships and issue bonds to cover the cost. They have also started a National Defence Fund, the King and Queen and the ex-Queen subscribing 20,000*l*.

IN Bulgaria, a plot to overthrow the Government has been discovered. Major Panitza with six other officers are under arrest. In some quarters it is attributed to Russia. Prince Ferdinand has offered to abdicate.

THE Due d'Orleans having just returned to France from his foreign travels, there is an alarm in the capital. He offered himself a candidate for the army. In explanation of his application, he wrote to M. de Freycinet that he was of age, that he was aware of his disability to take any rank, but he was not incapacitated by the law to be enrolled as any ordinary Frenchman. The reply he received was that he found himself arrested. He was next tried by the Tribunal of the Seine and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. In Court, he defended himself. It was crowded by Royalists and Republicans. The Royalists made a demonstration in the Boulevard. They proceeded to and crowned the statue of Henry the Fourth.

THE Prince is touring in the Native States. From Kapurthala the Royal party came to Patiala, where they arrived rather late in the evening of Friday the 7th. A large encampment had been pitched for their reception, as well as for the accommodation of about fifty other guests from neighbouring stations. Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour,

there were illuminations and fireworks which the Royal party witnessed after dinner. The early part of Saturday was spent in receiving visits from, and returning them to, the Chiefs of Patiala, Dholepur, and Jhind, the Prince being also shown the Maharaja of Patiala's large collection of jewels and other curiosities. After lunch, the Prince went out shooting, and spent a couple of hours among the partridge and quail. Returning to the Patiala Railway station, the party then left for Delhi, which was reached on the morning of Sunday. The arrival was private. The Prince drove to Ludlow Castle which was specially fitted up for the occasion. At 11 O'clock, the Prince attended Divine Service. Monday was spent in visiting the Kutub Minar. In the evening, there was a *Conversazione* at the Durbar Hall where the entertainment provided was a nautch and display of fireworks. The roads and principal buildings were illuminated. On Tuesday, the Prince visited the Fort and the Jamma Masjid. His Royal Highness took an exceptional interest in the sights of Delhi, especially in the Kutab which he saw the day before. Having had quite a busy week before coming to Delhi, the Prince's stay here was observed as a kind of rest. The next day, he went snipe-shooting to one of the Jheels. The visit to Ulwar having been given up on account of the Maharaja's illness, His Royal Highness went direct from Delhi to Jeypore on the evening of Wednesday, where he arrived the next morning. From the railway station the Royal party were driven in carriages to the Sanganeer Gate where an elephant procession was formed. His Royal Highness headed the procession on a huge tusker accompanied by the Maharaja and the Resident. This was a happy idea, as besides being a grand Oriental display, it gave the people a good opportunity of seeing their Royal Prince. The procession passed through the city and made its exit by the Ajmere Gate. The exchange of visits with the Maharaja occupied the forenoon.

THE report of the Parnell Commission has just been made public. The Judges seem unanimous. The text is judicially calm. The gravest charges are declared unfounded and unproved. The document has satisfied all parties. The *Times* claims that, with the exception of the forgeries, the report fully confirms the charges of "Parnellism and Crime." The *Gladstonian* and the Irish Parnellite press speak of it as a triumphant acquittal of the Parnellites. The Unionist press eulogises the fairness of the conclusions. The Conservative press is satisfied that the Judges hold the Parnellites morally answerable for the crimes and outrages in Ireland.

THE fifth annual meeting of the National Association for supplying female medical aid to the Women of India, held under the presidency of the Viceroy at the Town Hall on the 7th instant, was unusually interesting. The attendance of ladies and gentlemen was all that could be desired, and the character of the speeches was of a markedly superior character. The Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins, in presenting the report, made a lucid statement of the progress made and the satisfactory position now attained by the Association. He illustrated his remarks by references to a map of India which accompanied the report and on which were marked by red spots the places where the Association's operations had already been extended. Having taken his audience on a tour, as he said, over the whole country, and shown how through the impetus given by its noble founder, India was fairly studded with these beneficent institutions from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin and from Quetta to Mandalay, Mr. Hutchins concluded with acknowledging the great services done to the Association by Lady Lansdowne and the Honorary Secretary, Captain Streatfeild, who had borne the brunt of the daily work and correspondence. While the financial position of the Association was of course one to be regarded with satisfaction, there was still a sum of half a lac of rupees needed to build the Dufferin Zenana Hospital in Calcutta, and he made a vigorous appeal to the public spirit and generosity of Bengal and especially of Calcutta, not to allow themselves to be left behind when much more was being done in other parts of the country.

The other speakers who followed Mr. Hutchins were the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amir Ali, the Hon'ble Dr. Rash Behari Ghose, the Hon'ble Mr. Nulkar, Mr. A. M. Bose, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Viceroy. All the speakers spoke in cordial support of the appeal made by the Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins for funds, and there were not unnaturally wistful glances cast at the surplus of the Prince's Reception Fund. It would be invidious to make

any distinction where all spoke so well, but, of the native speakers, the most telling speeches were those of Dr. Ghose and Mr. Bose. Both spoke with great humour and eloquence, and were complimented by the Viceroy in his concluding remarks. Dr. Rash Behari, alluding to the red spots in the map, made a good point by looking forward to a time when it would be, as he said in the words of Shakespeare, "one red." Both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy spoke in their usual excellent style and commended the appeal for funds with great and earnest sympathy. The Viceroy noticed Dr. Rash Behari's suggestive allusion to the red in the map with great good humour. Lord Lansdowne said:—

"I believe that more than one Viceroy has been credited with a desire to paint the whole map of India red, and I am not sure that a similar accusation has not once or twice been already levelled at my head. I am quite prepared to say that, if by painting the whole map of India red is meant painting it red in the sense indicated in the speeches of the two gentlemen who have addressed you so eloquently this evening, I am ready to commence the process at once, and I join with them in hoping that before very long this little eruption of red spots which now somewhat sparsely ornaments the surface of the country may eventually arrive at what is, I believe, known in medical phraseology as the confluent stage."

Altogether, the meeting was a great success, and after it, the Zenana Hospital, which is to perpetuate Lady Dufferin's name in this city, ought not to languish for want of support.

THE movement for the publication of cheap and wholesome literature in this country has, at any rate, luck on its side. Mr. Johnston, who originated the idea, can have no complaint on the score of want of patronage. Coming out with the best credentials from a late Viceroy, he had an easy task in winning the smiles of the highest in this land. Already, Lord Lansdowne and Sir Stuart Bayley look approvingly on his scheme, and if patronage were all, it is bound to succeed. Mr. Johnston evidently knows not only to win patronage but to ensure its permanence. Towards this, the essential thing was, of course, to bring the Department of Education to look with the same favor as the higher magnates, and Sir Alfred Croft already seems to relish Mr. Johnston's idea very well. The movement in England was started under most illustrious auspices, and a Minister of Indian Education may well feel proud of associating his name with a similar movement in this country. So far everything promises well for Mr. Johnston's project.

In itself, it certainly looks an excellent project and highly plausible. An agency for the production of cheaper and better books, can only be a blessing at all times, and in all places. The scheme has a philanthropic aspect too. It aims at counteracting the taste for obscene books which finds too much encouragement from the present character of a great part of local publications. We quite see all this, but still the prospect of success in an enterprise of this kind does not appear very hopeful. We have already literature enough, of the most unexceptionable character, placed at our doors at sufficiently accommodating prices by a number of English publishing firms. We have indeed almost an *embarras de riches* in this respect, and for any rival enterprise to succeed it would be necessary to outbid the competition of the mother country. To do this will require the employment of pecuniary intellectual and moral resources, which, so far as we can see, do not appear to be forthcoming. England owes her cheap literature to the sacrifices of publishing heroes like Knight and the Chambers brothers. The first ruined himself in the attempt, and the struggles of the latter were equally heroic, if more successful in the end. We do not know Mr. Johnston sufficiently, but the movement has to face great practical difficulties.

THE way in which British Pundits air their little knowledge of Indian words is astounding for its effrontery. Without the slightest acquaintance with Sanskrit, many of them trace, with the coolest assurance, the etymologies of purely Sanskrit words adopted into the English tongue, and offer them as evidence of scholarship and research. In a recent compilation entitled "The Dictionary of Every-day Difficulties in reading, writing, and speaking the English language; or, hard words made easy," published by Messrs. Ward Lock and Co., and which is introduced to the world with the modest announcement that "the best authorities have been consulted, to secure the accuracy of the definitions and explanations," the word *Brahman* is explained as "the priests or philosophers among the Hindoos; they take their title from Abraham, whom they called *Brahma*, and affected to imitate the life of

the patriarch by living in deserts." The syntax, so far as the collocation and the sequence of tenses is concerned, may be a little faulty, but then the etymology is above reproach. The Brahmans of India, therefore, must be held to have derived their name from the patriarch of the Old Testament, whom, besides, they affected to imitate by living in the wilderness. There were, therefore, no Brahmans before the days of Abraham. The sacred threads of these people have very probably been derived from a calf's tether which the sturdy patriarch happened to have flung across his shoulders at the time the first Brahman chanced to have a peep at him. It is true Abraham knew not to read and write and modern scholars have failed to find any resemblance between the Hebrew and the Sanskrit tongues. But then it is not difficult to trace the devotion of the Indian Brahmans to intellectual culture and literary pursuits to the accident of Abraham's poring over certain broad leaves of a forest tree lying before him at the time the crafty progenitor of the Indian priests took a secret survey of the Jewish shepherd. The act of Abraham was easily mistaken by the timid on-looker for deep study of some writing. Hurrah for the learned editor employed by Messrs. Ward and Lock! The *savants* engaged in the study of Indian antiquity had better shut up shop. Here is as interesting and as historical an account of the origin and rise of the Indian Brahmans as any man in the full possession of his senses could desire. Messrs. Trübner and Co. also had better take care. The diary kept in old Indo-Scythiac, the common parent of Hebrew and Sanskrit, by the first progenitor of the Indian Brahmans, written up from day to day in course of his peregrinations from Asia Minor to the land of the five rivers, may any day be given to the world by Messrs. Ward Lock & Co., for its admiration and to the eternal confusion of all Oriental scholars.

THE Accountant-General, Bengal, has estimated the Imperial receipts under the head of Stationery and Printing for the year 1890-91, at Rs. 48,000 and the Provincial receipts at Rs. 1,65,000, against Rs. 47,112 and Rs. 1,74,959, the actuals of 1888-89. The estimate of expenditure under the Imperial head "Stationery purchased for Central Stores" for the current year has been raised from Rs. 9,25,000 to Rs. 12,55,000. The estimate under the same head for the next year has been put down at Rs. 14,96,000. The increase is due to the anticipated demands on account of the Census and for the purchase of country-made cream-wove and white-laid paper in place of the English cream-wove and blue-laid paper. The next year's Budget provides for the pay at Rs. 7 a month of a durwan to look after a godown for the storage of stationery in Strand Road and for that at Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 a month of an additional clerk for the compilation in the Stationery Department of the detailed comparative statement of the value of stationery for the offices and departments of the Government of India. The sanctioned grants are :—

<i>Imperial.</i>		
Stationery purchased for Central Stores	...	Rs. 14,96,000.
<i>Provincial.</i>		
Stationery Office at the Presidency	...	Rs. 1,11,640.
Stationery purchased in the country	...	" 70,000.
Government presses	...	" 3,03,000.
Printing at private presses	...	" 10,000.
Stationery supplied from Central Stores	...	" 5,35,000.

THE new Municipal law is indeed a hardship on owners of busti lands. To raise a larger revenue, Sir Henry Harrison has, among other ingenious contrivances, with the sanction of an accommodating legislature, thrown on the owners of land the duty of realizing the rates payable by owners of huts. It does not matter whether the rates are realized or realizable or not. The landlord must advance to the Municipality the rates payable by his tenants. The owner of the land must satisfy the demands both against himself and the owners of the huts. The law is not, indeed, wholly inconsiderate. It allows a certain percentage which, however, is not equal to the risks and responsibilities of the new situation. Section 117 of the Act says :—

"The entire consolidated rate imposed upon bustee land and the huts built thereon shall, after deducting therefrom a sum equal to one-eighth of such rates, be paid by the owner of such land. The sum deducted shall be retained by the owner of the land as a set off against the expenses which may be incurred in collecting the portion of the rate recoverable from the occupiers of the land or the owner or occupiers of huts built thereon, under the provisions of the next succeeding section, and as a commutation of all refunds in respect

of huts which are vacant or which may be removed or destroyed during the continuance of the period for which the rate is imposed."

The law is not uniformly considerate, though. While it allows a deduction, it deprives the landlord of the general right granted by it of claiming refunds in cases of vacancy.

The next section referred to is :—

"Whenever a rate is imposed on bustee lands, the Commissioners shall cause the land and the huts standing on it to be separately valued, and the owner of the land may recover from the owner of each hut half the consolidated rate paid by him for the land on which the hut stands, and the entire consolidated rate payable on account of the hut."

The proviso to the first named Section that "no additional rates shall be imposed on account of any new huts built or of any huts enlarged during the year for which the valuation remains in force, under the provisions of Sec. 124," is of doubtful advantage to the landlord, for although, under Sec. 124 "Bustee lands with the huts upon them, or lands that are waste or used for agricultural purposes, may be valued annually at the discretion of the Commissioner, and shall be so valued on the application of the owner. When not re-valued, the former valuation shall remain in force from year to year until a re-valuation is made," the municipal law itself allows no relief to the landlord when his demand for revaluation is refused or put off. He is, again, not permitted the speedy procedure secured to the Municipality, for realization of the rates, but must have course to the expensive and dilatory law Courts for collection of the rates as of rents.

To bring all grades of landlords under the operation of these sections, a "Bustee" has been defined to mean "a plot of bustee land, not less than ten cottahs in area, bearing one number in the assessment book, or a collection of such plots adjacent to one another exceeding in the aggregate one bigah in area." (Sec. 3.)

SUCH a law could not but raise a protest. It must be confessed, though, that the agitation made against the new measure before it passed the Legislative Council, was extremely feeble. It was, again, quite hurried through the Council, without a tithe of that care for rights of property which it is exhibiting in the Port Trust Bill now passing through the same Chamber.

THE loudest and longest opposer of the improved law is Baboo Jodoolal Mullick. He still resents its harshness. Although it has been in operation for nearly a year, he still considers that it ought not to be given effect to. At any rate, he thinks that the rates should not be realized in advance, but the landlord should be given enough time to recover them from the tenants to enable him to make the necessary payment to the municipality. He therefore refused to pay certain Bustiland bills, and for this recusancy he has been disgraced.

LAST week, the municipality enforced the law against the Baboo. Anticipating opposition from his firm attitude, the municipality had invoked the aid of the police, and invaded the Baboo's house for purposes of distraint. Jodoolal had not anticipated this swoop, as he could be least prepared for the insult in his own house and before his own people and immediate neighbours, specially when he did not mean to evade or escape the municipal impost. The municipality and the police found a free, if not a cordial, welcome to the house and were given their own choice of the goods. They found the Baboo meek as a lamb, and marched off in glee with two carriages from the stables.

JODOOLAL feels the humiliation, as well he may, though of his own inviting, and is inconsolable. A mild Hindu, his only recourse is to law and lawyers. A cool, calculating Calcutta Baboo, he is preparing for a suit for damages for injured dignity. In the meantime, Messrs. Beeby and Ruter, have, on his behalf, addressed the following communication to the Secretary to the Calcutta Corporation, stating the case for the Baboo, of course, with lawyerly reserve :—

"SIR,—With reference to the seizure and removal of two carriages belonging to our client Baboo Jodoolal Mullick for realization of Bustee Bills, he regrets exceedingly that the Corporation should have adopted a course which appears to him unnecessary and harsh.

The Bustee rates are under the present Municipal Act for the first time recoverable from the owner, and there has been considerable delay on the part of the Commissioners themselves in delivering to him the lists of tenants and the rates due from them. The first instalment of the lists reached him so late as September last and the lists are not even now complete.

Our client does not at present contend that the Corporation might not be legally entitled to adopt the course they have chosen to take, but his grievance is that they should have put the law in force against him for these rates, considering that he has paid all other rates which he was liable for, and as regards these rates had actually applied to the Commissioners for time to pay.

There could not have been the least doubt as to our client's ability to pay, and he thinks that he was entitled to some consideration at the hands of the Commissioners before they put him to the indignity of having his property seized, especially having regard to the fact that the amount due from the tenants, though large, consisted of small sums which had to be collected by him.

And moreover as to the actual seizure, he thinks that surely there was no necessity to attend with a number of officials of the Corporation and a body of Police, and attempt to create disturbance which he at once stopped by having his coach house door opened for the purpose of allowing the removal of his carriages. The number of officials seem to have been unable to take care of the carriages removed, for our client has learned that one of them has been damaged through their carelessness.

Our client complains that the law should have been taken advantage of to insult and annoy a person, and he will seek such redress for the wrongs done him as may be open to him and as he may be advised."

By the time the suit is filed, or matured for hearing, Sir Henry Harrison, the author and enforcer of the law, will have left the municipality, for a higher and a quieter place.

THE connection of Fort William with the drainage system of the Town has been decided upon. The present practice is to void the sullage of the Fort into the river and to cart away the nightsoil through the city to the municipal depot in Park Street. The first is no doubt extremely objectionable. The last may be tolerated as a necessary nuisance. After a deal of correspondence between the municipal Engineer and the Government, Mr. Kimber has suggested that the connection be made at the west end of Dhurmotollah Street to the No. 4 main receiving sewer. Up to the point of connection, the project consists in the adoption of sluices hydro-pneumatic system. We hope the authorities concerned are satisfied that this connection will not introduce a new element of unhealthiness into the barracks.

THE Leprous Memorialists have reached a subscription of Rs. 45,064-4. There are no Petits in Bengal, or by this time it would be swelled by lacs. The Memorialists now look out for other aids. They are, of course, sure of the sympathy and co-operation of the Calcutta Corporation, and propose

1. To ask the Local Government to sanction the merging of the present Leper Asylum in a new Asylum to be built away from the centre of the population under the name of the Albert Victor Asylum.

2. To ask the Local Government to allow the present site and buildings to be eventually sold and the proceeds together with the present endowment of Rs. 15,000 and any other fund or funds belonging to the present Asylum to be applied as above indicated.

Sir Stuart Bayley has begun to forgive them, and, anticipating their proposal, has ordered—as we announced some weeks ago—for an extra provision of Rs. 17,000 on the Leper account in the next year's Budget.

LAST Saturday, as announced, Mr. Percival Spencer rose and descended, but vastly below the height he had proposed. The drop was not 2 miles. It was only 1,680 feet, according to three simultaneous observations with theodolites by officers of the Survey Department, and according to his own 10,500 feet. To-day, he takes up with him a native—P. C. Laha.

SIR Lepel and Lady Griffin arrived at Calcutta on Sunday last, and left for Burma on Thursday morning by the Rangoon Mail Steamer, to inspect the Ruby Mines.

IN the last issue of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, Sir Lepel justifies his previous article on the Native States and replies to Moulvie Madhi Ali and others.

BOTH the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor are expected to be present at the Mahomedan Literary Society's entertainment, at the Town Hall, on Monday night.

WE congratulate Dr. James R. Wallace on his having brought out his medical monthly, *The Medical Record*, from the beginning of this year. We hope there is room for a cheap journal on medicine, and the editor's professional experience will, we dare say, enable him to adapt it to the popular demand.

MR. Marsden, the Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, takes a year's furlough, and the Hon'ble Syed Amcer Hossein, the Northern Division Magistrate, naturally expects to get the officiating appointment. At any rate, there is a precedent on his side. Mr. Amir Ali had a similar promotion in pay, although he continued to do his old duty in the Northern Division. But there are Messrs. Leith and Handley, Barristers-at-

law, and the head, nominal or real, of the Calcutta Magistracy has always been a Civilian or a Barrister.

THE growing taste for floriculture and flowers is an interesting feature of the day. There are now more annual Flower Shows than there used to be. The public appreciation of these, judged from the large numbers of visitors, is also on the increase. The other day's Flower Show at Cossipore, held by Baboo Hem Chunder Mitter, was largely attended, and the number of prizes offered shows that there is not much lack of patronage.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1890.

### MAX MULLER ON ORIENTAL STUDIES.

PROFESSOR Max Muller delivered an admirable speech in inaugurating the School of Modern Oriental Studies established under the auspices of the Imperial Institute. It was admirable from more than one point of view. The claims of Oriental learning could not have a more powerful advocate, and they were presented in every possible light. As a rhetorical effort, the address will always occupy a high place. Its chief excellence, however, to our mind, lay in the subdued spirit of enthusiasm in which it was conceived. The institution realises at last the dream of his life, and the venerable scholar's heart naturally overflowed with joy at the consummation. And well might he feel enthusiastic on such an occasion, and treat the audience to a dryas dust and profound exposition of the merits of Oriental classics. There was, however, a studied avoidance of the severity of the cloister. As an argument for the cultivation of Oriental learning by Englishmen, having such varied relations with India, the address has great popular importance. It is, indeed, something unique. Whether as an appeal to the business instincts of the English people or to the higher political sentiments, Max Muller's elaborate plea for Oriental studies must command respectful attention, and hard, indeed, must that heart be in which it failed to strike a sympathetic chord. The first, and, indeed, the major portion of the address dealt with the subject from a practical point of view. The advantages which an intimate acquaintance with the languages and literature of Eastern countries must confer on Englishmen having commercial, military, or diplomatic interests with those countries, were described with great force and knowledge, and illustrated by references to facts and incidents coming within the range of his own experience of affairs. It is not a mere learned dissertation from a votary of learning, its value is considerably enhanced by its practical character. The professor was in the best form, and spoke with spirit and even sprightliness like any man of affairs.

The position of England in the East is unique. She may have, said the professor, rivals in Europe, but here she stands supreme, unrivalled, unapproached. She wields her scaptre over 300 millions of people who speak Oriental languages; she supplies the markets of 1,000 millions of the people of Asia, and yet for cultivating a knowledge of these languages and educating a sufficient number of young men to serve her interests and maintain her power in the East, England has so far done far less than Russia, France or Germany. For the little, done in this respect, up to this time, the credit belongs to the Universities, rather than to the Government. Oxford and Cambridge had shown great liberality in their expenditure for Oriental teaching, and the



University College and King's College which had now united under the auspices of the Imperial Institute in founding the present School, were also worthy of honorable mention for the part taken by them in the cause. But the cause is of Imperial dimensions, and casual efforts of this kind could scarcely make an adequate impression. Imperial interests, said he, are at stake, and the country has a right to expect Imperial—that is, concentrated—action. Otherwise, asked he, what is the good of an Empire? We might as well go back to the Heptarchy. The wit of the allusion was appreciated and could not fail to tell. The speaker then referred to the liberal provisions made by Russia, France and Prussia for the cultivation of Oriental scholarship, and commended their example and particularly that of Russia to the English Government. No country has been such a patron of Oriental studies, and none, said the professor, was better served by her polyglot diplomatists.

It is impossible to do justice to the address by any words of our own. Our readers must see it for themselves, and we intend reproducing it in our columns for their benefit.

The peroration of the speech was a noble plea for sympathetic treatment of the people in the government of India. The knowledge of Indian languages and literature on the part of the officers of the Government, was the best means of imbruing their minds with those feelings of respect and sympathy for the people the absence of which manifested themselves in the usual character of the administration. Knowledge must precede love, and the Englishmen coming in contact with the Indian races could not come to look on them with kindly feelings without that knowledge of their character which could only be acquired by a study of their literature. This portion of Max Muller's address will not be appreciated by the Anglo-Indians, and already it has met with ridicule at some hands, but it is just as well a noble political creed should now and then be preached to their unwilling ears.

#### ANARCHY IN BHOPAL.

BHOPAL is no more that bed of roses which the sublime imagination of the blind supporters of the unfortunate Begum made it, after the retirement of Sir Lepel Griffin and transfer of Colonel Ward from the head of its administration. No longer the milk of human kindness flows from the renowned Tal—no more are the lives of its inhabitants safe. As reported by some of the leading Urdu papers up the country, it is again the hot-bed of fanaticism, and anarchy reigns supreme. The administration of an obedient pleader-minister, with no experience of administration of any kind, selected by the Begum on purely private considerations on the part of her husband, has proved what was expected by the discerning and the disinterested. The deposed husband of the Begum has asserted himself supreme, and the new Dewan is a mere blind. While Siddiq Husain is seriously ill and bedridden, and physicians have been called from Lucknow to treat him, Mirza Fazl Beg, the able *Madar-ul-Maham* or Dewan of the heir-apparent and her most confidential and loyal servant, has been shot dead by a Wahabi ruffian, named Alimuddin. He fired twice at the Dewan and deliberately killed him while pretending to be engaged in a religious discussion with the Dewan. This incident has, naturally caused great sensation and alarm, and greatly shocked the heir-apparent and her whole family, who are now apprehensive of their own lives. With this news, comes another report, through the Rampore *Dubdabai Sekundari*, of the resignation of the new Prime minister and the preparations of his *protégés* to leave Bhopal. It is an open secret that the diabolical assassination of the able and trusted officer of the heir-apparent

was instigated by some of her enemies who, in their Wahabi way, removed what they believed might prove a possible thorn on their side. It is a curious coincidence that this unhappy incident should take place when the much abused Sir Lepel Griffin is in this country. Where are those advocates of justice and humanity, the mouth-piece of the dumb millions, the fierce critics of the Indian administration, who moved heaven and earth against the firm and just actions of Sir Lepel Griffin? Let them open their eyes and see what mischief they have done. It is impossible for ordinary editors, innocent of any knowledge of the Wahabis and their tenets, and blindly ignorant of the true internal affairs of Bhopal, to know what mischief has been done by Siddiq Husain Khan throughout India as well as in Bhopal, and how the resources of the Bhopal State have been wickedly employed in promoting and spreading the notorious Wahabi propaganda. He got most objectionable books compiled by learned Wahabi Moulvies and had them distributed among British subjects to the detriment of public peace and good government. I am disposed to think that for these offences, the Government of India treated Siddiq very leniently, and most weakly allowed him to resume the Bhopal Government.

No one could have removed those dangerous elements of atrocity and fanaticism from Bhopal without a strong and a firm hand, and none was more fitted for the task than Sir Lepel Griffin.

In what regard or respect the people of Bhopal hold Siddiq Husain, would appear when, for attendance on him during illness, his confidential friend and countryman Shaikh Asghar Ali, the well-known scent dealer of Lucknow, has been especially summoned. He is so much hated by the people of Bhopal that his own servants could not be trusted. If Siddiq Husain could be kept out from the Government, if not from Bhopal, by this time or long before, her present lamentable situation would have been remedied.

Now, at any rate, the British Government must deal with the matter firmly and with greater humanity for the people of Bhopal. If a minister is required, a strong and experienced person, either Native Mahomedan or European, should be appointed, and Siddiq Husain should be shelved. The Begum herself should be told that if she must yield to the wily insinuations of the husband, all power should be taken out of her hands. If a minister is not approved, then a Council of Regency, with a strong Mahomedan element, should be appointed to administer the State. Any delay in this behalf may end in the assassination of the heir-apparent or of her beloved and popular husband. Anyhow, Wahabism and anarchy must cease in Bhopal.

ANTI-WAHABI.

#### CIVIL JUSTICE AT HOWRAH.

IT is a pity that in a place like Howrah, which is so near to Calcutta, the civil judiciary should not be strong. The policy of non-interference with Local Self-Government, is, perhaps, being carried too far. Complaints against the Commissioners are, as a rule, refused to be enquired into by the Lieutenant-Governor or those that act in his name. The petitioners are always referred to the Civil Court. Under these circumstances, it is the duty of Government to provide an able and fearless judiciary in cities and towns ruled by Municipal Corporations. In places, again, like Howrah, where Civilian Magistrates always manage to get themselves elected or appointed as Municipal Chairmen, the obligation is all the greater of strengthening the Civil Courts, by appointing the very pick of the service. A perusal, however, of the records of the civil cases instituted against the Howrah Municipality within the last two or three years, will, we are sure, strike the reader with surprise at the helplessness displayed by the presiding officers who heard those cases. Frequent postponements in many cases led to such delay and swelled the costs to such figures that the parties cursed themselves for having resolved to withstand the illegal acts of the Corporation. One case, that of a poor widow, for damages caused a sensation. After the arguments had been closed and at a time when judgment was expected, the Court threw out broad hints to the parties for settling the matter amicably. Our Moonsiffs and Sub-Judges have no idea of what handle they give to accusations,

against themselves, of incompetence and want of independence, by throwing out such hints. In this particular case, the widow, smarting under her wrongs, refused to compromise, but then her pleader, without reference to her, settled the case. In another cause that is pending before the first Moonsiff, the plaintiff is a local Zemindar and Municipal Commissioner. He has sued the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for damages and refund of a sum alleged to have been illegally realised from him under color of the municipal law. Whatever the merits of the cause, after service of summons, when the day fixed for the defendants' appearance came, nobody answered the call for the latter. The Moonsiff then sent for one of the gentlemen who had in other cases appeared before him for the Municipality and who is popularly supposed to be the pleader of the Howrah Municipality. This gentleman also happens to be a Municipal Commissioner himself. Questioned by the Moonsiff about the non-appearance of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman in the matter before him, he answered that he had got no instructions. Even then, instead of allowing the case to go on *ex parte* after proof of the due service of process, the legal luminary on the Bench asked the pleader to put in an application, as a Municipal Commissioner himself, for a postponement. The plaintiff objected and pointed out that a Municipal Commissioner, as such, in the absence of a written power properly executed by the Chairman, could not appear for the Chairman in instituting and defending suits. If the Moonsiff allowed such an extraordinary application, there would be nothing to prevent each of the thirty individual Commissioners that constituted the Howrah Board from filing and defending suits on behalf of the Corporation. Under such circumstances, again, thirty different and contradictory answers would be capable of being put in with reference to one and the same cause. As a clencher the plaintiff might have offered to defend the suit himself in his capacity as a Municipal Commissioner against himself as plaintiff. The plaintiff, however, was overruled, the application was allowed to be put in, and the adjournment prayed for was granted. It would be interesting to ascertain what the Moonsiff would have done if, instead of a Civilian Chairman, the defendant had been somebody else, say, plain Gollam Mullah or Ram Chandra Ghose. The incident has created a sensation. Comparisons are odious, but people cannot help comparing their present Moonsiff with some of his predecessors such as Baboos Upendra Mullick, Poorna Chandra Shome and Bulloram Mullick.

In another case the conduct of a local pleader was the subject of investigation. Sanction was sought to be obtained for prosecuting this legal gentleman on certain very serious charges. The reputation of the present Moonsiff himself came somehow to be mixed up with the matter. The District Judge of Hooghly was moved by the parties. The investigation had commenced and proceeded to a certain length, when, all on a sudden, the matter was allowed to be dropped. The Moonsiff kept his Court open till the extraordinary hour of 9 P.M., for receiving the petition of compromise. The petition was filed by a pleader specially engaged for the purpose in the absence of the pleader who had acted in the cause from the beginning in both the courts. Happy are the people of Howrah who have judicial officers that are so accommodating and that do not mind holding their Courts till gunfire when such important affairs as the compromise of suits have to be decided. It is a pity that neither the District Judge nor the High Court feels disposed to enquire into and minute in terms of enthusiastic approbation such rare instances of prolonged judicial sittings even in such places as Howrah. The local People's Association had at one time endeavoured to supply the place of a chronicler for drawing public attention to the zeal for justice of the same officer in a few other cases. Unfortunately, however, a few friends promptly interfered for suppressing that effort which promised a shock to the modesty of the person selected for such honor.

M.

#### GERMAN AND FRENCH COMMERCE IN MEXICO.

"The South American Journal" says that in a recent number of the *Deutsches Handels Archiv*, a correspondent, writing from Morelia, capital of the State of Michoacan, warns German manufacturers not to enter into direct relations with native commercial houses.

He recommends them the powerful German houses of the capital of Vera Cruz and Colima, as the best means for securing the sale of their articles. The same journal writes:—

This assertion which can only come from the pen of a merchant well versed in the affairs of Mexico, suggests to us to lay before our readers an exact picture of the condition of affairs in that country. Unfortunately we have no doubt that they will be constrained to concur in our views and to confess that the German textile industry, through its trusting in third parties and its ignorance of the commercial conditions of countries beyond the seas, is losing its hold on the Mexican and other markets, just at the time when it imagines that it is strengthening its grasp on the commerce of the world.

About the year 1830, the numerous internal custom houses of Germany and the endeavours of the Hanoverian Government to create rivals to Hamburg in the ports Hamburg and Geestmünde greatly embarrassed the inhabitants of the Hanse towns. It was then the transoceanic craze took possession of the young merchants of Bremen and they turned their attention to the United States (New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston), but more particularly towards the young Republics of Central and South America. They easily obtained employment in English houses, which then controlled the commerce of those countries, and of which there were 90 at Mexico, with branches at San Luis, Potosi, Guadalajara, Zacatecas, Guanajuato, and all the large interior cities. It was not long before these young German clerks developed into able merchants and became dangerous rivals to the English. They ended by absorbing all the business of the country, and in 1879 the 90 English houses had dwindled down to three.

Many German merchants, our pioneers in those lands, after making their fortune, retired to their native land, leaving their transoceanic establishments in the hands of their younger compatriots. In Europe they devoted themselves to doing a commission business and making purchases for their partners in Mexico. Their activity had a most salutary influence on German industry, and when the importation of woollen and silk stuffs into Mexico was prohibited the cotton and linen fabric of Silesia and Bielefeld found excellent opening there. A little later, however, these articles were less sought for and Belfast again took the place as a supplier of dry goods.

The Bremen merchants, who were the first to settle in Mexico, were succeeded by others from Hamburg, Hanover, Oldenburg, and Meklenburg. With the exception of a few Westphalians and Rhinelanders, Central and Eastern Germany have furnished no recruits. The great manufacturers of Saxony, Silesia, and Brandenburg rely altogether on their northern countrymen, and neglect to study the commercial conditions of the countries which supply; they have no representatives there; both orders and shipments pass successively through the hands of their agents at Hamburg or Bremen, of the exporting commission house, of the importing house in Mexico, of the wholesale house, and finally, of the retail merchant, who forms the last link in this long chain. This is too complicated a process for the needs of our time.

The most brilliant period of German commerce in Mexico stretches from 1850 to 1870.

During that period more than 80 German importing houses almost monopolised the trade of the country in manufactured articles. Since that time no new German house has been established in Mexico, and two-thirds of the former ones have, with good or bad grace, been obliged to liquidate. Twenty-two of those houses, which, without including their exports, imported annually from Hamburg 12 shiploads of merchandise, were still flourishing at the fall of Maximilian; at present there remain but three.

On the other hand a large number of French houses, with hundreds of branches, have been established, and they practically monopolise the dry-goods business of the country.

They have been created Gascons, Basques, and Languedocians, who owe their expenditure to strict necessities. Some of them, at starting, earned less in a year than a German clerk spends in a month, and yet they succeeded in laying by one-half of their earnings. The victory they have achieved over their rivals is chiefly due to their temperance and spirit of economy, and also, in a large degree, to their sounder business methods. The German merchants availed themselves of eight months' credit allowed them by importing firms to speculate in agricultural produce and sometimes to cultivate estates or operate mines and mills. The French, on the contrary, always paid cash for their goods, sold them at a small profit, and renewed their assortments frequently. Their efficiency and honesty soon won them esteem and raised them gradually to the position they now occupy.

Last year's statistics show a French population in Mexico of 12,300 of whom 10,000 are employed in selling goods at the counter. The number of Germans, on the other hand, in the whole Republic only reaches 800.

The majority of the French merchants who have grown rich in Mexico return to Paris, which is thus becoming a seat of transatlantic establishments.

The Manchester market is also too important to be neglected.

Several Basque houses have been established there and are wresting business from German houses which were founded there during the days of German control of Mexico's commerce.

In the city of Colima on the Pacific slope, there were, 20 years ago, seven large German houses, which annually received from Hamburg eight or ten ship-loads of merchandise. The goods they either sold directly or distributed among their agencies at Morelia, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Leon, Agnascalientes and Zacatecas. The native customer was thus supplied with all sorts of goods—cotton cloths, prints, handkerchiefs, articles of clothing, hats and bonnets, liquors, hardware and provisions.

All the above articles came from Germany. At present the two surviving houses are in liquidation. A few houses, it is true, have been recently founded at Colima, but they are a mere shadow of their predecessors, and are chiefly engaged in speculating and in exportation.

The same may be said of the situation of the Germans at Vera Cruz, which is even more pitiable. Of the 12 houses existing there formerly only three remain.

But it is at the capital of the Republic that the decadence of German commerce is most striking. They have now but three or four stores where manufactured articles are sold, and their position is so precarious that they think they have done well when they have sold a few carpets or a dozen pocket handkerchiefs. The cessation of their operation is only a matter of time.

What we have said applies only to dry goods. Hardware still continues the remaining bulwark of Germany's commercial supremacy in Mexico. But, whereas a few years ago we were the sole importers of hardware, we have now to deal with severe competition from the French.

A few special articles, such as hats, braiding, and carpets, are still in the hands of Germans, but they are no longer the sole handlers of those articles, being again encountered with sharp competition by the French.

### A FOUNDLING.

What are things coming to? Calcutta is fast becoming initiated into the worst vices of the great cities of Paris and London, though, indeed, it can seldom or ever well boast of a single thing out of the many that make its sisters worthy the names they bear.

This morning on my way to office at about 10 O'clock, I found the street crowded with people and police—at the corner of the Mangoe-lane bordering on the Bentinck-street. Every eye was turned towards an object lying wrapped up in cloth on a platform under a verandah. The police surrounding this object of public curiosity, it was half hid from the public gaze and there was all bustle and commotion—the people struggling to get a view and the police all the while trying to keep them at a distance or disperse them.

The object of this curiosity was a foundling. I can not say whether it was dead or alive, nor was it known to whom it owed its existence. All that I could gather from the gaping crowd was *Shabekka lerka*.

I hear Government has founded an asylum for such waifs and strays. The number of such foundlings must have been fairly large before it was moved to take such a step.

Sad commentary on the morals of a country! Government may be proud of affording such protection, but the people must hide their very faces in shame before such lasting monuments of their shame and degradation.

And yet what could the wretched mother do—under the severest ban of society?

We speak of our universities, our education, our culture and enlightenment; but what faith can there be in a people with such morals who can not manage even their own household? It is morals that we should look to for support in our path to progress; without them we will remain the nation of slaves we have been and no better.

February 13.

J. K. B.

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

#### A SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CALCUTTA,  
under Act II. (B. C.) of 1888,

WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 20th February 1890,  
at 4 P.M.,

#### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To sanction a loan of 30 lacs for the Central Road, Water Supply, Drainage and the Dhobikhanna in 1890-91 and 1891-92, for the period of 30 years in lieu of the loan of 50 lacs for 5 years already sanctioned.
2. To sanction the borrowing of 2 lacs without interest from the Port Commissioners to meet the *ad interim* interest charges on money borrowed for the Central Road.
3. To authorise the devotion of the funds arising out of the sale of the Dhurumtolla Market for the construction of the Central Road.
4. The Chairman to lay before the Commissioners the draft Budget of income and expenditure for the year 1890-91, and to propose that it be referred to the General Committee for consideration with such instructions as the Commissioners may think fit to pass when making such reference, agreeably to para. 3 Section 70 Act II (B.C.) of 1888.
5. To confirm the proceedings of the General Committee at a Meeting held on the 1st February.
6. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee at a Meeting held on the 4th February.
7. To confirm the proceedings of Complaints Committee at a Meeting held on the 29th January.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation.

14th February, 1890.

### MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Twenty-sixth Annual *Conversations* of the Mahomedan Literary Society will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 17th February 1890, from 9 to 12 P.M.

ABDOOL LUTEEF,  
Secretary.

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed tenders for the supply of the following Mirzapore kirk and channel stones will be received by the Vice-Chairman and will be opened by him in the presence of tenderers who may wish to attend, at 2 P.M., on the 17th February 1890.

50,000 Rft.	}	Straight kirk and channel stones.		
50,000 "				
2,000 "	}	Kirk and channel stones, 8ft. radius		
2,000 "				
2,000 "	}	Do. Do. 10ft. Do.		
2,000 "				
1,000 "	}	Do. Do. 12ft. Do.		
1,000 "				

2. The stones are to be of the best quality, to be dressed true out of winding and square; the radiated stones to be dressed to templates. All the stones to measure in cross dimensions exactly 12" x 4" and to be not less than 3 feet long. Sample of stones can be seen at Municipal Office.

3. The stones are to be delivered at the Municipal Depot at Bagbazar and Nmtollah uniformly at the rate of not less than 10,000 Rft. per month, and the delivery to be completed by the 31st December 1890.

4. Earnest money Rs. 2,000 to be enclosed with each tender.

5. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

6. Any further information required can be had on application.

UDOYNARAIN SINGHA,  
Superintendent of Stores.

7th February, 1890.

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

FORM E.

#### ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 132 OF ACT II.  
(B. C.) OF 1888.

NOTICE is hereby given that the valuation of the portion of Calcutta noted in the margin, has been completed and that the books containing the said valuations can be inspected on any day (Sundays and holidays excepted) at the Office of the Commissioners, No. 4 Municipal

Office of the Commissioners, No. 4 Municipal

Office Street, between the hours of 11 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Any person, desiring to object to the said valuations must, within fifteen days from this date, deliver at the Office of the Commissioners a notice in writing, stating the grounds of his objection.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman will proceed to hear the objections under Clause a of Section 136.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
11th February 1890.

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

#### To Contractors and others.

Tenders are invited and will be received by the Vice-Chairman up to noon of Wednesday the 19th February 1890 and will be opened by him in the presence of such tenderers as may choose to be present, for the supply of steam coal for one year from the 1st April next.

Specification and conditions of contract with tender forms can be obtained on application in the Water Works Department of the Engineer's office where also any necessary information can be obtained.

Rupees 1,000 to be deposited as earnest money by each party tendering. Tender to be submitted under sealed cover superscribed "Tender for Coal."

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.  
The 7th February 1890.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have not already sent in their Subscriptions, will greatly oblige the Executive Committee by doing so without delay.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.  
Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

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IN

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**TRAVELS & VOYAGES IN BENGAL**

BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

**SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,***Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,  
 (the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
 Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

Apply to Manager, "REIS &amp; RAYYET"

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CALCUTTA.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstas delight: "she had such large languishing eye. But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

THE

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Apply to Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee,

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 Removes and prevents all SUNBURN, REDNESS, FRECKLES, TAN, etc., and  
 RENDERS THE SKIN DELICATELY SOFT, SMOOTH and WHITE.  
 It entirely prevents it from becoming DRY and WRINKLED, and PRESERVES the  
 COMPLEXION from the scorching effects of the SUN and WIND more effectually than any  
 other preparation. The IRRITATION caused by the BITES and STINGS of INSECTS is  
 wonderfully allayed by its use. For imparting that soft velvety feeling to the skin, this  
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After years of semi-helplessness and suffering; while in **ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, FACEACHE, SPRAINS,** it is the surest and safest remedy or these complaints in their severest and most chronic form.

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Is almost too remarkable for CREDENCE.

Are you subject to **HEADACHES** and the tortures of **TOOTHACHE**? A single application will relieve you.

In Sore-throat its power has been so rapid and complete that it is universally recommended as

### The Marvellous Sore Throat Cure.

Try this wonderful Medicine and let the result speak for itself.

The Oriental Balm is used by the best Physicians in the world in their practice. It has been pronounced a blessing in thousands of homes. By its intrinsic virtue, it has achieved a wide-spread popularity which no similar preparation has ever before attained.

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Glandular Swellings and all Skin Diseases, it has no rival; and for  
contracted and stiff joints it acts like a charm.

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OF PURE HOMŒOPATHY ONLY,  
WHICH  
INTRODUCED TO THE EAST THE  
**TRADE IN**  
**INDEPENDENT HOMŒOPATHY**  
and maintains to this day  
THE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY OF  
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These cases while they ensure the bottles  
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figures and Candian Gold hands, with tem-  
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glass, spring, box and guarantee. Warranted  
to stand rough usage. Can be easily repaired.  
Have no appearance of cheapness about  
them. Others sell at double our rates. Mr.  
A. R. Mehta from Bandora says:—"The  
7-8 watch I purchased from you two years  
back, gives correct time as yet." Acting Su-  
perintendent, Government Farm, Khandesh,  
says:—"A watch maker has valued your  
Rs. 7-8 watch for Rs. 15." Mr. J. Sutcliffe, R.  
W. Fusi. Regt., Lucknow, says:—"Some valued  
it at Rs. 15 and were completely surprised when  
I told them it only costs Rs. 7-8." Pretty  
Candian Gold Chains, Locketts, Pencils, com-  
plete shirt Studs and Rings set with chemical  
diamonds, rubies, &c., at Rs. 2 each. Mr. J.  
A. Yelmore, Satur, says:—"The best gold-  
smith of this place values the chain for  
Rs. 7 and the locket for Rs. 10." Mr. G.  
Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutta, says:—"A  
German valued the diamond ring at Rs. 50 and  
the ruby at Rs. 30." **WESTERN INDIA  
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Is the best disinfectant and exterminator of  
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It cleanses the roads, purifies the atmos-  
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room pure and healthy.

### EQUALLY USEFUL TO

### ANIMAL AND POULTRY,

It keeps a cowshed pure and sweet.

It improves the coat, destroy vermin, keeps  
fly off, stamps out all infectious diseases.

It is a specific for foot and mouth disease.

It kills all unpleasant smell without setting  
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It kills fleas, red lice and vermin of every  
kind in Poultry, Pigeons, Cattle, Horses,  
Dogs, Cats, &c. Effectually cures Gapes, Roup  
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It destroys moss and weeds on gravel path-  
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It is a valuable destroyer of all kinds of ants.  
It kills green fly, red spider, thrips mealy  
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## Rivers Steam Navigation Co. "Limited."

This Company's Steamer, "INDORE"  
will leave Calcutta for Assam on Friday, the  
14th inst.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel  
should be sent to the Company's Godowns  
at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than noon of  
Thursday, the 13th inst.

### CACHAR LINE.

The steamer of this line will leave Cal-  
cutta for Cachar on the 18th inst. (Tues-  
day) for which cargo will be received until noon  
of Tuesday.

ASSAM DESPATCH STEAMER SERVICE FROM  
GOALUNDO  
and

DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM  
DHUBRI TO DERROGHUR.

A Daily service is maintained from Goal-  
undo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods  
traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over a  
ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival  
of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. (Madras time)  
train from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of  
the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to  
almost all stations can be booked through from  
or to Calcutta via Goalundo or Kannia with  
the Eastern Bengal State and connected Rail-  
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All particulars as to rates of freight and  
passage by all the above mentioned Services to  
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MACNEILL & CO.,

Agents,

2-1, Clive Ghat Street.

Calcutta, the 8th February, 1890.

C. RINGER & CO. have in hand the  
largest stock of Homœopathic Medicines,  
Medicine Cases, Medical Sundries, and Books,  
&c., &c., for sale at their Homœopathic Es-  
tablishment, 10, Hare Street, Calcutta. Cata-  
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Lovers of a good Trichinopoly Cigar are re-  
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

No. 412

## THE WIFE'S APPEAL.

BY MISS SARAH J. CLARK.

I'm thinking, Charles, 'tis just a year—  
Or will be very soon—  
Since first you told me of your love,  
One glorious day in June.

All nature seemed to share our bliss—  
The skies hung warm above—  
The winds from opening roses bore  
The very breath of love.

We sought the still, deep forest shades,  
Within whose leafy gloom  
Few ardent sunbeams stole, to kiss  
The young buds into bloom.

The birds caught up our tones of love  
In song not half as sweet,  
And earth's green carpet, violet flower'd,  
It scarcely felt our feet.

But, *apropos* of carpets, Charles,  
I looked at some to-day,  
Which you will purchase, won't you, dear  
Before our next *soirée*?

And then, remember you, how, lost  
In love's delicious dream,  
We long stood silently beside  
A gently gliding stream?

'T was nature's mirror; when your gaze  
No longer I could bear,  
I modestly cast down my eyes,  
Yet but to meet it *there*.

'And, *apropos* of mirrors, love,  
The dear gift of your mother,  
Is quite old-fashioned—and, to-day,  
I ordered home another.

Ah, well do I remember, Charles,  
When first your arm stole round me;  
You little dreamed how long your *soul*  
In golden chains had bound me.

But, *apropos* of chains; my own,  
At Hamilton's last week  
I found the sweetest love!—so rich,  
So tasteful and unique!

The workmanship is most superb—  
The gold most fine and pure—  
I quite long, Charles, to see that chain  
Suspend your miniature.

I heard sad news while you were out;  
My nerves are much affected;  
You know the navy officer  
I once for you rejected?

Driven to despair by your success,  
Made desperate by my scorn,  
He went to sea, and has been lost  
In passing round Cape Horn.

Ah, *apropos* of capes, my love,  
I saw one this very day,  
Of lace as fine as though 't was wove  
Of moonlight by a fay.

You 'll purchase the exquisite thing,  
'T will suit your taste completely;  
Above the heart that loves you, Charles,  
'T will rise and fall so sweetly.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

MR. Hume pioneering, Orator Surendranath Banerjee sails next month for the conquest of England.

“THAT fascinating atom of humanity,” Miss Warren, better known as Mrs. General Tom Thumb, has developed into Mrs. Tom Thumb Magri. She now counts 47 summers. When she married “The General” Charles Stratton in 1863, she was 32 inches high, and she has not grown higher now. She has taken another dwarf Mr Magri, otherwise the Count, as a second husband. He is 39 years of age.

DUC D'AUMALE devised Chantilly with its contents to the Institut de France in trust for the French nation. M. Eugène Piot, an art collector and writer, who has just died, has left to the Académie des Inscriptions, a branch of the same Institut, his entire personalty valued at 1,000,000 frs.

MR. Cornelius Vanderbilt is said to have offered 100,000*l.* sterling for Meissonier's “La Rixe.”

THE French battle-painter M. Protais is dead. He had attained the age of sixty-two years. His earliest success was the “Battle of Inkerman” and his greatest the “Battle of Solferino.” He had nearly equalled the fame of DeNeuville and M. Detaille.

THE highest point of German territory has been reached. Kilima-Njaro has been ascended. In 1887, Dr. A. B. Meyer attempted the highest peak and failed. Last October, he returned to the attack and conquered. Here is his own account of the feat:—

“On Oct. 2 he and his companion, Purtscheller, and a native of Pangani, reached the saddle-plateau, above Mareale's village, which

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

(14,270 feet) formed the base of operations. The plan of ascent was to mount the great lava rib running in a south-easterly direction, and flanking on the south the south-east glacier valley, and from its highest spur to begin the scramble up the ice-cap. There was much less snow on the mountain than there was in July 1887. At 2.30 A.M. on Oct. 3 the ascent began. At 7 they met the first snow, 16,400 feet. At 7.20 they stood on the ridge of the mountain rib, and thence began the steep ascent of the crest. Halting a little every ten minutes in the ever-rarifying air, they rested at 8.15 half an hour at 17,220 feet. Above them blinked and glimmered the ice-cap of the Kibo.

Shortly before nine they attained 17,650 feet, and at 9.50 the lower limit of the ice-cap, at a height of 18,240 feet. Here the usual precautions as to spectacles, ropes, and axes were taken, and the work of step-cutting began. After crossing several crevasses, they rested at 12.20 under a steep ascent of the ice-wall at 19,000 feet high. The curve of the ice-cap, which is the highest point visible from below, was now under them. The difficulty of breathing made them halt a few seconds every fifty steps. At last, their strength getting rapidly exhausted, they reached at 1.45 the rim of the Kibo crater. At the same time they saw its highest elevation to the left, on the south side of the mountain, consisting of three rocky points rising some yards above the ice-cap. The distance they estimated at about an hour and a half's march. But for this their strength was unequal, except at the risk of having to bivouac without the least protection in the cold of the night. They had done an extremely fatiguing eleven hours' climb, and had to take account of the mist that was floating about the ice walls. They decided to rest content with the result of their first ascent. The great crater of Kibo, with its precipices, the eruption cone rising from its depths, was discovered; the problem of the interior of Kibo solved. The descent began, and the tents were reached at 6.48 P.M.

On Oct. 6 Dr. Meyer and his companions started at noon to bivouac at a greater height. Next morning at 8.45 they were on the topmost rim of the crater, their turning point on the 3rd. The ascent to the highest peak offered no extraordinary difficulty. The ice rim steadily rises in a southerly direction, where it is broken into three points emerging above the ice-cap. Not being quite sure which was the highest, they mounted all three, and the aneroid gave the middle one, 19,690 feet, as 50 feet to 80 feet higher than the other two. On the ice pinnacle Dr. Meyer planted the German flag, and baptised the rock 'Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze.'

From this point especially the great Kibo crater is easily viewed. With a diameter of about 6,500 feet the crater sinks about 650 feet to its base. On the northern and eastern sides the ice-cap descends from the rim in steep galleries, while on the western and southern sides the bare lava rock plunges steeply from the upper ice-rim. From the base of the crater there rises, somewhat northerly from the centre, a slightly arched eruption cone to about 490 feet high. Like the crater-bottom, it consists of dark brown ashes. Its upper half is free from snow and ice. Its lower half is panoplied with a mighty ice-girdle, which proceeds, presumably, as glacier from the broad crater chasm opening westwards. On the crater-bottom lie several larger fields of half-melting ice-crust.

In the *Overland Mail* by the last mail, under the head of Fashionable Marriages, the first item runs thus:—

"Sala, Stannard.—A marriage of exceptional interest took place at the 'Church of the Parliament,' St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Jan. 25, when Mr. George Augustus Sala was united to Miss Bessie Stannard, daughter of Mr. Robert Stannard, C. E. The bride is a sister-in-law of 'John Strange Winter' (Mrs. Arthur Stannard)."

SIR Morell Mackenzie is not satisfied with the half measure that has been proposed against leprosy. He thinks "what is wanted is a broad scheme providing for the isolation of lepers in all our colonies, particularly in India, and for their 'maintenance in whatever degree of comfort their condition may admit of, till they are more effectually 'segregated' by death." He suggests the payment of the whole amount of £12,000, which is to be raised for a Commission of Enquiry, to any one individual "who may discover either the cause and means of prevention of the disease, or a cure for it as decently certain as quinine in malaria." At any rate, he would like the appointment on the Commission of such men as Arnaner Hansen, of Bergen, who is said to have discovered the microbe of leprosy, Professor Klein, and Pasteur.

In an article headed "On the Standing Army of Great Britain" in the February number of *Harper's Magazine*, General Lord Wolseley thus gives his opinion on the soldier's dress:—

"For the hard marching and many bodily exercises which fall to the soldier's lot on active service our army was more suitably dressed in the reigns of William III. and of Queen Anne than it has been generally this century. We have lately done something to improve our style of soldiers' dress, but no men tied up as ours are in tightly fitting tunics can do a satisfactory day's work during war. We dress our sailors for the work they have to do, but we still cling to a theatrical style of garments for the soldier. There are, however, some difficulties attached to this question of dress in an army raised, as ours is, on a system of voluntary enlistment. We must make the soldiers' clothing acceptable to the men who have to wear it, and, strange to say, they like very tightly fitting coats and trousers to swagger about in with

their sweethearts. 'They like those ridiculous forage-caps stuck on the side of their heads, and which are no protection from either sun or rain. The change hoped for generally is that we should have two costumes—one, for active service and field manoeuvres, of the colour we use in India—it is a light tawny, resembling that of the hare—and fitting very easily everywhere, especially about the throat; the other, scarlet and very smart, and ornamented with braids and buttons as at present, to satisfy the young soldier and his 'Mary Anne.' In all our recent little wars we have used a special dress made for the occasion, and what we now want is to make that special dress the undress uniform of the army. Is there anyone outside a lunatic asylum who would go on a walking tour, or shoot in the backwoods or the prairies, trussed and dressed as the British soldier is? This applies to all ranks, for I confess to a feeling that the dressed-up monkey on a barrel-organ bears a strong resemblance to the British General in his meaningless cocked hat and feathers of the last century, and in his very expensive coat, besmeared both before and behind with gold lace."

The civilian costume is no better and calls for change in the cause of civilization.

THE editor of the *Delhi Punch*, fined Rs. 1,000 for libelling the Raja of Faridkot, has appealed against the sentence. He considers that the apology published by him in twenty different newspapers ought to have satisfied both the Magistrate and the complainant. We find the Raja's son has filed a fresh information of a similar offence against the same journalist.

To keep them out of the way of temptation for meeting their expensive living, the Madras Board of Revenue with the sanction of the Government, has ruled that in future Europeans and Eurasians are not to be appointed to posts (below the rank of Assistant Inspector) in the Salt Department carrying salaries of less than Rs. 100 per mensem.

THE Government of Fort St. George has notified that that "Government will not receive petition on any matter, unless it shall appear that the petitioner has first applied to the local authority, and also to the Board of Revenue or other controlling authority, where such exists. The petitions addressed to such local and controlling authorities, or copies of them, and the answers or orders of those authorities respectively, if any shall have been passed, must be annexed to the petition addressed to Government." At the same time, not to be hard on the petitioners and to deal justly with them, it enjoins all heads of offices, to supply to the complaining party, on application "a copy of the order, which should contain full details of the grounds of the decision. This is to be furnished to him, on plain paper, and without payment." Petitions will be liable to summary rejection in the following cases:—

- (1) when a petition is illegible or unintelligible;
- (2) when a petition contains language which, in the opinion of Government, is disloyal, disrespectful or improper;
- (3) when a previous petition has been disposed of by the Madras Government, the Governor-General in Council, or the Secretary of State and the petition discloses no new facts or circumstances which afford grounds for a reconsideration of the case;
- (4) when a petition is an application for pecuniary assistance by a person manifestly possessing no claim;
- (5) when a petition is an appeal from a judicial decision, with which the executive has no legal power of interference;
- (6) when a petition is an appeal against a decision which by any law, or rule having the force of law, is declared to be final;
- (7) when a petition is an appeal in a case for which the law provides a different or specific remedy, or in regard to which the time limited by law for appeal has been exceeded;
- (8) when a petition is addressed by an officer still in the public service, and has reference to his prospective claim for pension, except as provided in article 995 of the Civil Service regulations;
- (9) when a petition is an appeal against the non-exercise by Government of a dispensatory discretion vested in it by law or rule."

The rules further point out that the Governor in Council never interferes with the distribution of subordinate appointments, and consequently applications for situations in the gift of heads of departments will also remain unnoticed.

Here is a warning to petitioners in general. For though the rules are expressly made for the Madras Presidency, they are instinctively acted upon by the other administrations in India.

THE number of Private Students for matriculation in the Madras University is multiplying apace. In 1880, they numbered 488 or 13.6 per cent. of the total number registered. In 1888, the percentage exceeded 25. The Registrar suspects foul play. He thinks the Head Masters of High Schools encourage such of their pupils as they think unlikely to pass the examination, to apply as Private Students. Dr. Wilson has accordingly addressed a circular to the

H heads of Schools and Colleges reminding them that the practice is opposed to the University regulations, and threatening students with the punishment provided by law for misstatements. Some of the Calcutta Schools were detected in worse practice. Nor are Colleges, speaking generally, more careful to observe the University Bye-laws. We are afraid, things are coming to a pass when the Universities should have special agencies in their service like Inspecting Staffs of the Education and other Departments.

MR. Vishnu Pandurang Joshi, Second Class Magistrate, Kumta, convicted Nagappa Annappa of theft of a canoe and fined him Rs. 50, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment. Nagappa is the brother of the contractor of a public ferry on the Tadvi river. The complainant owned a boat and conveyed passengers across a creek flowing into the river at a point three miles from the ferry. In the absence of this boat, the contractor of the ferry would be free to take passengers also across the creek, thereby earning a greater pittance than his contract of the ferry brought him. The accused brother was charged with wrongfully seizing the boat and depriving the owner of his legitimate gain for the time being, and sentenced as a thief. The simple though officious brother could not conceive that such an act in the interest of the legitimate contractor, who probably believed that the ferry contract secured him the business of boating passengers across the neighbouring creek and took the contract under that idea, would be construed as a theft, and appealed to Mr. J. Davidson, First Class Magistrate with appellate power. That legal authority too found him guilty of theft and confirmed both the conviction and the sentence. He was of opinion that the accused had not acted in good faith, as he could not possibly have believed that he was justified in his act. He thought, however, that Nagappa could not be held guilty of larceny under the English law, but that the definition of theft in the Indian Penal Code covered such an act. The Sessions Judge Mr. McCorkell of Kanara was struck with the interpretation of law put by his subordinate Magistrates. He thought as there was nothing in the case to shew that the accused had any *animus furandi* in removing the boat, he was entitled to an acquittal. Even if he had intention of temporary dominion over the property, he could be convicted of no higher offence than trespass. He, therefore, reported the case to the Bombay High Court, in order that the conviction and sentence might be set aside. The High Court—Messrs. Justices Birdwood and Jardine—have just upheld the view taken by the lower Magistrates and sent back the report of the Sessions Judge, saying they could not interfere with the finding and sentence. Mr. Justice Birdwood remarks:

"The accused acted illegally in seizing the boat; and if it be assumed for the moment, contrary to the finding of the Second Class Magistrate, that he may have so acted by reason of a mistake of fact, that is, by reason of a mistake as to the extent of his brother's rights, and have believed that the complainant was infringing those rights, still such a mistake could furnish no defence of his illegal act, for if there had been no mistake at all, he would not have been justified in seizing the boat. If the complainant had conveyed passengers on the river itself within three miles on either side of the ferry, he would have been liable to a penalty under section 14 of Bombay Act II of 1868; but neither the contractor nor any person acting in his interests or on his behalf would have had the right under the Act, or under any other law, to seize the boat. In such circumstances a person who took the law into his own hands could clearly take no benefit by the contention that he acted under a mistake of fact. The Second Class Magistrate has not only found that the accused has falsely stated that his brother was allowed by the Government to ply his boat on the creek as well as on the river, and that he knew that he could not detain private boats without the permission of the Collector or the Mamlutdar, but the Sub-Divisional Magistrate has also practically found that the accused could not have believed that he had any right to seize the complainant's boat which had been plying for many years on the creek, where it had the right to ply. This latter finding is important as bearing on the accused's state of mind at the time when he seized the boat. Illustration (1) of section 378 of the Indian Penal Code shows that a charge of theft will lie even where there is no intention to assume the entire dominion over the property taken or to retain it permanently. It is the case of a person taking an article out of the owner's possession without his consent, 'with the intention of keeping it until he obtains money' from the owner for its restoration. He is declared to have taken dishonestly and, therefore, to have committed theft. Under section 23 of the Indian Penal Code a person gains property wrongfully when he retains wrongfully, as well as when he acquires wrongfully; and a person loses wrongfully when he is wrongfully kept out of any property as well as when he is wrongfully deprived of it. And under section 24 whoever does anything with the intention of causing wrongful gain to one person or wrongful loss to another person, is said to do that thing dishonestly. The complainant was kept by the accused wrongfully out of his property from the moment that the accused seized his boat till he returned it, if he ever returned it. The com-

plainant, therefore, suffered wrongful loss. The presumption is that the accused intended the natural consequence of his act. He intended to cause wrongful loss, unless he can show that he had no such intention. If, under a mistake of fact and in ignorance of the law, he believed that he had the right to seize the complainant's boat, when it was plying at the place where he seized it, his state of mind at the time of seizing it would have been innocent and not criminal. Though he caused wrongful loss within the meaning of the Penal Code, he would not, as a matter of fact in that case, have intended to cause wrongful loss. There would have been no dishonest intention."

But is sec. 379 of the I. P. Code the only law under which Nagappa could be punished?

MAHARAJA Grija Nath Roy of Dinapore has been exempted from personal attendance in Civil Courts.

PERSONS intending to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, have been warned that for want of sufficient rainfall, there is scarcity of food and great distress in the surrounding country, and, as a consequence of the forlorn condition of the people, assaults on travellers and merchants on the Jeddah and Mecca roads are of frequent occurrence.

SECTION 32 of the Indian Ports Act, X of 1889, has been extended to the navigable rivers and channels leading to the Port of Calcutta as defined in the notification of the Bengal Government, dated the 24th June 1886.

ON the 31st March next, at the Port Office, there will be a competitive examination for admission of one locally selected candidate into the Bengal Pilot Service.

THE Governor-General in Council has empowered the Sylhet and Cachar Magistrates and Judges to send lunatics from their jurisdictions to the Lunatic Asylum at Dacca.

THE Zemindari Dāk Tax in the district of Sarun, for the year 1890-91, has been fixed at the rate of 12 annas per cent. per annum on the sudder jumma of estates paying a revenue of Rs. 50 and over. It is payable in two instalments on the 28th March and 28th September 1890. With the present development of the Post Office, this tax is a double imposition, and ought to cease.

THE Kidderpore Docks are nearing completion. The Lieutenant-Governor has appointed a Committee to consider and advise on the arrangements to be adopted for the working of goods traffic into and out of Calcutta after the completion. The Committee are required to discuss and settle questions connected with

(a) the shipment and discharge of the cargoes of the vessels frequenting the port of Calcutta;

(b) the transport of goods, whether rail-borne, water-borne, or partly rail-borne and partly water-borne, to and from vessels lying at any place in the port of Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. M. Halliday, Chairman of the Port Trust, is the President. The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Wilson and Mr. G. H. Simmons represent the Commissioners for making Improvements in the Port of Calcutta; Colonel L. Conway-Gordon, R. E., C. I. E., represents the Government of India; Mr. W. B. Restie, the Bengal Government; Messrs. J. L. Mackay and W. W. Petrie, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; Mr. D. W. Campbell, C.I.E., and Lieutenant Colonel G. F. O. Boughiey, R. E., the two railways, the East Indian and the Eastern Bengal State. The Native Chamber of Commerce is too recent and not strongly formed for a separate recognition.

MR. A. P. MacDonnell, C. S. I., has obtained one year's furlough from the 16th March next. Mr. C. J. Lyall, C. I. E., relieved of the special duty at the Andamans, officiates as Home Secretary during that period.

*Holloway's Pills.*—Changes of temperature and weather frequently upset persons who are most careful of their health, and particular in their diet. These corrective, purifying, and gentle aperient Pills are the best remedy for all defective action of the digestive organs. They augment the appetite, strengthen the stomach, correct biliousness, and carry off all that is noxious from the system. Holloway's Pills are composed of rare balsams, unmixed with baser matter, and on that account are peculiarly well adapted for the young, delicate, and aged. As this peerless medicine has gained fame in the past, so will it preserve it in the future by its renovating and invigorating qualities, and the impossibility of its doing harm.



## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE House of Commons has not yet voted the Address to the Queen. Mr. Parnell's amendment complaining of unjust and coercive laws in Ireland, and regretting omission of mention of any proposal for remedying discontent there, has been rejected by 307 votes against 204. Mr. Balfour maintained that the condition of Ireland had so far improved that Government was enabled to restrict the operation of the Crimes Act, although it would not hesitate to re-proclaim, if necessary, certain districts.

The Parnellite cause has received a shock in the sudden death, from stoppage of the heart's action while acting as a Teller in a division in the House itself, of Mr. Joseph Gillis Biggar, Member for the West Cavan.

Mr. W. H. Smith will ask the House to adopt the Report of the Parnell Commission, to thank the Judges and to admit it in the journals of the House.

The Commission to enquire into the administration of the Army and Navy has submitted its report. It is understood to be of a drastic character.

ALTHOUGH not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, India has already been the subject of some questions in the House. A Bill will be introduced early in the Session which will enable Mr. Bradlaugh and others to lay before the House the grievances of India as represented in the Indian Congress. It is proposed to reform the Indian Councils Act, in fulfilment of the pledge given by Lord Lansdowne, for enlarging the Councils and conferring the power of interpellation. The Government could not agree to the restoration of the right of raising grievances prior to the Budget statement.

Sir John Gorst has repeated the old assurance regarding Cashmere. The rights of the people are superior to the rights of the Maharaja, and Pratab Singh's restoration cannot be sanctioned until the existing situation in the Unhappy Valley has been remedied.

EMPEROR William has charged the Council of State to draft Bills for improving the position of workmen and restricting the employment of women and children.

Rumours are again in the air of the retirement of Prince Bismarck from the Prussian Ministry.

Russia presses Turkey for the war indemnity, and has called upon Bulgaria for the costs of occupation in the Turkish war.

There is a proposition for a Russian Consulate in Abyssinia.

A disastrous fire has laid low the University buildings at Toronto, with the splendid museum and library. The loss is estimated at a million and a half dollars.

AFTER a right royal entertainment in Jeypore, Prince Albert Victor of Wales left it for Ajmere where he arrived on the morning of the 17th. He was received at the railway platform by a number of minor chiefs summoned for the purpose. The Prince stayed there 12 hours which, of course, were fully occupied. The pleasing labors of the day began with a visit to the Chiefs' College, followed by a drive out to the temple on the Taraghur Hill. The same afternoon, all the station was invited by Colonel Walter to meet the Prince at a Garden Party. The Prince interested himself for some time in watching a game of cricket played in the gardens between the Ajmere team and the young Chiefs of the College. At night, the lake, the surrounding hills, and the road from the Residency to the railway station were illuminated. The festivities concluded with a dinner at the Residency. The Prince then took a special train for Oodeypore.

A RECENT high appointment has much scandalised the public. But the public don't know. What cannot rulers do? Nay, for that matter, what ought they not to do? They must assert themselves at any rate. They must outrage the obeying world on pain of losing their hold upon it. The proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof. The proof of power is in the evolution of the laconic phrase *Hoc volo—sic jubeo*. What is Cæsarism without an occasional operation or practice of the Cæsarian kind? It is the same with sovereignty, be it in *propria persona* or by delegation.

A king can make a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke, and a' that.

Such is the *Shastrā*, chapter and verse, as declared by the inspired High Priest of Nature, Robert Burns. *Ergo*, a king must make a belted knight, a marquis, duke, and a' that, to prove his kingship. A Vice-king too may well conceive himself bound to follow the same miserable game in proof of his own viciousness—or vicesness, if you will. 'Abuse is the privilege of Power, and, to a certain order of minds, the cream of its attributes.

BUT the British Mogul has gone beyond *shara* and *Shastrā*. We have no disposition to be severe. We are ready to make allowances for the temptations of the head of a vast barbaric state—call him Emperor or Proconsul, Khan or Khedive, Bey or Bashaw. But it were much to be wished our Grand Panjandram had confined himself within the most liberal latitude of the spirit of scripture. The text is—

A king can make a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke, and a' that.

No doubt, that Your Majesty or Excellency or Serene Highness—as the case may be—can. The monarch is the fountain of honours. That is no reason, though, that you should exercise your power, in season and out of season, in that behalf, or forthwith proceed to raise the first man to hand to a baronetcy or a barony, or pitchfork to the head of the Peerage any junior lord that catches your eye. But if you will, you may, as Sterne's poor ass, in deprecation of a hiding, in faltering accents, said to him. Bad and offensive as every impropriety is, the mischief, after all, is not so very great, specially in countries like India, where the aristocracy has no recognised duties and certainly no official function in the state. Very different and serious is the matter when the sphere of arbitrary will is widened or the venue of caprice is changed, when from confounding social ranks the ruler proceeds to debase institutions and offices charged with the safety of the land and the maintenance of order. An unworthy lout created a nobleman or decorated with stars and badges is a laughing-stock—at the worst, a nuisance. But an incompetent general or foolish tax gatherer or stupid judge may be a national disaster. It was rather a serious step taken by the Roman Emperor when he gazetted his mule Consul. The Governor-General has many a time made his and his Lieutenants' mules Maharajas, without in the least affecting either the state or society in general. In Europe, it was the practice of the sovereigns to ennoble their mistresses and pimps and valets. But the prosperity of the state never suffered from the cause. It is a different thing when functionaries are appointed without forethought—when favorites are elevated at random to offices to which they have no claim, and for which they show no capacity. Such is the present complaint.

NOR is such an imperial easy-going method consistent with the text What is it, says the Sage Rayyet of Ayrshire?

A king can make a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke, and a' that.

So far so good. But go on, let there be no interruption; allow your author the full liberty of his thought and see whereto he leads you. The verse runs thus—

A king can make a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke, and a' that;  
But an honest man's aboon his might,  
Guid faith he mauna fa' that!

So Monarchy, even at the proudest, is a limited concern. The Great Mogul of London himself, like his prototype and predecessor of Delhi, can make lords and ladies of ordinary human flesh, but cannot make a single true man. He can shower *sanads* and *mansabs* of rank on his favorites, but he cannot enlarge the mind—he cannot uplift a single heart. The idea of cleansing the impure is simply out of the question. The honest man, like the poet, is born, not made. Whoever else might be equal to it, the making is clearly beyond the king. Good faith—honour—probity—conscientiousness—are not to be made by patent of royalty, any more than evolved by act of Parliament.

RULERS in all parts of the world have claimed to make statesmen and soldiers. Instances are not wanting in Europe or Asia of menials raised to ministries. Heaven-born generals too are not unknown. Nor is the dictum of the poet against the phenomenon. He allows the king the utmost latitude of creation, with the sole exception

of moral worth, saving from courtly manipulation the pick of the universe—

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

The king is to leave honesty or good faith alone. Good faith so far from being a necessary constituent in statesmanship or generalship, is a disqualifier.

What of a Cady, however?

A king can make a belted knight,

A marquis, duke and a' that;

But is a Cad' aboon his might,

The Faith appealed to fa' that?

Our Government has no doubt on the point. And it has made no secret of its view. It has expressed itself unmistakably in the negative. It has treated with scant respect the limitations assigned to the power of princes. It was never particular about the persons on whom it rained honour and titles. Hitherto, however, it fought shy of the department of Law and Judicature. But that scruple has passed away. Our enlightened Monarchy is now free—absolutely unfettered. It is a model Sultanate. Courtiers and ladies' men are now eligible for offices whose duties they have never learnt. Dancing in the wife or wit in the daughter may be rewarded with the appointment of Shekh-ul-Islam. Nor are we to wonder to see a Sudder-*os-Sudoos* or Cazy-ul-Kuzzat innocent of old Father Hanifa.

SIDDIQ Husain Khan, the very lucky husband of the most unfortunate Begum (Shah Jahan) of Bhopal, died on Thursday last, after a lingering illness of some months. Even during his illness he was able to remove out of the Bhopal territory, 30 or 40 lacs worth of moveable property, as well as to make a devise as regards the valuable Jagheers, which he had managed to secure—for the benefit of his two sons and one daughter by a former wife.

We hope the Government will now come forward and put the state in a proper order; and first of all they should institute a searching enquiry into the case of the unfortunate Dewan Thakur Pershad, an old man of about 70 years of age, who, we hear, has been lately sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment with hard labor and fetters. This gentleman's forefathers had held the post of Dewan or chief Revenue Officer in that state for many generations, and he too, having succeeded to the hereditary post, made himself the most honored official in the state. He had been Dewan for 30 or 40 years, held large hereditary Jagheers, and enjoyed a handsome salary. Siddiq Husain suspected him of being unfriendly to him and friendly to the Begum's daughter, and managed to get him out of the way to satisfy his revenge.

THE Mahomedan Conversazione has already become a popular and interesting institution. As an annual gathering of the *élite* of all classes of society, who are offered in its exhibitions of art products and scientific experiments a variety of useful and rational diversion, it realises a happy idea. Last year was its Silver Jubilee, and the 26th Conversazione was held last Monday at the Town Hall and passed off, as usual, successfully. The Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor were there, and particularly interested themselves in the scientific experiments. Various other exhibitions affording both instruction and amusement kept the large number of guests engaged till about midnight. This year's scientific experiments were of more than usual variety. Professor Bose's experiments were highly appreciated.

THE Sessions trials at the High Court which have just closed have occupied a large share of public attention. A few of them have caused great sensation, being talked about in all classes of society, and criticised from the varying standpoints of the popular critics. Whatever, however, the diversity of popular opinion and sentiment in regard to some of these cases, there is practical unanimity in the feeling of approval with which the result of the great libel case of Captain Hearsey against Mr. Allen of the *Pioneer* has been received. The trial took place before the Chief Justice, and Mr. Allen having pleaded guilty and expressed his regret to the Court, Sir Comer Petheram paid due regard to this, in considering his sentence, and directed Mr. Allen to pay a fine of Rs. 3,000. We congratulate him on the wisdom of his course. He has narrowly escaped a more serious disgrace. The Chief Justice commented on the libel in very strong terms. It had evidently cost a great deal of pains to the writer in raking up old stories in Captain Hearsey's life to make the attack as damaging as possible. The libel could not pretend to any justification on the ground of serving the interest of the public. If, having regard to Mr. Allen's line of defence, the Chief Justice did not think a sentence of imprisonment was

called for, the offence was, nevertheless, of such a gratuitous character that it was necessary that the sentence should clearly mark the Court's sense of its enormity. The sentence has sufficiently satisfied the ends of justice, and cannot fail to exercise a wholesome influence in checking the libellous tendencies in the press and in society.

Another judgment of the same Sessions has failed to afford the same satisfaction to the public. We refer to the case of Duncan King who was charged with causing the death of a native gate keeper by piercing him with a swordstick. The circumstances of this unhappy case, known as the Municipal Street tragedy, are now the talk of the town, and we need not go into them. It was tried by Mr. Justice Norris who presided over the Sessions from the second day, there being practically two Sessions Courts sitting on the first day. The sentence of one year's rigorous imprisonment passed upon the accused is criticised by the public in general as too lenient. We must confess, however, we cannot approve of all the foolish things which are being said as to the result of this trial. Mr. Norris himself said that he was going to pass a lenient sentence. King's employers, Messrs. Moore and Company, acted with shrewdness and prudence in placing a sum of Rs. 500 in the hands of the Government solicitor for being made over to the widow of the deceased as some compensation for her loss. This step on the part of the defence as well as its plea of guilty to the minor charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, must weigh with any Court of Justice. There are also points in the evidence which lay public critics are apt to disregard in their impatience of what they too hastily call an instance of over-lenience. On all these grounds, we are unable to sympathise with the popular out cry.

Duncan King is quite a young man just come to this country and he received a good character from his masters. It is even strongly suspected the real culprit has somehow escaped.

But a different question arises from the incidents of this case. It is apparent from facts brought out in this trial, that young European Assistants brought out by Calcutta firms are left very much to themselves after office hours, and receive no care from their employers as to their life and conduct out of the office. This used not to be the case before. These employers would in those days give an understanding to the parents of these young men at home to be responsible as guardians for their good conduct before they could have their services. This was a good practice, which appears to be followed no longer, and the effects are certainly of a serious kind. The details of this case disclose a state of things which must be highly discreditable to any city. There is an amount of rowdyism abroad in the Streets of Calcutta at night, of which one had scarcely any idea. After this case, one now hears of the reign of disorder which has long been going on in Municipal Street and its neighbourhood and which has made them too hot for honest folks to live in. It is all very well for Duncan King's masters handsomely to fee the counsel for his defence and pay Rs. 500 to the survivors of the man who loses his life at King's hands, but would it not have been far better if they had been somewhat more careful in exercising a control over their people's private conduct.

IN the Dum-Dum murder case, tried by Mr. Justice Norris, Private Thomas O'Hara was convicted of having deliberately and without any provocation caused the death of Sheik Soleim by shooting him with his rifle, and sentenced to death. The other prisoner, Private Bellew, was acquitted. The verdict in which the jury and Judge concurred will be regarded as the only natural one which could be come to upon the evidence. The case discloses as discreditable a laxness in regard to the control of soldiers in barracks as can well be conceived, and the circumstances which made such a case possible will no doubt receive the attention of the authorities. There is a pleasing side to this painful trial. The gentlemen of the jury, moved by the presiding Judge's pathetic allusion to the distressing and helpless state of destitution to which the deceased's widow has been reduced, have made generous contribution towards her maintenance.

SOME time ago quite a scene took place in the Court of Mr. Beveridge, Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs. The Judge and the jury were at variance over a case of alleged murder, the most extraordinary part of which was that a poor-child wife of ten years stood accused of the crime in respect of her husband. There were inherent improbabilities in the story set up by the police, but the Judge was satisfied of her guilt, while the jury were equally satisfied the other way, till the Judge was out of temper, and addressed language to the jurors by no means agreeable to their self-respect. The case was referred to the High

Court, and here, the Judge's theory fell through completely, and the view taken by the jury was upheld and the child-wife discharged. This is an event of no little importance in these days, when the jury system has come into so much discredit. We are ourselves not blind to the abuses and failures of justice, which not unoften attend jury trials here, but they are defects arising more from the careless selections of men than from any causes inherent in the system. In the present case, which by no means is singular, we have some evidence of its utility.

The case has another aspect. In the High Court it came out in course of the argument that the first entry of information regarding this case in the Police Sub-Inspector's consecutively numbered diary had been suppressed from the lower court. This information, recorded in the Sub-Inspector's own hand, did not incriminate the wife as did a subsequent information entered in the same book. The discovery of the first entry put an altogether new aspect upon the case, and its wilful suppression so far can only lead to one conclusion, *viz.*, that it was altogether a got up charge concocted by the police in league with some dishonest people of the village. The matter, at any rate, should be cleared up by inquiry.

WE have received the following telegram, dated Bankipore 17th February, in the Durbhanga temple case:—

"A crowded meeting, consisting of representatives from Durbhanga, Mozufferpore, Chupra, Motihari, Chumparun, Shahabad, Gya, Bhaugulpore, Monghyr, and Patna, was held yesterday afternoon in the Jubilee Club compound under a *shamiana*, the Maharajah Bahadoor of Durbhanga presiding. In opening the proceedings, the Maharajah said that he did not wish to take up much of their time by a long speech. All were agreed that a certain amount of excitement existed on account of certain transactions which had lately passed in Durbhanga. He did not think that it was his business to enter into the details of these transactions. Indeed, it would be highly improper for him to do so, as he had been away in Calcutta, and had heard contrary stories from both parties. On one point, however, they were all agreed, namely, that the Government was most anxious to respect the religious feelings of the people, and the officers of Government considered it their paramount duty to see that the religious feelings of any class or community were not injured. These reasons had prompted him to wish that the ill-feeling in Hindoo Durbhanga was allayed. They ought to be thankful to Government for what it had done. Of course, whenever they thought that their religious susceptibilities were in any way touched upon, it was their duty to call public meetings and to ask Government to investigate into the matter and to redress their grievances. This had already been done, and they knew that Government was publicly making an enquiry, and they ought to be sure that it would try its best to see that the religious susceptibilities of the people were not tampered with with impunity. This being so, His Highness considered that public agitation was not proper at present, as the matter was *sub judice*, and too many public meetings, especially about a religious subject like that which they had met to discuss, might tend to give the people an exaggerated notion of the matter, and to make men biassed in their opinions. It was their duty, His Highness considered, to see that opinions remained unbiased. His Highness took this opportunity to mention that only the other day he had occasion to meet the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and the Chief Secretary felt much for the ill-feeling and unrest which had been caused in Durbhanga. His Highness proceeded to observe that he had been in a manner authorised by the Chief Secretary to say that he would be glad to see the temple rebuilt, and a good feeling restored amongst the Hindoo community of Behar.

In terminating the proceedings, the Maharajah suggested the establishment of a Central Religious Association."

We quite approve of the spirit shown by the Maharaja in this matter. There is no good in importing rancour into the controversy. The Government, we are glad to find, is watching the matter with great attention. In the meantime, Mr. Boxwell, the Commissioner, is taking great pains to get at the real facts. The best attitude is to await his report and the Resolution of the Government with the fullest confidence that justice will be done, and the offenders, whoever they may be, will receive their due.

IN the Bengal Council, the Port Trusts Bill is still being fought over. The debate which has already taken place on the Bill is interesting for several excellent speeches which were delivered. It is also characterised by a perfect spirit of conciliation on the part of the Council generally, and a real desire to meet the views of the mercantile community. Nevertheless, they do not appear to be satisfied, and their representative in the Council, Mr. Moore, is offering the same stout opposition as before. At yesterday's meeting, the Council was adjourned for considering a suggestion thrown out by Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh by way of a compromise of the amendments moved to Section 96.

MR. Percival Spencer is going to be an institution in Calcutta. His balloon may be seen any day majestically sailing through the air, and each time with some new circumstances of interest. On last Saturday evening, he took up with him three passengers, one of whom was a lady, besides his Mahomedan servant. The party enjoyed a

magnificent view of the country and sea stretching below, and came down at Bamunghata, where the wonder of the simple villagers at a lady having formed one of the adventurous party knew no bounds. Some of them are said to have touched her dress, probably to make sure if she was a reality.

THE misfortune of a minority is developing apace in Morbhanj. The state has been exploited not materially only but also morally. So far as the material goes, there will be an ample credit side in the account. But there will be no such compensation in regard to the moral. It is there one dead loss. It is all a destruction without reconstruction—a *bouleversement*—a chaos. The people are losing their institutions. They have already lost their king. For they will never get their Maharaja back. For all that, they may be saddled with the incubus of a fast Baboo, though of the rather rare Tally-ho kind, who would peep into the *sanctum sanctorum* of the temple with his boots on, and give a champagne party to his European friends in the holy court. That he was the Raja all the same, the son and heir of the late Maharaja, was all the more galling. We devoutly wish the good people of Morbhanj may be spared such a calamity—such a virtual deprivation of royalty—of their national Chief. But the prospect for them is gloomy. Their misfortune commenced when the education and bringing up of the young prince fell into British hands. The State schoolmaster has not been idle. The poor lad must by this be half seas over with the strong draughts of the nectar of Civilization. It must be getting difficult for his family to recognise him. But guardian and ward are not quite satisfied at the rate of progress towards departure. So there is a grand scheme for suppressing the backwoods Oorya *instantly* and evolving the *Sahab*—or at any rate the Baboo-Sahab. Its execution will cause almost an ethnic transformation. We refer to the rumour of the young Chief's marrying out of his caste, in a Bengali Vaidya family which, by its ambitious union with a ruling house, has socially compromised itself.

We hope the young prince will not rush headlong, nor be rushed, into a n inalienable connection of this kind. The matter is one deserving of the most anxious deliberation. We certainly expect the Government to prevent such a step so long as the boy is in its charge. It is difficult to make Europeans understand the mystery of Hindu marriage, but we warn the officials who might be concerned against allowing such a match.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

### THE PIONEER TRIAL.

LAW and Justice have at last been vindicated in the *Pioneer* defamation case. And it has not been a day too soon. The judicial farce and mockery had gone too long, and a feeling had been near taking possession of the public mind that there was no redress to be had against high and mighty offenders. There could be no greater scandal than the wild goose chase on which Captain Hearsey has all these weary months been made to run in quest of justice. In no civilized country would such a thing be possible. The doors of justice were practically closed on him. And this notwithstanding there was substantial unanimity on all hands as to the reality of his grievance. The circumstances under which the libel was committed were admitted to be extremely discreditable and unmanly. The defence itself, though formally pleading guilty, had scarcely the assurance to put a good face upon the matter. In the first of the series of proceedings which Captain Hearsey has been forced to take in the hope of winning a hearing, Mr. Chesney, editor of the *Pioneer*, assumed full responsibility for the appearance of the libel. But all of no avail. The courts were possessed with their own regards which never missed obtruding when need was. Magistrates would not admit the complaint except under compulsion of higher authority, and when, after all, it has a hearing at the Magistracy and goes,

in the usual course, to the same highest tribunal for final disposal, that tribunal kicks it down. It volunteers its humanitarian services to the scapegrace of a prisoner at the bar, and makes a reason for smashing up the case, to the equal surprise of the prosecution and the defence, to say nothing of the bewilderment of the general public. Even the highest court in the land would not let the case go before a jury, intercepting it in the midway in an ingenious manner.

That such evident degeneracy of our law courts passed without causing an adequate explosion of public indignation is, indeed, a melancholy fact. One can only take it as an indication of social degradation and political weakness in the community. That a poor suitor for justice should go on knocking and it should not be opened unto him, and the public at large should all the while be looking on with comparative indifference, shows the little real public spirit there is amongst us. Nor was this the worst feature in the attitude of the public. Captain Hearsey had no lack of native friends before he entered upon his arduous task. Many were the offers of support he received—encouragement and sympathy met him at every turn. How soon, however, the scene changed after the ordeal he underwent at Mr. Gasper's hands at the Calcutta Police Court! The attitude of his old adherents was at once cold and even distant. Not a few openly disavowed him. He was in a word thrown overboard. The promises of support dwindled by degrees. The enthusiasm of Congress-wallahs, whose connection had ostracised the Captain from his own kith and kin, with a solitary exception here and there, vanished into thin air. For all their assuring promises, they did vastly little in reality. Captain Hearsey was in the utmost extremity. Away from home and family and children, with friends falling off, the very courts,—his last refuge of hope—almost shut upon him, pressed for funds, his little all of property exhausted, and now his character, for the vindication of which he had undertaken all this trouble, reduced, at any rate in vulgar estimation, to tatters, any other man would have completely succumbed to such an accumulation of misfortunes. But his is the unyielding spirit of a hero. He deserved to succeed, and he has succeeded. Single-handed, he has fought against all comers, and won. So far as by sheer persistence the Captain has vanquished the High Court itself, compelling it as it were to the performance of its duty, he has done a most important public service. He has vindicated the *raison d'être* of our elaborate judicature and scientific codes. Sir Comer Petheram's clear and independent action in the case, enforced by judicious remarks, is a distinct assurance of safety to the citizen from the tyranny of the powerful. For all this, Captain Hearsey has earned the country's gratitude.

The High Court has at last interfered; and hope revives that Justice is not dead. The *Pioneer* is for the moment humbled, and Captain Hearsey has won the dear-bought satisfaction of having his enemy mulcted in purse. The case is as yet far from closed. There is a civil suit for damages pending in the Civil Side of the same Court. The merits of the question, as to the truth or falsehood of the statements made in the defamatory article, were not touched in the criminal trial. It was a case of criminal libel, and the libel being proved, the question did not arise whether those allegations were false or not. It is altogether a painful business, and it were yet not too late to bring it to an amicable close.

In the earlier stage of the quarrel, we suggested a compromise. We said that the *Pioneer* could derive no benefit from the issue of the litigation. There was no triumph in the prospect, whilst, under the best circumstances, it could only escape from the clutches of the law. Our suggestion was not followed—with consequences which our brother of Allahabad must for ever regret. Is it yet too late to make up?

We cannot join those of our contemporaries who are praising the *Pioneer* for pleading guilty and thus enabling the court to relieve the public of the eternal litigation. Mr. Allen simply made a virtue of necessity—Captain Hearsey having at last terrified the enemy with his dogged determination to pursue war *à toute ou trance*. So far from exhibition of any superfluous chivalry, he fell short of the legal requirement. He would have done better to apologise to Captain Hearsey. Probably the fine to which he has been sentenced, would have been considerably reduced, had the defendant apologised to the complainant, instead of merely expressing verbal regret to the court, for contempt for the impersonal majesty of the Law. No gentleman need shrink from confessing when conscious of an error. It were not only righteous but likewise honorable to make the *amende honorable*. But it is now past recall. The future is in his hands, however, and he may yet show magnanimity. It has been a sadly protracted affair, and it were well it ended here with peace to all—to courts as well as the parties and the public.

#### THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND MEETING.

*Speech of the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh.*

I rise with much pleasure to support the resolution which has just been seconded by Mr. Justice Amir Ali. The report for the last year which has been so carefully analyzed by the Hon'ble mover is, with the solitary exception alluded to by the previous speakers, a record of steady progress in the past and is full of promise for the future. I say full of promise for the future, because the best prophet of the future, as has been well said, is the past, and, therefore, although we are sometimes warned that we must not prophesy unless we know, I may safely predict that at no very distant time the thin red spots to which allusion has been made will disappear and the map of India become one vast red. Branch Associations will spring in every province and in every town, till the land is covered with a perfect network of hospitals and schools of medicine for ladies. But I need hardly point out that this prospect cannot be realized without a large expenditure of money, and it is no use disguising the fact that the committee are badly troubled with that eternal want of pence which vexes public men as well as philanthropists. If there is any body here present who thinks that enough is already being done in the cause of suffering humanity, I would refer him to a paragraph I came across the other day in an English paper which struck me very much. The charity record gives the total contributions in England for the past year at 2½ millions sterling in round numbers. According to the paper from which I have just quoted, the sum total of the legacies of 50/ and over in 1889 was in round figures a million sterling, while the sums resulting from innumerable small bequests of 50/ and under and from the fairly regular income produced from Annual Subscriptions, Fancy Fairs, Festivals, Saturday and Sunday Funs, Civic Gifts, amounted to about a million and a half. Now, with these figures before me, figures of arithmetic it is true, but far more eloquent than any mere figures of rhetoric, I should feel no misgiving in appealing to our European friends for support, although we must by no means forget the diminishing rupee growing fine by degrees and not beautifully less. But I must principally appeal to my own countrymen for whose benefit the Association exists. And here too I have not the slightest misgiving. For I know I am appealing to a nation distinguished for charity. I am appealing to a nation who for centuries have done without poor rates or work-houses. I am appealing on behalf of suffering womanhood to a nation who have been taught from the earliest ages that when women are honored, the gods themselves are pleased. We know that the pagoda tree is now a mere tradition, if indeed it was ever a native of the soil. But let not unfriendly critics say that the charity and munificence of the East are also the dreams of romance; that we have inherited the blood but not the virtues



of our ancestors; and that, without learning the lessons which the West should teach us, we have forgotten some of the best traditions of our race. Speaking for myself, I must say that I do not apprehend any such unfriendly criticism. What we want is not the spirit of charity, but its diversion into new channels, and our Western culture should instruct us in more refined and beneficial modes of showing our sympathy with all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind, or estate. Gentlemen, I cannot sit down without paying our humble tribute of respectful gratitude to the noble lady with whose name this Association will always be inseparably connected and whose mantle we are glad to see has fallen on worthy shoulders. The Countess of Dufferin, if I may say so without presumption, has many titles to distinction. Her laurels have been gathered in various fields. But I venture to doubt whether any of her achievements is likely to give her a purer, a holier pleasure than the foundation of the society with which her name is connected in this country. Ladies and gentlemen, I trust I shall not be accused of using the language of exaggeration when I say that, by founding this institution, the Countess of Dufferin has won the willing homage of a nation—a homage not given to the mere accident of her position but broad based on the people's will. Thanks to her unremitting exertions and the ready sympathy of the august lady who rules over us, the lady doctor is now abroad conquering and to conquer pain and disease in all its various shapes and verifying in a literal sense the words of the poet when, in addressing the sex, he exclaims, after saying some rather naughty things which I must not repeat,

When pain and anguish wring the brow,  
A ministering angel thou.

*Address of the Hon'ble Rao Saheb K. L. Nulkar.*

Your Excellencies, Your Honor, and Ladies and Gentlemen,—Your will, I have no doubt, agree with me that after hearing the report just summarised for us, giving a full and lucid account of the operations of the past year, I ought not to take up your time by enlarging upon the merits of the movement in connection with which we have met here this afternoon.

This institution leaped into existence, as it were, with popularity and success stamped on it.

It redounds to the sagacity and womanly discernment of the noble lady to whom it was given,—while in search of effective usefulness to her fellow women in this to her strange land,—to lay her magic finger on a spot which most required such a touch; and the ground being ready, the demand for relief intense, success, under the energetic prosecution of the object, was, as it has proved to be, a foregone conclusion.

The entire scheme, with its source, seems to have commended itself to the genius and traditions of the Indian people. Deplorable as is the position which woman holds among us at the present day, the presence, perhaps even active presence, of queens, princesses, and noble consorts by the side of the rulers and administrators of the country, giving countenance and support to their noble lords in the discharge of their public duties, is not entirely unknown to such traditional history, fragmentary though it be, as we possess.

The character of the relief offered, in a form most acceptable to the long suffering recipients, had only to be made known to be willingly adopted even in such usually backward parts as feudatory India. Indeed, the success and popularity of the institution in native states is simply unexampled, showing, as it does in my humble opinion, that when wisely advised and kindly influenced, our princes and chiefs may set examples sometimes worthy to be followed elsewhere.

The success attained by this movement seems to be so widespread in every part of India, that our women may soon wonder how they could live and get on before without professional help from their own sex; even as we all now wonder how we got on in our earlier days without our own doctors, public hospitals, dispensaries, railways, post offices, and other civilised appliances for the relief of human wants and sufferings.

The sketch map presented with the report, shows at a glance the comprehensive character of the work in progress in all parts of India. It also shows that the paths of the noble lady founder and her worthy successor during their periodical peregrinations between Calcutta and Simla, is even more thickly strewn with the blessings of the first fruits of the movement, seven out of the seventeen important centres of action, and nearly half of the total number of stations where the Fund operations are in working order, being located along those paths.

But, besides these direct blessings, the movement is fraught with other and far reaching results in an indirect way which may not yield the palm to its direct benefits, great and everlasting as these undoubtedly are. Female education and emancipation are questions which, in modern times, have occupied the best minds in all civilised parts of the world, and will continue to exercise them with fresh problems in its connection, even in the most advanced countries in Europe. We here in India are yet struggling at the threshold of these questions, in spite of all the Western knowledge and civilising influences brought to bear upon us for more than half a

century. Here, people have not yet ceased to ask the initial question *cui bono?* as to any female education at all. However, if the Indian people are, generally speaking, among the most religiously conservative in many social matters, and look askance upon everything new, especially when it comes from foreigners, perhaps we need not feel entirely despondent of, hope. Happily there is a counterpart, a brighter side to their national character, which is found sometimes to assert itself in a very unlooked for manner. Show them in a concrete, tangible form the practical benefits to be readily derived from an innovation, and you will find no people in the world more ready to acquiesce in it in silence, and even to take kindly to it. The present movement ought to supply one convincing reply to the question *cui bono?* by the practical proof it will give of the vital usefulness of woman to society at large in its every day domestic life, when properly educated and trained in a profession peculiarly suited to her sex. A study of the details of success attained by this movement may make us hopeful that the preliminary education of young women which must be necessarily progressing in all parts of India to qualify them for medical tuition, may result in a growing popularity of female education generally; provided always that it is conducted on the lines of usefulness as applicable to our present transition state, and not on any other simply because they are in vogue in other countries.

This latter observation opens out important questions of detail on which opinions must widely differ, and this is not the occasion to discuss them.

I will however beg leave to emphasise one important point which has to be constantly borne in mind in connection with all female educational institutions, a point which happily did not escape the watchful eye of the noble lady founder of this institution. I refer to the all important question of the discipline and moral training of the young women while under tuition. I have for some years past, as member of a board of management, actually felt the paramount necessity of attending to this point in connection with one or two female educational institutions of some importance in my part of India; and I am glad to find ready for quotation on this occasion the terse and appropriate language of warning uttered by the Countess of Dufferin in speaking of the training schools established under the auspices of this association. She writes in her "Record of 'Three Years' Work," that "if there is a place where modesty, reserve, gentle manners, and unimpeachable conduct, should be taught as a science, and should permeate the very air, it is in such a school as this, where the pupils are taken from a life of comparative seclusion and ignorance to one of partial publicity and of professional study. Our duty therefore towards them undoubtedly is to provide them with every possible safeguard, to surround them with good and well educated women, and to let them see how gentleness, tenderness, dignity, and self-respect can go hand in hand, with professional ability and uncompromising discipline."

These words deserve to be written in letters of gold on the doors of every female training school in India.

We must further remember that in this country, the necessity for these safeguards applies equally to boarders and to day pupils. I can say from personal experience that it has been found in other female training schools absolutely necessary to limit admissions of day scholars to girls who are known to be under proper guardianship at home. The danger sought to be avoided is by no means imaginary, insufficient attention to this point having sometimes jeopardised the useful existence of an important institution, or marred the success of individuals through misconception of foreign manners and customs.

As I have just said, the success of this movement seems to be eminently calculated to give a new impetus to female education in India generally, by opening out at least one respectable and useful career specially suited to women, and thus act like a lever in removing some of the most formidable obstacles which practically obstruct the way of all social reform among us. It is a fact which deserves to be borne in mind by all social reformers, and, for that matter, by their critics, that among these obstacles, the foremost on which the reformer stumbles in his first attempt, is the ignorance, the utter absence of education and systematic training of our women, who, as a necessary consequence, are among the most successful opponents of many of these reforms which, with their enlightened help, might be found easy of accomplishment. If we would secure the smooth working of well considered schemes of social reform in different directions, then the education of our women must take precedence of all other means to the end, even as social and educational advancements are among the indispensable pre-existing conditions of all real political advancement.

We may therefore hail the rapid success with which the exertions of the National Association for supplying female medical aid to the women of India have been blessed, with an expression of our heartfelt gratitude for the disinterested labours of the noble lady founder, her worthy successor in the presidential chair, and their collaborators and liberal supporters, official and non-official, not only for organising systematic relief of human suffering in quarters where it was most needed, but also for the effect, which their conspicuous success is calculated to have on other necessary reforms.

## THE PIONEER DEFAMATION CASE.

THE MANAGING PROPRIETOR FINED RS. 3,000.

At the Criminal Sessions of the Calcutta High Court on Monday, (February 17, 1890) Mr. Geo. W. Allen was put on his trial for having defamed Captain Harsey in an article published in the *Pioneer* in January 1889. The public are quite familiar with the case: the proceedings in the police court having been from time to time fully reported in the newspapers; and it is therefore unnecessary to recapitulate the facts. From an early hour, the High Court was quite crowded, evidencing the interest taken in the result of the trial by a large section of the general public.

The proceedings commenced at 12 o'clock, the Hon. the Chief Justice, Sir Comer Petheram, presiding. The prosecution was conducted by the Public Prosecutor, Mr. Phillips, with whom was Mr. Avetoom; and Mr. Allen was defended by Mr. Pugh.

On the case being called on, Mr. Allen was excused from going into the dock and permitted to stand by the side of his solicitor, Mr. Upton.

The Clerk of the Crown (Mr. Apar) then proceeded to read the charge, which was to the effect that he (the said Geo. Wm. Allen) did on or about the 26th January 1889 defame one Andrew William Harsey by publishing in the *Pioneer* newspaper in Calcutta, an article to the following effect, [there was recited the now famous passage with which the public are well acquainted, beginning "One Andrew William Harsey," etc.]

To this charge, Mr. Allen pleaded guilty.

The Hon. the Chief Justice (turning to Mr. Phillips) enquired if he intended to proceed with the other charges.

Mr. Phillips.—I do not think it will be necessary. All the other charges merely profess to set out the natural meaning of the words.

Mr. Pugh then proceeded to address the court in mitigation of punishment. He said: My Lord—There are two observations I have to address to your lordship with regard to this case. The accused, Mr. Allen, has placed himself entirely in the hands of his counsel from the beginning with reference to the course which he has pursued. The responsibility is therefore upon his counsel, and I trust your lordship will see nothing to condemn in the course that they have adopted. Mr. Allen is advised that the publication of this article was not demanded in the interests of the public. He is consequently anxious to do anything to show his obedience to the law, and he expresses regret for having contravened the law in that respect. Now, my lord, I have to draw your lordship's attention to circumstances which I hope your lordship will take into consideration in considering what punishment is to be meted out for this breach of the law. Now, it has been said that the *Pioneer* is a paper of the highest standing and the highest respectability. There is no suggestion made, and can be made, that it has ever before the publication of this article been brought into a court of law with reference to a libel either by way of criminal proceedings or in the way of civil proceedings. Your lordship will feel and well knows that it is very difficult for a journalist on all occasions to construe exactly the correct line between his duty to the public and his duty with reference to a particular individual. That line, my lord, is very often an imperceptible line, and a man may, with the best intentions, overstep the limits of that line, as Mr. Allen has done in this case; but he has done so, acting throughout in the belief that he was justified in bringing these matters before the public. This article was published in the *Pioneer* of January last, and no steps were taken in any form until June, and that is a circumstance which I ask your lordship to consider. No steps were taken for six months in any manner or form by the complainant. At the time when he did take steps the accused was away in England; and before he took steps no inquiry of any sort or kind was made at the *Pioneer* office as to who the writer of the article was. That, my lord, appears in one of the depositions of Mr. Chesney. The step that the complainant then took was to summon Mr. Chesney as the editor of the paper, and I think the printer as well. It is proved, my lord, upon the depositions that as soon as Mr. Allen heard of these proceedings he at once sent a telegram in these words, I ask your lordship's attention to that because it does appear to me to be of great importance whether Mr. Allen has acted, as your lordship will think, as a man of honour and right feeling should act when he finds the editor of the paper of which he is managing proprietor, is charged with reference to an alleged libel which he has himself written. Now what was it that he telegraphed. He telegraphed, my lord, as follows:—"Avow me solely responsible Harsey scrap. Urge consequent delay November." The meaning of that is that, as soon as he heard of these proceedings, he telegraphed to the staff of the *Pioneer* to avow him solely responsible for the article in question, and to ask that the proceedings should be delayed until his return in November. I put it to your lordship whether there was anything more he could well do. Of course, he was not responsible for the line that Mr. Chesney's adviser took under those circumstances. Then, my lord, the next point that I want to draw your lordship's attention to, is that the paper is published in the ordinary sense of the word at Allahabad, and the complainant, it appears, lives away from Allahabad, at Mussorie; but he chooses Calcutta in which to bring this action. I put it to your lordship whether that

is a matter worthy of consideration, looking to the great expense and harassment caused to the accused in being brought to Calcutta from time to time, when the defendant might quite as well have proceeded to Madras or to any other place where the *Pioneer* circulates and is published. My lord, when a man seeks to vindicate his character, you would naturally expect that he would seek to do so in the place where he is best known.

Mr. Crown Prosecutor Phillips (interrupting): I must ask your lordship whether it is competent for my learned friend to refer to that matter in his present address.

The Hon. the Chief Justice thought it did not have any bearing one way or the other.

Mr. Pugh: Well, my lord, I do not want to press it any further than to show what amount of harassment has been caused to the defence by the prosecution.

The Hon. the Chief Justice: Mr. Allen has pleaded guilty to the publication of this libel in Calcutta.

Mr. Pugh: Yes, my lord. It is not a point I wish to press any further than your lordship thinks is warranted. I will leave it as it stands with the observation that he has chosen this tribunal at this distance.

Mr. Crown Prosecutor Phillips (*sotto voce*): Both of them do not live at the same place.

Mr. Pugh: Well now, my lord, in regard to the nature of the libel itself. That, I think, is a point of very great importance. I am not going in any way to refer to the terms of this particular libel, and all that I wish to point out to your lordship—

The Hon. the Chief Justice: If I understood aright what you said at the beginning of your address, Mr. Allen wished to express his regret for having published the libel?

Mr. Pugh: My lord, Mr. Allen regrets that he has done anything which is not consistent with his duty. He regrets that he should have been led to publish this article when the public interests did not demand that he should publish it. That, my lord, I say on behalf of Mr. Allen, and I shall venture to put it to your lordship even more strongly again. But as regards the punishment which has to be awarded it will be of very great importance to consider what has been laid down so far by the Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and other eminent Judges that one has to ascertain what is the nature of the libel and what the class to which it belongs. Now your lordship is aware that, under Lord Campbell's Act, you have two classes of libel and different punishments awarded to each class, that is, you have one class of libels which are false libels and you have another class which may be libels, but which at the same time may not be false. Now, my lord, how does it appear upon the depositions here? I am not going to proceed beyond them. What appears upon the depositions is this: that an assault was committed by the complainant upon Mr. Chesney in reference to the former article in the *Pioneer*. And I wish to say in regard to that Mr. Chesney says that Mr. Allen, the accused, had nothing whatever to do with that previous article. The only observation I wish to make with reference to that is with regard to the class under which this libel falls. Now, with regard to the class, your lordship has seen what there is in the depositions; and I do not want to go further than Mr. Chesney's deposition with regard to that. Now it is a different matter altogether as to what a person may have suffered in his private capacity, or what the offence may be with reference to the public. And here what your lordship would consider is—what is the gravity of this offence with reference to the public. With regard to that, I shall point out to your lordship—and I venture to ask your lordship to allow me to read from the *Times* report the law which Lord Chief Justice Coleridge laid down—

The Hon. the Chief Justice shook his head in token of disapproval.

Mr. Pugh: If your lordship thinks I ought not to refer to it, I shall not press it. An additional strength is given to these considerations when you find that no step is taken with reference to this matter up till June. With these observations, my lord, I leave the matter entirely in your lordship's hands, again expressing on behalf of my client very great and unreserved regret that he should have been betrayed into any course which was inconsistent with the law.

After a short pause,

The Hon. the Chief Justice said: George William Allen,—You have pleaded guilty to having defamed the complainant in this case by the publication of this article in Calcutta within the meaning of the Penal Code; and your counsel tells me that you regret having done so, and that you desire to express your regret for it. It seems to me that you are very well advised to have adopted the course that you have adopted in this case. The law of this country defines defamation as anything which is published with a view to injure the character or the reputation of another person, and among the cases in which persons may write and publish matter of others are cases in which the matter is true, and it is in the interests of the public that such matters should be published. Now, this is the law which the Legislature has laid down, and there cannot be a doubt as to the wisdom of the law; the intention of it being that a man shall not for any purposes of his own—whether for the purpose of injuring a person,

or whether for the purpose of obtaining any advantage to himself rake up old stories in the life of another person and give them to the public, whether they are true or false, unless it is for the interests of the public that those stories should be published. Now, in this case, and as far as I am concerned, it makes very little difference whether the statements were true or false. It does appear that it was really nothing more than a petty squabble between persons whose character had no elements of publicity in them, because to deal with the complainant here as in any sense a public man is out of the question. If he is a public man, every man who ever held a commission in the Army and Navy, or for any other reason whatever has got his name into the newspapers is a public man. It is not necessary to do more than to state that to show how absurd the proposition is. That being the case, the public had no interest, could have no interest whatever, in knowing what the history of Captain Hearsy's life was, whether these stories be true or false. Consequently, in pleading guilty to this charge, you have, as I said before, exercised a wise discretion. If, instead of doing that, you had persisted in defence before a jury on any of the grounds which were open to you, and the jury came to the conclusion, after hearing the matter, that you were guilty of defamation, the question of punishment would have been a very serious matter indeed. Having regard to the course which you have taken, I do not think it is necessary that I should mark my sense of the gravity of this libel by passing a sentence of imprisonment. Notwithstanding that, as I said just now, it seems to me that the offence is an extremely grave one. Reading this article in this paper, it is apparent that a considerable amount of trouble has been taken to find out materials for making an attack upon this person's private life in a way the circum-

stances of the case did not warrant in any sense; and consequently it is necessary that that offence should be visited in such a way as to mark the sense of the Court of its enormity. The sentence of the Court in this case is that you pay a fine of Rs. 3,000.

The fine was paid soon after.—The Statesman.

### KRISTO DAS PAL'S MOTHER'S SRAD CEREMONY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I was invited to attend the above ceremony which took place on last Sunday, the 5th of Falgoun. I was most aggrieved to find that on such a socio-religious ceremony, no distinction was made between the Brahmans and other classes as regards seats. They were all made to sit together on a common carpet in the quadrangle of Babu Kristodas Pal's house. When I came to the spot, I saw Babu Radhika Prosunno Mukerjee, Chandranath Bose, Dr. Raja Sourindra Mohun Tagore and a large number of respectable people whom I know not. Then came Raja Durga Churn Law, and I was astonished to see that he did not make a *pranam* to the Brahmans assembled. When Raja Sourindra Mohun left the place, he freely shook hands with some of his friends, but even he did not observe the common Hindu etiquette of making a *pranam* to the assembled Brahmans. Is this not carrying too far the iconoclasm for which the Calcutta Baboos have gained a notoriety among the Mofussil people? As a Mofussil man, I can assure you that I had never seen such a scene before in a Mofussil town or village.

RAM GOPAL SANYAL.

Feb. 20.

### NOTICE.

*Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne will receive on Tuesday afternoon, the 25th February 1890, in the Gardens of Government House from 4-30 to 6-0 P. M.*

*All Ladies and Gentlemen having the entree at Government House are invited to attend, and those having children to bring them.*

WILLIAM BERESFORD, Lt.-Col.,  
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

Govt. House, Calcutta,  
Military Secretary's Office.

The 17th February, 1890.

### THE EMPRESS OF INDIA COTTON MILLS COMPANY LIMITED.

Proceedings of the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Half-yearly General Meeting of Shareholders of the Empress of India Cotton Mills Company, Limited, held at the Registered Office of the Company, No. 55, Canning Street, Calcutta, at 3 P. M., on Saturday the 15th February 1890.

PRESENT :

D. B. Mehta, Esq., *in the Chair*.  
Algernon Watkins, Esq.  
P. E. Guddar, Esq.  
G. C. Farr, Esq.  
D. C. Sethna, Esq.  
Jetha Jaichund, Esq.  
Baboo Gourisunker Tewary.  
Baboo Mohun Loll.  
Hajee Abdoola Abdool Wahed, Esq.  
Mahomed Hajee Abdool Wahed, Esq.  
R. D. Mehta, Esq.

The Advertisement convening the Meeting having been read, and the Directors' Report and Accounts circulated among the Shareholders being taken as read, the following Resolutions were proposed:—

#### Resolution I.

Proposed by D. B. Mehta, Esq.,  
Seconded by Baboo Mohanlal—  
That the Directors' Report be adopted, and that the Accounts for the half-year ending 31st December 1889, as audited and circulated to the Shareholders, be also adopted and passed as correct, and satisfactory.

Carried unanimously.

#### Resolution II.

Proposed by Algernon Watkins, Esq.,  
Seconded by Baboo Gourisunker Tewary—  
That a Dividend at the rate of Rs. 12-8-0 per share, free of Income Tax, for the Half-year ending 31st December 1889, be declared

payable forthwith, and that the balance of the profits, *viz.* Rs. 4,368-2-6, be carried forward to Profit and Loss Account for the current half-year.

Carried unanimously.

#### Resolution III.

Proposed by Jetha Jaichand, Esq.,  
Seconded by D. C. Sethna, Esq.—  
That the retiring Directors—  
Messrs. P. E. Guddar  
Algernon Watkins and  
G. C. Farr  
be and are hereby re-elected.

Carried unanimously.

#### Resolution IV.

Proposed by G. C. Farr, Esq.,  
Seconded by Hajee Abdoola Abdool Wahed—  
That Mr. K. C. Peters be and is hereby re-appointed as the Company's Auditor for the current year upon the same remuneration as he has hitherto received.

Carried unanimously.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair and to the Managing Agents, the Meeting separated.  
D. B. MEHTA,  
Chairman.

Dividend Warrants are now ready for issue.

D. B. MEHTA & CO.,  
Secretaries, Treasurers, & Agents.

### HIGH COURT NOTICE.

ESTATE RAJAH RAJ KISSEN.

Maharaja Sibkristo Bahadoor  
*vs.*  
Kristo Chunder Ghose.

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 12th March next, at the hour of 1 O'clock in the afternoon, the Receiver of the High Court will put up for auction, at his office on the third floor of the Court House, a lease for six years from the 1st Bysack 1297 corresponding with the 13th April 1890, of the undermentioned property, on the terms and conditions of a draft lease which may be inspected at the said office.

In Zillah Tipperah Pergunnah, Gungamundie, recorded in the Register of the Collector as Towji No. 545, including the Churs appertaining thereto, *viz.*, Nobbo Chur No. 1290, Chur Bahur alias Teetoor Chur No. 1508, Chur Surjo and Sunjoora No. 1964, Chur Assad and Doobur Chur No. 21.

In Zillah Dacca, Chur Goagachia No. 10503, Chur Jalnalpur No. 10505.

For conditions of auction and further particulars, apply to the Receiver of the High Court.

J. C. MACGREGOR,  
Receiver, High Court.

High Court  
Receiver's Office.  
The 19th February, 1890.

### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have not already sent in their Subscriptions, will greatly oblige the Executive Committee by doing so without delay.

RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.

Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

### NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to a decree and order of the Calcutta High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction made in suit No. 1 of 1881 (wherein Chutterput Sing is plaintiff and Meer Mahomed Cazeem Johury and others are defendants) and dated respectively the 15th of August 1887 and the 17th of December 1888 by the Registrar of the said Court in his sale room in the Court House on Saturday the 8th of March next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the following properties:—

Lot No. 1.—Putnee Lot Nawanankar Aslee with Dakhilee situate in Pergunnah Sreepore in Zillah Purnea Sub-Registration district and Thannah Arrareah the annual Sudder Jumma of which is Rs. 3,525.

Lot No. 2.—Putnee Lot Saifgunge Aslee with Dakhilee situate in Pergunnah Havelli Zillah Purnea Sub-Registration district Arrareah and Thannah Matari the annual Sudder Jumma of which is Rs. 10,300.

Lot No. 3.—Lot Mirzapore Aslee with Dakhilee situate in Pergunnah Havelli Zillah Purnea Sub-Registration district Arrareah and Thannah Raneegunge the annual Sudder Jumma of which is Rs. 14,306.

Lot No. 4.—An eight annas share of Is-tamrree Talook Ramai &c. Aslee with Dakhilee situate in Pergunnah Sultanpore Zillah Purnea Sub-Registration district Arrareah add Thannahs Arrareah and Matari the annual Sudder Jumma of which is Rs. 1,124.

The abstract of title and conditions of sale may be seen at the office of the Registrar High Court Original Jurisdiction and at the office of Messrs. Beeby and Rutter attorneys for the plaintiff any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

(Sd.) R. BELCHAMBERS,  
Registrar.

Beeby and Rutter,  
Plaintiff's attorneys,  
Calcutta High Court,  
Original Jurisdiction.

The 9th January 1890.



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(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which delights our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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of this place values the chain for Rs. 7 and the locket for Rs. 10." Mr. G. Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutla, says:—"A  
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Calcutta, the 15th February, 1890.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND  
REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1890.

} No. 413

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE TWO TEMPLES.

Cheerful and loud rang the minster peal,  
And sweet was the organ's strain,  
As baron and knight stepped forth to kneel,  
On the floor of the sacred fane ;  
The priestly robes were heavy with gold,  
And the blaze of the altar light  
Revealed in many a silken fold  
Gems like the stars of night.

Huge and grand was the sacred pile,  
Like a forest the pillars stood,  
Wealth and power had formed the style  
From the porch to the holy rood ;  
Quaint were the carvings over head,  
Bright was the storied pane,  
Rich were the blazonings of the dead  
Who slept 'neath the sacred fane.

The minster gray was a noble pile,  
Wealth shone on the altar-stone.  
And many who knelt in the vaulted aisle  
As warriors brave were known ;  
The organ pealed forth its harmony,  
And the incense was scattered wide,  
And He who taught us humility  
Was worshipped with pomp and pride.

Solemn and low was the ocean's hymn,  
And the chant of the forest drear,  
As the traveller knelt in the evening dim  
To breathe his humble prayer ;  
The vaulted roof that o'er him spread  
Was the arching azure sky—  
And the lamps that light on the altar shed  
Were the twinkling stars on high ;

The scented flowers their incense gave,  
The sea-bird's cry was the bell,  
The choristers were the wood and wave,  
And the surf as it rose and fell ;  
The daisied turf was the jewelled shrine  
Where he knelt from care apart,  
The falling dew was the sacred wine,  
And the priest was his trustful heart.

Years have passed, and a mouldering wall  
Stands where the minster stood,  
Rough brambles grow and reptiles crawl  
Round the base of the holy rood ;

Fallen are pillar and fretted arch,  
And the toad leaves its noisome slime  
On the pavement, crushed by the heavy march  
Of the fell destroyer, Time.

Gone is the wealth from the altar stone,  
Rotten the vestments gay,  
Dimmed for ever the lamps that shone  
Near the shrines by night and day ;  
Nought is heard but the shrieking owl  
Or the distant hunter's horn,  
Laid in the dust is casque and cowl,  
And their faith is a thing of scorn.

But the daisied turf still forms a shrine,  
And the skies their blue arch spread,  
The lamps of night unfaded shine,  
And the flowers their incense shed ;  
The woods and waves raise their hymns again  
As they raised in days of yore,—  
Man's temples fall, but Nature's fane  
For ever stands secure.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THEY have started a "Women's Trades' Association" to raise possible, the status of the underpaid and overworked female workers of all classes in East London. Here, the progressive fair are bent on fairs and picnics.

MISS Beatrice Stanley Max Müller, daughter of Professor Max Müller, has been married to Mr. T. C. Fergusson, a son of Sir James Ranken Fergusson, Bart.

MR. Labouchere has directed his attention to the purification of the Mayor's Court. In a recent issue of *Truth*, it was stated that that "Court only existed for the benefit of a gang of blackmailing officials and attorneys." At request, the editor, in a letter, explained his meaning in a lengthy statement, summarising the purport thus :—

"(1) that the practice of the Mayor's Court is expressly designed to enlarge the jurisdiction of the court and to increase its business ; (2) that, in pursuit of this end, a system of extortion is practised upon defendants which has no parallel in any other court, is in some respects illegal, and is in every respect subversive of justice ; (3) that the officers of the court are responsible for the creation and the working of the system ; and (4) that the profits of the system are reaped by those officers and by the lawyers practising before them."

The Court of Common Council held a debate on the letter, in the course of which the City Solicitor, replying to questions, said—

"that costs were taxed by the Registrar or Deputy Registrar as in the county courts. In the majority of cases heavy costs were run up by the defendants themselves who, having no ground of defence, desired to stave off the day of judgment as long as possible. The Corporation had endeavoured on several occasions to get Order XIV of the Superior Courts applied to the Mayor's Court, but without success. At present, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the defendants themselves were to blame for the heaviness of the costs incurred."

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

On the motion of Mr. S. Spyer, who was of opinion that there was not a single paragraph or assertion in the lengthy statement of the editor which could not be confuted or contradicted, the matter was, after some discussion, referred to the Law and City Courts Committee for investigation and report.

BEWARE of tight collars! Dr. Forster, Director of the Ophthalmic University of Breslau, has found, in no fewer than three hundred cases, that the eyesight was affected by the pressure upon the muscles of the neck, and consequent disturbance of the circulation caused by wearing collars that were too small. Tight-dressing is the rage of the day. It is at once inconvenient and unhealthy. The newest fashion ought to divert the current into healthy channels.

DURING the recent dynamite explosion at Antwerp, sixty-seven Austrian Obligations of 1,000 florins each were reduced to charred mass in an iron safe. A professor of chemistry examined them and deciphered their numbers and letters. The owner has now been paid the 67,000 florins, the value of the charred Obligations.

At Bruenn, a thief cut a circular hole into a jeweller's shop window through the eyehole in the shutter, and with a rod and hook fished out a quantity of valuable goods.

THE School Board for London have decided for free education. They have come to a Resolution that admission to all public elementary schools in receipt of grants from the State should be free, and that the schools should be under representative management. The statistical committee has orders to prepare a petition to Parliament. Here, in Bengal, the Government is preparing for an education cess, without intending to make the schools free.

THE Duc d'Aoste, the brother of the King of Italy, died at Turin on the 18th January last. Born in 1845, he occupied the throne of Spain under the title of Amedu I, from December 1870 to February 1873. Everywhere in his new kingdom he encountered nothing but opposition, and fearing to fall a victim to murder, he abdicated the crown. Ever since he lived in complete seclusion. His death has greatly affected King Humbert, who was much attached to him. From being brother-in-law, the Duke became the son-in-law of Prince Napoleon by espousing princess Lætitia.

THERE is a regular traffic in foundlings in Russia. Parents sell their children to traders who forward them to the towns in baskets containing from six to ten babies each. No wonder, therefore, that seventy-seven per cent. of the children admitted to hospitals die in infancy, another eleven per cent. scarcely reaching 21 years of age.

THE *Indian Mirror* has grown sick of the Calcutta Municipal law, the Municipal Chairman, outgoing and incoming, the Lieutenant-Governor, and Bengal Civilians generally, and appeals to the Ordinary Madras Member of the Governor-General's Council and the Viceroy himself for setting it right. Our contemporary admits that it does not know Mr. Lee nor how he will turn out as the Chairman of the Metropolitan Municipality. It suspects that Sir Henry Harrison had recommended him for the post, and, what is perhaps more, finds that Mr. Lee will be entitled to draw Rs. 2,500 instead of Rs. 900 his present pay. The last is enough to unsettle our good brother, and the public is treated daily to indignant outbursts.

FOR the moment, at any rate, Mr. Hutchins is the idol of the *Indian Mirror*. But who will congratulate Mr. Hutchins on his temporary occupation of a pedestal from which he may be hurled down any day.

THE Thakore Sahib of Gondal revisits England once more. This time he takes with him his Rani and two children.

IT has been officially announced that there is no present intention of reducing the salt duty in the coming financial year.

THE Duke and Duchess of Connaught are preparing to leave India. Their Royal Highnesses have moved out from Poona to Bombay.

SIR Stewart Bayley, accompanied by Sir John Ware Edgar and Mr. Nolan, leaves for Chota Nagpur immediately. The feuds there are of a kind to tax all the resources of consummate peace-makers.

THE Maharaja of Vizianagram's time is up in the Viceroy's Council.

ANOTHER disappointment to the Hon'ble Syud Ameer Hossein. Mr. Handley will officiate as Chief Magistrate of the town when Mr. Marsden goes on leave this summer. The Hon'ble Syud has been kept out of the officiating appointment on this plea and that. But he need not despair.

THE clerical establishment will be allowed to draw their usual Simla allowances. This decision will be generally approved. If there is a real desire for economy, there is enough room for it in other directions.

ON Thursday, the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association held its annual meeting. It was a tame affair. The attendance was not large, and the President was not present. Mr. L. P. D. Broughton, the Administrator-General, took the chair. The office bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—Mr. L. P. D. Broughton, President; Messrs. H. B. H. Turner and A. G. Watson, Vice-Presidents; Mr. H. W. Hallet, Honorary Treasurer; Mr. W. C. Madge, Secretary. Members—The Hon'ble Sir A. Wilson, the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Moore, Messrs. R. Allen, S. E. J. Clarke, W. A. Clarke, T. B. Curtis, Cairns Deas, S. Dignam, M. P. Gasper, G. Irving, H. R. McInnes, J. F. Macnair, H. T. Ottewill, W. H. Ryland, J. O'B. Saunders and W. J. Simmons.

The Chairman announced that the Association has been registered as a Company, but no trustees have yet been appointed for the custody of the funds. The expenses of the past six months were moderate and the subscription has been reduced by one-half. He regretted the death of "Britannicus" Mr. Judge. The Chairman alluded to the Factory Bill and the Draft Leper Act circulated by the Government for opinion. He laid particular stress on the fearful state of Civil Courts in the Mofussil with regard to accommodation and record rooms. The revenue from suitors' fees exceeded the expenditure by 32 lacs, and the Financial Department itself admits the surplus at 14½. He also believed the Judges were too much hampered with office work for proper discharge of their judicial duties.

MAHARAWAL Udaisinghjee Bahadr of Davaia Partabgarh is dead. He had ruled the state for 26 years. In the absence of direct heirs, his nearest relative Maharaja Sahib Rughunath Singhjee Bahadr of Arnod has succeeded him.

THE London Publishers Macmillan & Co. have obtained from the Calcutta High Court a rule against Suresh Chunder Deb to shew cause why his book part X of "Select Short Poems" should not be pronounced an infringement of copyright of Palgrave's "Golden Treasury of Lyrics."

THE Executive of the Calcutta Corporation have submitted the Budget for the year 1890-91, for consideration of the Commissioners.

The General Fund Receipts with the estimated balance Rs. 3,80,000 of the current year are put down at Rs. 29,90,800 and the expenditure at Rs. 29,71,008. The water-rate with the balance Rs. 90,000 comes to Rs. 11,18,200 income, while the expenditure is Rs. 10,53,081. The sewage-rate with balance Rs. 25,000 aggregates Rs. 3,47,000 income against Rs. 3,18,926 expenditure. The receipts from the Lighting-rate are calculated at Rs. 3,20,000 and the expenditure at Rs. 3,42,695. Cart Registration Fund is put down on both sides at Rs. 72,000. Hackney Carriage Registration Fund ditto at Rs. 16,500. Jute Ware Fund at Rs. 26,400 and Jute Ware house Inspection Fund at Rs. 5,280.

The Chairman recommends increase of the General-rate, which falls equally on the landlord and the tenant, from 9½ to 10½ per cent.

The Budget has been referred to the General Committee for scrutiny.

BABOO Jodoolal Mullick has served on the Calcutta Municipality notice of a suit for damages, valuing his injured dignity at Rs. 20,000. Last week, the Corporation sold his two carriages for realization of

the rates due. The Baboo had threatened the Chairman with injunction of the High Court in case he proceeded with the sale. The Municipality, nothing daunted, went on in its usual way and the carriages were knocked down to the highest bidders at half the sum due from the Baboo.

THE great meeting at Bankipore presided over by the Maharaja of Durbhunga unanimously passed the following resolutions:—

1. That this meeting is very grateful to the Government of Bengal for its efforts to allay the excitement prevalent among the Hindoo population in Behar, and for the action it has taken in the matter of the complaint of Isri Singh and other people at Durbhungah.

2. That, while the inquiry into this complaint is going on, the matter or matters involved ought to be considered *sub judice*; and this meeting is of opinion that the people of Behar should await with confidence the final resolution of Government on the subject, without in the meantime taking any further action in the matter.

THE Maharaja of Travancore, out on pilgrimage and business, arrived at the British capital last Saturday morning and left it last night. He took up his residence at Sealdah in the houses hitherto occupied by the Maharaja of Vizianagram and since purchased by him. There was the usual exchange of courtesies between His Highness and the Viceroy.

Haji Adam Haji Abdool Latiff, of the firm of Haji Abdool Latiff Baladina, in Bombay, is in custody on a charge of forgery in respect of thirteen lacs. He is accused by the Bombay branch of the Bengal Bank of having forged the names of Ebrahim Haji Jakeria and others to certain bills of exchange.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE House of Commons has voted the Address to the Queen.

THE Conference on the Labour Question called by the German Emperor meets at Berlin on the 15th March. England, France and Belgium have already accepted the German invitation. Mr. Bradlaugh is opposed to the limitation of hours, as, according to him, it would drive British trade from foreign markets.

THERE was when the mail left England considerable dissatisfaction in the ranks of the Home Civil Service. The Treasury had called upon its clerks to work seven hours, or one hour additional, for an extra of half hour's pay. They protested and sent up a memorial, respectfully but firmly expressing their inability to comply with the order.

THE Committee, presided over by Lord Harris, on the Militia of the United Kingdom, has reported material advance in the service since 1884. It has, however, found a weak point in the officering of the force.

EARLY in the week, Mr. Gladstone and Lord Tennyson were reported to be suffering from severe cold. Both of them are now better.

INFLUENZA is still distressing England. It is spreading with alarming speed in Norfolk and Devon. Many of the schools are closed.

It has attacked India too. First in the continent, Bombay has raised the alarm. In a letter to the *Times of India*, Dr. Blaney says that during the week his practice has increased enormously and that during this short period, he has treated probably 200 cases, all with symptoms closely resembling those of the influenza epidemic. A subsequent telegram of the 26th ult. says that the day before, 275 pupils of the Fort High School were absent through sickness, while 300 hands of the Hindustan Mill and large numbers in other mills were on the sick list absent, the general symptoms being fever, cough and catarrh. We would wish much to keep the new visitor out of our doors—but how to do it?

GOVERNMENT is not opposed to a proposal for free education in England, but is not prepared to introduce any measure on that behalf in the present year.

GOVERNMENT has anticipated Mr. Bradlaugh. On the 21st February, Lord Cross read in the Upper House a bill for the expansion of the Indian Councils. It secures to the Supreme Council the right to discuss the Budget even when it is not to be followed by any fresh legislation. It raises the maximum of additional or non-official members in all the Legislative Councils, and grants the power of interpellation. The bill has the general approval of both the Past Viceroys Lord Northbrook and Ripon.

MR. Goschen is willing to consider any real grievance touching the assaying of silver plate from the East. He does not consider it necessary to issue fresh orders to the Customs authorities in connection therewith. A relief from that duty cannot be indefinitely put off.

REPLYING to Mr. Bradlaugh, Sir John Gorst declined to lay the Gilgit memorandum on the table of the House of Commons. It is the same memorandum, a not very accurate version of which in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* tempted Lord Lansdowne into a passionate interpretation of the Official Secrets law.

SIR Morell Mackenzie sued *St. James's Gazette* for libel for its remarks regarding the Doctor's treatment of the late Emperor Frederick. There was a similar charge too against the *Times*. The first has been cast in £1,500 damages, the *Times* consenting to pay £150.

FIVE new Turkish men-of-war built in the Turkish Naval Dockyard have been launched at Constantinople.

A NEW York telegram of the 24th February reported floods at Prescott by the bursting of the dam. The details now given shew that a wall of water, forty feet high, swept along a distance of 100 miles, demolishing the town of Wickenburg. The loss of human life is given at fully a hundred and fifty people, mostly miners and herdsmen. The disaster had been predicted, and a messenger was sent from Prescott down the valley the day before, to warn people of the danger, but he got drunk on the way and the message was undelivered.

THE Prince is still touring in the Native States. He arrived at Jodhpore on the 22nd February, the whole city turning out to catch a sight of their future Emperor. There were illuminations in the night, and a shooting party the next day. On the 24th, the Maharaja gave a banquet at which the Prince, in replying to the toast given by the Maharaja to his health, spoke many kind things of the State, the hospitality of the Maharaja, and the valour of the Marwars in war. Evidently, His Royal Highness enjoyed his Jodhpore trip immensely, for he said that nowhere during his tour had he been more heartily welcomed or more splendidly entertained, and nowhere had he enjoyed himself more thoroughly than during his visit here. The Prince also complimented Sir Pertab Sing for the good impression he had made while on his visit to England as the Maharaja's representative at the Jubilee festival. The following day was spent in pigsticking. A notable incident in the Prince's stay in Jodhpore was his spearing a fine boar, which charged him and got speared for its pains. The spear head got bent quite crooked, and it has been kept as a souvenir. The Royal party left for Philibhit on 26th *en route* to Nepal. Major Durand, C.B., the Nepal Resident, received His Royal Highness at Philibhit and accompanied the party to Mundraghat on the British side of the river Sardah, where the Prince was received by his Excellency Maharaja Bir Shumshere Jang Rana Bahadoor, Prime Minister of Nepal.

MR. Allan O. Hume, if he has not yet given us our Parliament at College Green, has obtained a privilege for Her Majesty's subjects in India long granted but not allowed. On his representation, the Director-General of the Post Office of India writes that "Petitions to Her Majesty and to Parliament are exempt from postage by sections 40 and 41 of 3 and 4 Vict. Cap. 96, but there has been some doubt whether this is applicable to India, and hitherto no such exemption has been claimed or allowed. The subject has now been under consideration, and as I am satisfied that the provisions of the Statute are applicable to India, I have issued the necessary instructions in the matter."

The late Mr. Anstey claimed, in his defence of Ameer Khan against the persecution of Government, that all beneficial Statutes of Parliament applied to India. He was then laughed out. The feeling is different now. We are told in the Governor-General's Council itself



that Acts of Parliament are applicable to India although not acted upon. It is, however, somewhat anomalous that laws are made in India regarding matters already legislated upon by Imperial Parliament, without repealing the statutes. It strikes us that the time has arrived to enquire by a special Commission which of the Parliamentary Statutes apply to India and to what extent. The Statutes relating to India issued under authority of the Government of India do not give full information, and are, therefore, incomplete and misleading.

It requires an effort to imagine that there exists a S. P. C. A. in a city in which the noblest of our dumb brethren and best helper of man, the horse, is daily and hourly treated with crying injustice, and compelled under the lash to draw a preposterous load for the benefit of an organised company. But good is various in degree as in shape, and it were unfair not to acknowledge that we do find from time to time distinct traces of the presence of that modern instrument of humanity or exponent of philozoism. Just now, we have to confess the influence of its balmy corrective. Our S. P. C. A. instructed Mr. Garth, barrister, to prosecute at the Police bench two butchers, and has got them convicted. We wish we could say "punished," but the punishment is only nominal. The case was tried by Babu Srinath Chunder and Nawab Mir Mahammad Ali, Honorary Magistrates. They at first could not agree that the act was a cruelty. They took time and heard further evidence, and have at last disposed of the case in a model of a judgment for conciseness. It begins :—

"We think the charge against these two defendants has been proved. We find that the defendants committed the offence with which they have been charged. It is unnecessary for us now to discuss the meaning of the word 'wantonly,' used in the Act. We take it to mean unnecessarily, and we cannot hold that because the entire skin which the defendants expected to get would have brought more money into their pockets, they were justified in flaying a goat alive."

Just so. The judgment thus ends :—

"We convict the two accused, and fine each of them Rs. 30, and in default of payment, we sentence each to simple imprisonment for a month."

We wish the conclusion might be different as regards the chastisement. A Rs. 30 fine is nothing. In fact, a fine seems a mockery in such a case. This faint-heartedness is, indeed, the characteristic weakness of "justices' justice" in this country. We can scarcely conceive of a worse case in which the highest punishment under the law might be awarded. We cannot conceive enormity more enormous than that a man should deliberately torture to death a poor creature incapable of offence, without the slightest excuse beyond a desire to make money. However, we are relieved to find that our Baboo and Nawab Sahibs have come to so satisfactory a conclusion. The S. P. C. A. and Mr. Garth are entitled to the thanks of the community.

THE Royal Commission on the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb and Idiots and Imbeciles, make a strong and unanimous plea for making the State responsible, in its own interests, for education and training of the unfortunates. They propose to make them useful members of society and capable of earning their own livelihood. The terms of reference did not exclude India from the scope of the investigation. The Commissioners, however, found that it involved a long and special enquiry in this country, and so submitted their report without specially dealing with India. They have since, through Lord Egerton of Tatton, addressed the Secretary of State for India expressing a hope that "your Lordship would see fit to take the whole subject into your early consideration, so as to enable the general principles laid down in this Report, with such local modifications as may be necessary, to be carried out in India, as well as in other parts of the British Empire."

Lord Cross, by his despatch Public No. 87, dated London, 5th August 1889, enquires of His Excellency the Governor-General of India in Council "whether, and to what extent, these principles can be made applicable to India." The Government of India has circulated the Report and the letter for opinion of Local Governments, and thus enunciates its present views on the question :—

"From—C. J. Lyall, Esq., C.I.E., Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India. To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department. Home Department, Education.

Simla, October 1889.

Sir,—I am directed to forward copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 87, dated the 15th August 1889, and of its enclosures, being a letter dated the 16th July from Lord Egerton of Tatton, with the Report of the Royal Commission on the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb, and Idiots and Imbeciles, and to request an expression of the

views of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on the question how far the conclusions of the Royal Commission are applicable to these classes in India.

2. It appears to the Governor-General in Council, as at present advised, that the principles advocated by the Royal Commission proceed upon the assumption that the unfortunate classes with which they deal, if provision is not made for their training and support by the State, would be dependent upon public or private charity; and also upon the assumption, which is true for the United Kingdom but not for India, that the State has accepted the obligation of providing for the compulsory education of all classes of the community. As regards the first of these assumptions, His Excellency in Council believes that the family system in India has caused it to be generally recognized as an obligation by all able-bodied persons to provide for the support of those members of their families who, from congenital or other defects, are unable to earn their own livelihood; and as regards the second, the State has not yet succeeded in securing instruction in the rudiments of learning for those classes who suffer under no natural disqualification, and it would seem premature to spend money upon endeavouring to train persons who at the best could only very imperfectly respond to the efforts made on their behalf, and whose education would be exceptionally expensive.

It would appear, therefore, that for the present any assistance that may be granted by the State towards the improvement of the condition of these unfortunate classes should be confined to aiding private charitable efforts where such efforts have been made. I am to enquire whether any institutions which might receive such assistance exist in Bengal, and if so, to request that some account may be given of their working and the success which has hitherto attended their operations.

In this connection I am to refer to this Department's letter No. 30, dated the 26th January 1887, forwarding a letter from Mr. Francis Maginn, in which he asked for assistance towards the establishment of a school in Calcutta for deaf mutes, and to enquire whether any action was taken in the matter by the Government of Bengal."

THE Revenue Recovery Bill was materially altered in the Select Committee. The amendments made were explained by the Hon'ble Mr. Crosthwaite, the Member in charge, at the meeting of the Imperial Council of 14th ultimo, after which the Bill was passed. Its object is to supply defects in the present law in regard to the realization of arrears of the revenue or local rates. In the case of arrears which have accrued in one District or Province, it provides a speedy procedure for their realization by the transfer of certificates from one District or Province to another. Another important Bill, amending the Official Trustee Act, Indian Succession Act, Administrator-General Act and Probate and Administration Act, was also passed on the same day. Its object is to split up the present huge jurisdiction of the Administrator-General of Bengal into four smaller divisions having Calcutta, Allahabad, Lahore and Rangoon for their respective centres. Some of its provisions will come into operation on the occurrence of vacancies in the offices of Administrator-General and Official Trustee: others will have immediate effect. The immediate changes will be to include Upper Burma in the jurisdiction of the Administrator-General of Bengal, and British Baluchistan in that of the Administrator-General of Bombay. It also empowers the High Courts to raise the rates of commission now payable to Official Trustees.

THE sixth anniversary of the Sobha Bazar Benevolent Society passed off with some *clat* the other day. Babu Protap Chunder Mozumdar's was the speech of the day. As pleasant reunions of respectable members of society, these anniversaries serve a good purpose. Why not have them preceded or followed by dinners, which would be an additional feature of interest? In the case of the Sobha Bazar Society, at any rate, there need be no reason for not adopting this improvement. It will have an instantaneous effect upon the attendance, we can guarantee. Nor is precedent wanting for such a departure, if one were wanted. For years, the Ootterpara Hitakari attracted a large gathering from far and near and both sides of the river by the good cheer it provided for the guests after the ceremony. Since the death of Babu Raj Kissen Mookerjee, the claims of the inner man were neglected, and who now hears of the Hitakari?

*Holloway's Pills.*—Factory Operatives and Workers in Manufactories.—The remarkable remedies which have been discovered and perfected by Thomas Holloway, and which have for more than forty years been successfully used in every quarter of the globe, are especially useful in all the manifold ailments which afflict those who by reason of their occupation are confined for years, or all their lives, in crowded buildings and workshops. Holloway's Pills and Ointment are associated remedies, the former restoring the vital powers when diminished, and always acting as an efficient blood purifier, whilst the latter relieves local maladies, checks inflammation, and acts as a cleansing and healing agent in cases of bad legs, bad breasts, ulcers and unhealthy sores of all kinds.

*REIS & RAYYET.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1890.

## LORD CROSS'S REFORM BILL.

The Secretary of State's Bill in the House of Lords for the reform of Indian Legislative Councils, will be associated with Lord Dufferin's Viceroyalty. It fulfils the promise he made in his Jubilee Address. It is a substantial measure of progress, and it will be to his political insight and liberal sympathies that India's gratitude for it will be due. Lord Dufferin had not been long in his office before the defects of our legislative chambers attracted his Lordship's attention. He saw the progress of the people and sympathised with their aspirations. The work of Government had also become arduous and complicated and he saw the necessity of more and more availing of the help of the people in that work. He made enquiries and became satisfied that the time had come for more adequately introducing the native element in our legislatures and giving them a more representative constitution. Ever since, he had been in correspondence with the Home authorities, and the present Bill is the outcome of his arduous and earnest labors. The Bill does not, it is true, adopt Lord Dufferin's scheme of reform in entirety. Indeed, in one important particular, it is very much different. We refer, of course, to its discarding the elective principle. Probably if Lord Dufferin were still Viceroy, that principle would have had a better chance of being accepted. At any rate, his Lordship would have had a hard fight with the Home Government before surrendering an important feature of his scheme. But the Home Government cannot be blamed for their action, which no doubt is based upon the present Viceroy's opinion on the subject. Lord Lansdowne is the responsible ruler now, and it is both becoming and expedient that deference should be shown to his views in a matter of this kind. If Lord Cross's Bill, therefore, does not accept the principle of election, the usual etiquette and procedure of official business are responsible for the difference. For ourselves, we think it would have been as well if Lord Lansdowne had seen his way to give election a fair trial, at any rate—a modicum election. Our own experience of elective Municipalities and Local Boards has, we must confess, considerably modified our views on the subject. Nevertheless, the principle of nomination has generally been such a conspicuous failure, that we would fain stick to election as the lesser of two evils. If election tends to vulgarise an essentially conservative people like the people of this country, and has practically led to the return of unqualified representatives in municipal boards, the evil may be remedied by restricting the franchise. In the case of legislative chambers, the right of election might be only conferred on well recognised representative bodies like Chambers of Commerce, the British Indian Association, and other similar bodies. Not that effect cannot be given to such a safeguarded system of election even while nomination remained the statutory method. But in view of the persistent abuses of nomination in the past, it were much to be desired that election were formally recognised in the law. Nomination properly made, would give rise to no complaints. Lord Reay's exercise of this power has always been attended with the happiest results. Indeed, nomination has not a little to be said for it. It is essentially election by a single intelligence, and if carefully conducted, it may

secure more quickly and conveniently the return of the fittest. Our objections to nomination are therefore aimed at its practical abuses. So far nomination has almost invariably been synonymous with Abuse. Men have been appointed to the Provincial legislatures as well as the Imperial Council who had no business to be there. In fact, one cannot but wonder how a Government so well served, as a rule, by its civil officers could possibly make such ridiculous mistakes. The appointments could not wholly be due to favoritism, though that might have had some part to play. The fact is British officials are easily deluded by appearances. We can at a moment's notice string together a whole catalogue of names of men either absolutely worthless or with a mere veneer of polish thrown over what will not bear examination, who by dint of self-assurance and intrigue and advertising methods of coming to the front, have won not merely the good graces, but the esteem of the bureaucracy. Nomination has thus naturally come to be distrusted. It has been a signal failure, and it is time our rulers knew it. We are therefore disposed to give a trial to election under some carefully devised limitations. For the rest, election is the great popular demand. The Congress has cried itself hoarse over it. Its recognition will give great satisfaction to the Congress party, while if it was found not to realise the expectations of its ardent advocates, it might be abandoned on experience of its failure without causing discontent.

The question, whether there shall be election or not, is as yet far from final settlement. Lord Cross, however, by introducing the Bill in the House of Lords, has given a practical assurance that this as well as other questions relating to the subject will receive the best possible consideration before they are decided one way or the other. The House contains some of the greatest authorities on Indian questions. Ex-Viceroy's are there who will bring the whole weight of their experience and knowledge of this country to bear upon the discussion of the measure. A debate under such distinguished auspices cannot fail to do justice to the views respectively held on the subject of election by the present Viceroy and his predecessor. Lord Cross is also to be congratulated on other grounds upon his introduction of the measure in the House of Lords. The country may likewise be congratulated upon this incident. It seems to be an omen of good augury. By thus forestalling Mr. Bradlaugh's proposed Bill on the same question, his Lordship has shown great wisdom. Not only justice is thus secured to the late Viceroy who initiated the proposal, but the chances of its acceptance by Parliament are also made more secure. Mr. Bradlaugh with all his sympathies, is yet no authority on Indian matters. It is true he already finds himself on Indian questions at the head of a Liberal squadron in the House of Commons whom the Congress has won over to its support. This Indian party, however, is just forming and would not have availed to ensure the passing of the Bill in the House of Commons. The details of his proposal, particularly in regard to the constitution of electorate bodies, were as yet far from definite. The leaders of the Congress themselves are scarcely unanimous on this point. A measure, as yet far from mature and bristling with difficulties of detail, would have small chance of a favorable reception from a Chamber generally ill-informed and unsympathetic in Indian matters. Whatever Mr. Bradlaugh's general position in the House, on an

Indian question his influence must, in the beginning, be necessarily small. In the best circumstances, there must have been great delay with his Bill. On the contrary, we have in Lord Cross's Bill more moderate concessions, it is true, but they are the mature and well-considered proposals of the responsible Government. Coming before the House of Lords with the imprimatur of the Secretary of State and two successive Viceroy, and supported as it has every likelihood of being, by ex-Viceroy and other great Indian authorities among the Lords, when it comes in due course to the Lower Chamber, it will naturally command more respectful attention. Barring the complete elimination of the elective principle, the other features of the Bill ought to make it acceptable to all fair-minded people. The Congress will probably not be satisfied, though they will jubilate all the same for what they will regard as a triumph of their agitation. But the genesis of Lord Cross's proposed enactment is already matter of history. The Congress may try, but will fail to dislodge Lord Dufferin from his position of *loco parentis* with respect to this measure.

#### SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN ON THE NATIVE PRESS.

SIR Auckland Colvin, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, in his last administration report, expresses the following opinion on the Native Press:—

"The Native Press in these Provinces is, to a considerable extent, free from the charge of excess which characterizes the Press of many other parts of India. A more temperate tone and habit of thought exists here; but there is a tendency—probably a growing tendency—to imitate the violent style and unreasoning methods of the Native Press elsewhere. The adoption of the tone which characterizes much of the Native Press is the more to be regretted as it robs it of value as a guide and assistance to the Government, its attacks being without qualification or discernment. All that emanates from Government being found by this section to be equally bad, it is too often useless to turn to its pages for intelligent or discriminating criticism on its measures, or for any useful statement of the wishes and views of the people. There exist, happily, in these Provinces, certain native papers which in no way expose themselves to these strictures. Nevertheless, the Native Press is in too great measure in the hands of needy men, who use it to blackmail their respectable fellow-citizens; and, apart from its uselessness, for the reasons above stated, as a guide to general native opinion, the license which at present characterizes it is in the highest degree odious to the large and important class who are thus laid under contribution. The Lieutenant-Governor does not at present see any serious ground for supposing that the intemperate language of the Native Press, and its indiscriminating attacks on officials in India, have in any degree corrupted the general tone of thought among the people, or led them to adopt its point of view. It is in no sense of the word a representative press, need and greed being its main features. It is difficult, however, to believe that the uninterrupted and increasing circulation of newspapers, habitually imputing to the Government of India the basest designs, and to its officers the most unscrupulous conduct, can fail in course of time to create among very ignorant people, such as are the masses here, a strong feeling of hostility to Government which is confidently, and so far as they can see, without contradiction, stated to be animated by such motives and served by such subordinates. All that can be said at present on the subject is that the ignorant classes seem so far to have formed and retained juster conceptions on the subject than those who have assumed the mission of instructing them."

We commend these weighty remarks to our countrymen, and in especial to native political writers. They will repay perusal. As an instance of that discriminating criticism which Sir Auckland desiderates in the native press, it is a study. Carefully read, it ought to teach native politicians how public questions have to be approached. They will not find a trace of violence or of bitterness in Sir Auckland's attitude towards the Indian press. And this, be it remembered, in a man who has been the *bête noire* of that press. No man, excepting perhaps Lord Dufferin, has had such wholesale denunciations at its hands. No man could be vilier in its eyes. And all for his plain-speaking of the Congress. Mr. Hume would bully him into support of his movement, but he was not to be taken in so easily. He openly repudiated the claim which Mr. Hume would fain put

forward by an ingenious construction of some of his utterances that he had expressed himself in sympathy with the Congress, and cried quits. And henceforward he was to have no peace, if the Congressists and their journals could prevent it. The most serious charges were laid against him. He was accused of instigating Sir Syed Ahmed to establish a counter-movement. He was fomenting the jealousies of the Mahomedans against the Hindus and setting classes and sects by the ears. Such was the foul abuse poured on him by an infuriated press. And now when he sits in judgment on his traducers, does he pay them in their own coin? Does he indulge in their violence of tone or imitate their one-sided, unreasoning, indiscriminating style of criticism?

Nor does Sir Auckland propose any hasty measure for the repression of its license. He merely states facts as he finds them, and points out their possible bearings on present and future public opinion. He offers no suggestion. It is true that after the deliberate manner in which the Gagging-Act has been removed from the statute-book, any reactionary proposal of the kind would be out of date. But still holding the views he does, of the mischievous tendencies of the press, and remembering all that he has suffered at its hands, it argues no small degree of statesmanlike moderation and forbearance to exercise such self-restraint. In this Sir Auckland shows himself to great advantage in comparison with a late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Sir Ashley Eden was the idol of the Bengal press. Whoever else might be in fault, Sir Ashley was immaculate in its eyes. And by a curious irony of events, it fell to Sir A. Eden's lot to be the prime mover of the Vernacular Press Act.

Our knowledge of the Upper Provinces Press is not sufficient to enable us to pass an opinion on Sir Auckland Colvin's estimate of its character. But he writes under such an apparent sense of responsibility, and his opportunities of knowing are so exceptional, that we have no reason to question its general accuracy. If "need and greed" be its main features, and blackmailing be its chief game, the press of Sir Auckland's territory must be even worse than the Press elsewhere with its empty and almost innocuous violence of language.

#### THE PRINCIPLE OF SELECTION FOR THE HIGHEST OFFICES IN INDIA.

LORD HARRIS AS GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

INDIA is the slave of convenience of Britain and Britons—their maid of all work—and camel of all burden—the scapegoat as well as cat's paw of the establishment—the sink of all refuse—the subject of all experiments. Of course, anybody is good enough to rule in this country—to direct its government, or preside in its courts, or command its forces—in time of peace at any rate. It is thus that the Empire was called in to meet the gravest military danger to which it was ever exposed with a succession of incapables at the head of its army. Thus its so-called responsible rulers do not scruple to promote to the highest bench, in the teeth of the court's aversion, notorious incompetence. The very highest offices themselves—those of the rulers on the spot—are not treated with more consideration. Caprice or convenience rather than discretion is visible in the manner of flogging them up, God Almighty, who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, moderating the full consequences of human folly and, not often, extracting good out of evil. Take our own times. Dalhousie came out to recover his lost family estates, and it was simply an accident that he was a man of rare ability. Lord Canning was a heavy young man of education who had been tried in the ministry but had developed no capacity. It was proposterous to call such a man to the most difficult charge in the universe. But, then, there was no help for it, at least the absurdity by repetition had ceased to strike, while gratitude called for a sacrifice; and what so well to hand

for the purpose as poor India? Lord Canning's father had encouraged the pudding genius of young Palmerston and was the first to introduce him to Cabinet office. It was in remembrance of that good office of old, that Palmerston the veteran Premier gave the scion of George Canning the opportunity for acquiring wealth and the chance of ~~being~~ <sup>being</sup> known in the East. Talk of absurdity! Why, Indian affairs are a standing anomaly. The circumstances under which the lamented Lord Mayo came out to this country are well known and admitted between all parties. As Chief Secretary for Ireland, he threatened the life of his ministry. But he was too good a friend to be sent adrift in disgrace, so long as the House of Commons has left an Asiatic Dependency to redress the balance and shelter incompetence. Accordingly, the bungler in Ireland was sent over to exercise his tried hand on this Colossus of Empires. How he acted in office—whether he failed or succeeded, whether he proved a blessing or a curse, is beside the question. That was a lottery. The principle of selection is what we are now concerned to show. That principle is the negation of all principle.

Sometimes, the absurdity goes to farcical lengths. What can be more laughable than the promotion of a Patronage Secretary to a distant satrapy? There is no possible connection between the two offices—no analogy between their requirements. Nor can the experience of one be of any help in the other. But such is the recklessness of Power against the weak that, within the last few years, India has had to submit to this tomfoolery, and one of the most English of Englishmen, whose mind was wholly occupied with the details and mysteries of British electioneering and party government, who had never exhibited the slightest trace of extra-British sympathy, was made Lord over myriads of dark Asiatics who all seemed to him the same. Poor Madras! she has been like the unfortunate dog in the proverb. Already handicapped with a bad name—she was simply offered a sacrifice to make matters pleasant for ministers. The *Benighted* was *bewhipped*.

And next, Bombay is to have her turn. She is just now well served, being most fortunate in her Governor, an accomplished gentleman of wide sympathies. But his administration is drawing to a close. A successor has already been selected. And what are his qualifications? He is an utterly inexperienced young gentleman, but undeniably broad in the chest, muscular, strong, and hardy. Whether he knows Adam Smith or not, he can knock half a dozen Prabhus into a jelly. A magnificent cricketer, gymnast, acrobat, he may be a Champion of the Belt. But then the endowments and training of a prize-fighter have nothing in common with the requisites for governing nations.

We wonder whether there is any symbolism understood in these peculiar appointments. Is the idea gaining in England that India is becoming difficult to govern, and requires to be kept down by the strong arm of the civil power? Do they fancy that the Mulls are all bloody Moplahs, that an efficient whip is the ruler for them? Do they imagine the Ducks to be veritable Dragons that a young Hercules is needed to keep them in check and prevent them sowing their ominous dentals in the land?

This business reminds us of a famous inter-academic passage-at-arms in England. We refer to the epigrams which the sister Universities of Oxford and Cambridge bandied between them in the beginning of the last century. George I. having made a present of books to Cambridge at the same time that a regiment was sent to Oxford, Dr. Trapp wrote—

The king observing, with judicious eyes,  
The state of both his universities,  
To one he sent a regiment; for why?  
That learned body wanted loyalty:—  
To th' other he sent books, as well discerning  
How much that loyal body wanted learning.

That was a hit indeed, and all the worse for the younger academy for its air of fairplay. The discrimination shown by the writer seemed to leave her no leg to stand upon. But genius is not daunted by difficulty, and one of her dutiful sons fully answered the Oxonian squib. If Dr. Trapp's epigram is good, the following by Sir William Browne is glorious:—

The king to Oxford sent his troop of horse,  
For Tories own no argument but force.  
With equal care to Cambridge books he sent,  
For Whigs allow no force but argument.

Is it on some such principle that the Home Government have found a successor for Lord Reay? It is certainly in the lightest of light literature rather than the literature of politics, that the *rationale* of the appointment is to be discovered. In the plenitude of official knowledge, Bombay may be a barren beach of the Arabian Sea somehow abounding in wild ducks, for which a modern Nimrod with a gun is just the Sultan. As the actual ducks are neither here nor there, the

result is that a respectable gentleman, who may be happy and possibly useful at home, is being transported on a wild-goose-chasing game. The prospect for the Western Presidency is not very inviting. To the sober sons of Asia, Christians at the best seem a rum lot, not to say queer customers, with their boundless animal spirits and apparently abnormal restlessness. Muscular Christianity is too much of a good thing. But Allah is great.

#### VAGARIES OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

THE Calcutta University Examinations began this week with a new departure. In past years, the Entrance, F. A., and B. A. examinations used to be held simultaneously, and that arrangement involved the minimum of interference with the ordinary work of schools and colleges which are then in session. The same thing was to be the case this year also, as announced at first, but subsequently, for reasons which have not transpired, it was arranged otherwise. Accordingly, the Entrance Examination has led the way, and the other two will follow after the interval of a fortnight. This will mean the stoppage of work, in at any rate, the institutions where these examinations are held, for nearly three weeks, if not more. Nothing could be more agreeable than this long holiday to the teaching staff in these places, but parents of the students will certainly have other feelings. Already, there are more of these holidays than used to be the case before, and the present change in holding the Examinations separately, coupled with the extraordinary delay which is now-a-days made in publishing their results, will have practically the effect of depriving candidates who appear at them from the benefit of regular school or college education for over half the year. The evil of this interruption to studies is particularly seen in the case of candidates who are "plucked." Take the case of F. A. candidates. They are selected in December as eligible for admission to the examination, and directly the selections are made, they cease from attending lectures, not a few doing so even before. The Examination as in the present year comes off in March, and the result is published about the time the long summer vacation begins. The colleges reopen about the end of June, and resume regular work from July. As regards the candidates who fail, here is clear loss of six months time.

This year's Entrance Examination has not passed without the usual crop of complaints. Only in regard to the selection of questions, the complaints are not so many and so loud as in some past years. Evidently, the examiners were more careful this time to adapt the questions to the capacities of the examinees. We wish there were the same carefulness in regard to more minor points. It would appear from some of the printed question papers set this year, that it is no body's business in this University "to correct the proofs," or there would not have been such ridiculous mistakes as have crept into some of the question-papers. We understand that Mr. Tawney had to issue bulletins on the first three of the days of the Entrance Examination pointing out the typographical errors in those papers. Is he not going to take sharp notice of the negligence of those whose duty it was to see that there were no such things? These bulletins were of course sent only to the neighbouring seats of examination in Calcutta within reach of the Senate House. But what of the centres of examination in the far off mofussil? Passing over minor typographical errors, we will mention only some important ones which occurred in the Sanskrit paper on Tuesday and in the Translation papers on Monday. In the Sanskrit paper, the last question was "Translate the following into English," while curiously enough the passage directed to be translated into English was English already. To be called upon to translate English into English was to do no less a feat than

To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,  
To throw a perfume on the violet,  
To smooth the ice, or add another hue  
Unto the rainbow.

And yet, by some freak of chance, this very feat or work of supererogation, this "wasteful and ridiculous excess" as the Poet calls it, was to be done by the candidates who had taken up Sanskrit. It is reported that one of them solved the difficulty by paraphrasing the passage, of course into his own worse English. To say that the correction of the mistake would have easily suggested itself to the candidates as well as the superintending officers at these places, will not do. The English passage was, indeed, really meant to be rendered into Sanskrit, but under the hard and fast rules which govern these examinations, no one is at liberty to suggest any such substitution or correction.

More serious even than this, were the printing mistakes in the Translation papers. The passages in Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu



given for translation into English, contained several misprints, and over some of them candidates were likely to stumble. But if we charitably assume that they caused no real difficulty to the candidates whose vernaculars they were, and pass over these slips as no serious matter, what shall we say of the quaint diction of the passages which, at the best, is now grown out of date. These passages were to be translated into English, and formed one of two papers in the examination meant to test knowledge in English. They were therefore selected by the Head Examiner in English, Mr. Rowe, and were probably his own composition. On any other hypothesis one cannot explain how such indifferent, old fashioned, slipshod Bengali, or Hindi or Urdu could ever be written, far less selected for the purposes of a University Examination. But this is not all. We hear that some of the examiners who are to decide the fate of candidates in this translation business are Europeans, with no better knowledge of the vernaculars than the Head Examiner, and that they will be helped in their task by cut and dry translations of the passages which have been made for them, the exercises of the candidates being appraised by this rigid standard. This looks like measuring knowledge by the yard measure. How justice could be possible under such extraordinary circumstances passes our understanding. We hope our information on this point may not be quite accurate. If, however, it be so, the least we can do is to suggest that these translation papers should be made over to the native gentlemen among the examiners in English, and their European colleagues have nothing to do with them.

There is still another matter. It used to be said that questions were often framed more to show off the ingenuity and learning of the examiners than to test the merits of examinees. Some questions in this year's English Composition Paper—we are glad they are a few,—are quite open to this charge. Here are the more objectionable of them:—

- “3. State clearly the sense of the following idiomatic expressions:—  
(c.) Their name is ‘Legion.’ (d.) It goes against the grain.  
5. Form sentences showing the difference in meaning between:—  
*outlook and look out; overreach and reach over; upshot and shot up; withstand and stand with.*”

A man who has so little knowledge of the acquirements of Entrance candidates as to set such stiff, out of the way questions, is clearly unworthy of the office of examiner. To expect mere boys, mostly natives, to know the meanings of such idiomatic expressions, and prepositional phrases is to be doomed to disappointment. To the examiner who is an Englishman, they seem common enough. But they are the reverse to even ordinarily educated natives, to say nothing of boys. Even B. A. students will not stand the test of some of these questions. And if his past experience of Indian students has not taught him this, his experience must have taught him very little. Further, these are by no means fair questions. Candidates are not told to get up a whole dictionary of phrases as a part of their English course, and in the absence of any such express intimation, to pick and choose from the vast store-house of English phraseology any but the simplest and most common ones, particularly for Entrance candidates, is surely to take them by a surprise. The examiners in English should thank their Chief for having provided endless merriment for them to relieve the tediousness of their task. Over the answers to these questions they will have much hearty laughing. These answers will be of as many different kinds as there are candidates who make bold to grapple with them.

Our Ranchi correspondent's letter on this subject may appear in our next. The daily papers are full of complaints.

#### PROFESSOR MAX MULLER ON ORIENTAL STUDIES.

Professor Max Muller delivered the following address at the inauguration, in London under the Presidency of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, of the School for Modern Oriental Studies:—

For more than 30 years, I may honestly say, I have been looking forward to what at last I see realized to-night. If you could look back to the old number of *The Times*, you would find there, just 32 years ago, my last urgent appeal for the establishment of a School of Oriental Languages in London. It bears the date of the 10th of January, and was published on the 13th of January, 1857. And I may say now what was not generally known at the time—that he who took the warmest interest in this plan, who saw not only its great literary, but its supreme national importance, and who never gave up his hope that sooner or later that plan would be realized, was, Sir, your Royal father. (Cheers.) You know, Sir, how nothing that concerned the greatness and honour of England was foreign to his noble heart, and how the duties, however distasteful and unpopular at times, which that greatness imposes on all of us found in him always the most faithful and determined champion. The Prince Consort could not bear to see other

countries outstripping England in a work which was peculiarly her own. (Cheers.) England may have her rivals and competitors in the West; in the East she stands supreme, unrivalled, unapproached. England rules over nearly 300 millions of people who speak Oriental languages; she probably supplies the markets of 1,000 millions of the people of the East, and yet, for cultivating a practical or scholarlike knowledge of these languages, for educating a sufficient number of young men qualified to serve her interests and to maintain her power in the East, England has hitherto been doing less than either Russia, France, or Germany. When I say England, I mean the Government. (Hear, hear.) For during the many years which have elapsed since the Crimean war, and since the Indian Mutiny, the different Universities and colleges of the country have indeed bestirred themselves and made the greatest efforts to supply Oriental teaching according to their means, nay, even beyond their means. The expense incurred by some of them in providing a staff of competent professors and teachers of the ancient and, more particularly, of the modern languages of the East has been very serious. It is quite right that the ancient and classical languages of the East should be represented in every University by the very best scholars, far more even than they are at present. But it cannot be expected that Oxford, Cambridge, Glasgow, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Dublin, King's College, and University College should each provide a staff of teachers for Hindi, Hindustani, Bengali, Marathi, Guzarathi. Tamil, Telugu, Canarese, Burmese, to say nothing of such vernaculars as Tashon, Baungshe, Chinbok, Chinmé, and others for which, as I see from *The Times* of January 1, the Indian Government has just offered very tempting rewards. Nothing can be more creditable than what has been achieved by the two colleges who have now united their forces under the auspices of the Imperial Institute. Were I free to speak of my own University, I could easily show that the generosity of Oxford in supplying the necessary funds for Oriental teaching need fear no comparison. The same applies, I know, to Cambridge. But when Imperial interests are at stake, the country has a right to expect Imperial—that is, concentrated—action. Otherwise, what is the good of having an Empire? We might as well go back to the Heptarchy. (Laughter and cheers.) The Russian Empire has long been the most liberal patron of Oriental studies. In the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg there has always been a chair for almost every branch of Oriental learning, and the principal spoken languages of the East continue to be taught there by professors, both European and Oriental. In France the Government has long ago founded a school *pour les langues orientales vivantes*, where Hindustani, Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Chinese, and Tibetan are taught by eminent scholars, while the French Institute has always counted among its members the chief representatives of every department of Oriental research. At Vienna there is an Oriental Seminary, and the Imperial Press has acquired one of the richest collections of Oriental types. When other Universities and academies to which I had applied for assistance hesitated about publishing a translation of the “Sacred Books of the East,” the Austrian Government in the most liberal spirit came forward, ready to bear the expense of an undertaking that was intended to remove the religious prejudices which separate the East from the West. At Berlin a Seminary of Oriental Languages has lately been inaugurated which, under the direction of my learned friend Professor Sachau, bids fair to surpass all the others. As this is the youngest of these institutions, allow me to tell you what excellent work is being done there at present. According to an official report just received, the Oriental Seminary at Berlin has now the following staff of professors and teachers:—One professor of Chinese; two teachers of Chinese, both natives—one for teaching North Chinese, the other South Chinese; one professor of Japanese, assisted by a native teacher; one professor of Arabic, assisted by two native teachers—one for Arabic as spoken in Egypt, the other for Arabic as spoken in Syria; one native teacher of Hindustani and Persian; one native teacher of Turkish; one teacher of Suaheli, an important language spoken on the East Coast of Africa, assisted by a native. Besides these special lectures, those given by the most eminent professors of Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, and Chinese in the Universities of Berlin are open to the students of the Oriental Seminary. The number of students amounts at present to 115. Of these, 56 are said to belong to the faculty of law, which must be taken to include all who aspire to any employment in the consular and colonial services. Fifteen belong to the faculties of philosophy, medicine, and physical science; four to the faculty of theology, who are probably intended for missionary work. Twenty-three are mentioned as engaged in mercantile pursuits, three are technical students, five officers in the Army, and nine are returned as studying modern Greek and Spanish, languages not generally counted as Oriental, though, no doubt of great usefulness in the East and in America. Suppose that out of this number 50 only are turned out every year, well grounded in one of the Eastern languages—think what a heaven that will be in different parts of the East. Think also of what a power they will constitute. I do not say hostile to England, but at all events in competition and rivalry with her, whenever her diplomatic and her commercial interests are at stake! (Cheers.) Of course, diplomatists of the old school will tell you that interpreters are quite

sufficient for transacting any official business in the East, and that having to wait for an answer, while the dragoman is translating, allows time useful for reflection. Our young diplomatists know better. They know that a friendly *iste-à-iste* is impossible in the presence of a third person, however neutral and machine-like. Dragomans are often irritating, sometime misleading, sometimes actually dishonest. (Laughter and cheers.) If a new commercial treaty has to be negotiated in Japan, if a concession has to be secured in China, if rights of suzerainty have to be acquired in Africa, who is likely to be successful? The envoy who arrives in full state with a *posse* of secretaries and dragomans, or the diplomatic agent who can converse freely with natives of all ranks, who can make allowance for the prejudices, the temper, the susceptibilities of Eastern potentates, and who in the end may become their best friend and adviser? (Cheers.) No country has appreciated the importance of Oriental studies more highly than Russia, and no country has been better served by her polyglot diplomatists. Let me give you one instance only. More than 50 years ago there was at the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg a professor of Pushtu, then the only one in Europe. People, ignorant of the East, asked what that language might be. We know now but too well that it is the language of the Afghans. In 1840 Professor Dorn published at St. Petersburg his "Grammaire Afghane." We are speaking of ancient history, for at that time Dost Mahomed was still the ruler of Afghanistan, Burnes and Macnaghten had not yet been murdered, and the awful tragedy of the Khyber Pass had not yet been enacted. Yet Russia was all that time quietly encouraging the study of Pushtu, of which there is even now, I believe, no teacher in England. Call this what you like, enlightened patronage of Oriental scholarship, or keen political foresight—in either case Russia deserves full credit, and she has had her reward. (Cheers.) But it is not only for the purpose of state-craft and diplomacy that England should follow the example of Russia, and secure constant supply of well-qualified Oriental scholars. The chief object of diplomacy is to prevent war. But if diplomacy fails and war breaks out, what is an army to do, how is it to live in Eastern countries without officers who can freely communicate with the people, whether friendly or hostile? The German army has always been very proud because it would possess in its ranks one officer who could write a report of the battle of Wörth in Sanskrit. This might possibly prove an *embarras de richesse*, and I am not going to recommend Sanskrit as a panacea for all evils. (Laughter.) But at the present moment, whether in the Soudan or in Burmah, the English commissariat is sadly in want of officers who can freely converse with the natives, who can write letters in Arabic or Burmese, and are able to explain to the people whether they want an ox or a cow, a sheep or a goat. The Commissariat always claims, perhaps rightly, that no victory has ever been gained on an empty stomach. Much can, no doubt, be requisitioned by sign language, to say nothing of the language of blows and revolvers. But a good understanding between an army and the people of the country is impossible without officers understanding and speaking the language. Many surprises, painful surprises, might have been spared to the English army, if what is called the "Intelligence Department" had been better cared for in times past. I remember, during the Crimean war, a letter from Shamyl arriving in England, and no one being able to read it. It could not well be sent to St. Petersburg for translation. (Laughter.) About the same time the Russian Governor of the Caucasus was said to have received the first information of a carefully planned conspiracy in Georgia from Georgian scholars at St. Petersburg. I see that at present German officers are studying Chinese, Turkish, and Suaheli in the Oriental Seminary at Berlin. Why should we not produce the same article in the School of Oriental Languages which is inaugurated to-night under such brilliant auspices? And when, after war, peace has been restored once more, when commercial intercourse on a large scale has to be established, so as to knit the bonds of peace by the strongest chains, is not a knowledge of the languages more essential to the English than to any other merchants? You would hardly believe the number of letters I receive from time to time from manufacturers, requesting me to translate advertisements, inquiring whether advertisements inserted in Oriental newspapers really mean what they are intended to mean, or asking for translation of notices in Oriental journals. (Laughter.) I am not responsible for the reputation of *Mezzofantais*, which I seem to enjoy in certain quarters. I have protested against it again and again. Still people will write to me and address me as "the Professor of the Oriental language at Oxford," evidently imagining that one unknown language—some Oriental *Volapük*—is spoken all over the East. (Laughter.) No one who knows what is to know a language would ever imagine that it is possible for any human being to know more than two or, at the utmost, three languages thoroughly. He may be acquainted with many more, he may even handle some of them dexterously enough in conversation, but to know a language is a work of a life. To learn a new language means to become a new man. I hope, therefore, that in future I shall be relieved of the title of professor of the Oriental language, and that the Imperial Institute, and more particularly the new School of Oriental Languages, will supply to every mer-

chant in England, Scotland, and Ireland such information as I in my ignorance was often unable to give. Every pound laid out on the proper endowment of this school will bear interest a hundred and a thousand fold, by opening new and splendid channels to British commercial enterprise. England cannot live an isolated life. She must be able to breathe, to grow, to expand, if she is to live at all. Her productive power is far too much for herself, too much even for Europe. She must have a wider field for her unceasing activity, and that field is the East, with its many races, its many markets, its many languages. To allow herself to be forestalled or to be ousted by more eloquent and persuasive competitors from those vast fields of commerce would be simple suicide. Our school, in claiming national support, appeals first of all to the instinct of self-preservation. It says to every manufacturing town in England, help us, and, in doing so, help thyself. Whenever the safety and honour of England are at stake we know what enormous sums Parliament is willing to vote for Army and Navy, for fortresses and harbours—sums larger than any other Parliament would venture to name. We want very little for our School of Oriental Languages, but we want at least as much as other countries devote to the same object. We want it for the very existence of England; for the vital condition of her existence is her commerce, and the best markets for that commerce lie in the East. Let the world call England a nation of shopkeepers (laughter)—*omni accipio*—but let England show that she means to keep her shops against the world. (Cheers.) The nobler feeling of patriotism may lie dormant for a time, but if once roused it awakes with irresistible force and fury, and knows how to defend—

"This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England,

"Against the envy of less happier lands."

(Cheers.) Perhaps I have now said enough, and ought to detain you no longer. But, if you could spare me some moments more, there is one subject, very near to my heart, on which I should be glad if you allowed me to say a few words. Need I say that it is India? For ruling India in harmony with the wishes and the highest interests of its inhabitants, and at the same time with a due regard for the heavy responsibility incurred by England in becoming the guardian of that enormous Empire, we want young men who are able to do more than merely chatter Hindustani or Tamil. If we look once more to the lectures provided in the Oriental Seminary at Berlin, we shall find that they are not confined to teaching Oriental languages, or how to write a commercial letter, how to draw up an official document, and how to draft a political treaty. In every department the professors have to lecture on the history, the geography, the manners, customs, laws, and religions of the principal nations of the East. This is the kind of knowledge which is absolutely necessary for those who are destined to rule over a population nearly ten times as large as the population of England, a population not only speaking different languages, but thinking different thoughts, believing in different religions, nourished by different historical traditions, and divided by different aspirations for the future. It is sometimes supposed to be not altogether easy to govern England, Scotland, and Ireland, because on certain points their interests seem divergent. It is said that English statesmen do not understand Ireland, Irish statesmen do not understand England, and Scotch statesmen do not understand either. (Great laughter.) And yet these three countries speak a common language, have a common religion, and, in spite of occasional jars and bickerings, would resist with a common indignation any insult offered to their common honour, and invasion of their commonwealth. Think, then, what a task is imposed on that handful of young Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen who are sent out every year to govern India, and how much depends on their being well equipped for that task. The history of England's taking possession of India is more marvellous than any story of the "Arabian Nights," and what is the most marvellous in it is the apparent absence of any plan or plot from beginning to end. No English statesman was ever so hare-brained as to conceive the plan of sending out an expedition for the conquest of India. But though there was no plan or plot, nowhere in the whole history of the world is there a higher purpose more visible than in the advance of England towards the East. It was the innate vigour of the Saxon race, its strong political instincts, its thirst for work, its love of enterprise, its craving for progress that drove its sons across the sea and made them the founders of new empires in India and colonies. There was no plan or plot; but read the history of the English Empire in India, and you will find that the readiness, the presence of mind, the self-reliance, the endurance, the heroic bravery in moments of supreme anguish of Englishmen and Englishwomen, and, taking it all in all, the political wisdom and moderation of the best of India's rulers and statesmen, would supply materials for a perfect epic, more wonderful than the "Iliad" and "Odyssey." And as in the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" the old poet shows us behind the human heroes the Greek gods fighting their battle, though unseen by mortal eye, the true historian also must try to discover, behind the conflicts of races and rulers in India, the working out of higher purposes, though at the time

beyond the grasp of the human mind. (Cheers.) The great historical drama, of which we are witnessing the last act in India, began thousands of years ago, when the Aryan family separated, one branch moving towards the north-west, the other towards the south-east. Let us not waste our time on questions which admit of no scientific solution as to the exact spot of the original Aryan home. Nothing new and true has yet been advanced against it having been "somewhere in Asia." For us, however, it is enough to know that our ancestors and the ancestors of the Hindoos had once a common home, that they lived in the same pastures, spoke the same language, and worshipped the same gods. Their blood may have been mixed, and by mixture may, we hope, have been improved. But stronger than the affinity of mere blood is affinity of language and thought which makes Englishmen and Hindoos brothers indeed. The ring that was broken thousands of years ago is now being welded together once more. The world is becoming Indo-European. The young men whom England sends to India should greet the Aryan inhabitants, not as conquerors meet the conquered, but as brothers meet brothers, as friends meet friends. It is generally said that India has been conquered by England. But the true conquest of India, it seems to me, is still to come. The true conquerors of India, of the heart of India, will be those very men whom our new School of Oriental Languages means to fit for their arduous work. (Cheers.) No doubt they have to acquire the spoken vernaculars, but in order to understand the people, in order to take a deep human interest in their own work, in order to sympathize with, nay, to love, the people with whom they are brought into daily contact they must do more. There ought to be a real plan and plot in this now conquest. There ought to be a will, for we know that where there is a will there is a way. Our new conquerors will have to study the ancient literature of India, which is still the leaven of Indian thought. They must gain an insight into the ancient religion, which is still the best key to the religious convictions and superstitions of the present day. They must enter into the spirit of the ancient law of the country before attempting to reconcile native customs with the principles of modern legislations. They must learn to appreciate the beauty of Indian literature before measuring it with the standard of our own poetry, or condemning it unheard. If our young statesmen go out to India half acclimatized already to the intellectual atmosphere in which they are to spend the best part of their lives, they will not look upon the country as an exile and on its inhabitants as mere strangers. They are not strangers; they are brothers. They are made of the same stuff as we ourselves. I have never been in India, but I have known Indians, both men and women, and I do not exaggerate when I tell you that some of them need fear no comparison with the best men and women whom it has been my good fortune to know in England, France, or Germany. Whether for unselfishness, or devotion to high ideals, truthfulness, purity, and real, living religion, I know no hero greater than Keshub Chunder Sen, no heroine greater than Ramabai, and I am proud to have been allowed to count both among my best friends. (Cheers.) You may say that these are exceptions. No doubt they are, and they would be exceptions in Europe as much as in India. Mount Everest is an exception; Mount Blanc is an exception; but still we reckon the height of mountain ranges by their highest peaks, and we have a right to measure the sublimity of a whole nation by its best men and women. (Cheers.) Look for these men and women, and you will find them, if not in the great towns, yet in the countless villages of India. The great towns in India, more than in Europe, contain the very dregs of Indian society, and it is from them that our opinion of the character of the Hindoos has been too often formed. And yet what does Elphinstone say, who knew India if anybody ever knew it:—"No set of people among the Hindoos," he says, "are so depraved as the dregs of our own great towns. The villagers are everywhere

amiable, affectionate to their families, kind to their neighbours, and, towards all but the Government, honest and sincere." What does Bishop Heber say?—

"The Hindoos are brave, courteous, intelligent, most eager for knowledge and improvement, sober, industrious, dutiful to parents, affectionate to their children, uniformly gentle and patient, and more easily affected by kindness and attention to their wants and feelings than any people I ever met with." Sir Thomas Munro bears even stronger testimony. He writes:—

"If a good system of agriculture, unrivalled manufacturing skill, a capacity to produce whatever can contribute to either convenience or luxury, schools established in every village for teaching, reading, writing, and arithmetic, the general practice of hospitality and charity amongst each other, and, above all, a treatment of the female sex full of confidence, respect, and delicacy, are among the signs which denote a civilized people, then the Hindoos are not inferior to the nations of Europe, and if civilization is to become an article of trade between England and India, I am convinced that England will gain by the import cargo."

These are the unprejudiced opinions of men who knew the Hindoos, their language, literature, and religion thoroughly, who had spent their lives in the Civil Service, and had risen in it to the highest rank. Who after that will dare to say that the Hindoos are a nation of liars and hypocrites, and that no English gentleman could ever be on terms of intimacy and friendship with such niggers? (Cheers.) I have hitherto spoken chiefly of Hindoos, of those who are still under the sway of their ancient native literature and religion, and who speak languages derived from, or strongly impregnated with, Sanskrit. But what I have said applies with equal truth to the Mahomedan inhabitants of India. No one can understand them, can sympathize with them, can influence them, who does not know their religion, who cannot read the Koran and the classical works of Arabic literature. We have no idea how often their feelings are hurt by the free and easy, by the ignorant way in which we speak of what is sacred to them. No Hindoo likes to hear his religion called idolatry, no Parsee can bear to be called a fire-worshipper. In the same way a Mahomedan objects to hearing his religion called Mahomedanism, or Mahomed spoken of as an arch-imposter. Mahomed was no more an imposter than any of the founders of the great religions of the world. (Cheers.) And nothing marks the progress of an enlightened study of religion, of the science of religion, better than the right picture which an eloquent and large-hearted Bishop of the Church of England has lately given of Mahomed in his Bampton lectures. Still, with all their veneration for Mahomed, those who follow him do not quite like to hear their religion called Mahomedanism, though it seems to us a most in-offensive name. It was not made by Mahomed, they say; it was revealed to him, and its true name is *Islām* (surrender). I doubt whether a better name has ever been invented for any religion, than surrender, *Islām* (Cheers.) It is a knowledge, a thorough knowledge, not only of the languages of India, but of its classical literature, its religion, its laws and customs, its superstitions and prejudices, its whole social life, that will form the best preparation for those who after passing through this school of Oriental languages, are to become both the servants and the rulers of India. When I look at the list of those who have already been enrolled on the staff of professors and teachers, I see names that offer the best security for the success of this institution. And when I see the name of its Royal patron, I know that whenever this institution requires help and support it will be granted readily and generously. To carry on the work which our fathers had to leave unfinished is the best tribute we can pay to their memory. We could not wish for better auguries than when we see, as we see to-night, the cherished idea of a noble father called back to life by a loyal and devoted son. (Loud cheers.) —The Times (London.)

## HIGH COURT NOTICE.

ESTATE RAJAH RAJ KISEN.

Maharaja Sibkristo Bahadoor  
v/s.  
Kristo Chunder Ghose.

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 12th March next, at the hour of 1 O'clock in the afternoon, the Receiver of the High Court will put up for auction, at his office on the third floor of the Court House, a lease for six years from the 1st Bysack 1297 corresponding with the 13th April 1890, of the undermentioned property, on the terms and conditions of a draft lease which may be inspected at the said office.

In Zillah Tipperah Pergunnah, Gungamundle, recorded in the Register of the Collector as Towji No. 545, including the Churs appertaining thereto, viz., Nobbo Chur No. 1290, Chur Bahur alias Teetoor Chur No. 1508, Chur Sarjo and Sunjoora No. 1964, Chur Assad and Doibur Chur No. 21.

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For conditions of auction and further particulars, apply to the Receiver of the High Court.

J. C. MACGREGOR,  
Receiver, High Court.

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The 19th February, 1890.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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Is an infallible remedy for Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Old Wounds,  
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Glandular Swellings and all Skin Diseases, it has no rival; and for  
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WHICH  
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THE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY OF  
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in which every phial of medicine that goes  
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Strong, accurate, pretty, open-faced Nickel  
silver *short winding* Keyless Railway Regulators,  
of small size, jewelled, enamelled dials, bold  
figures and Candian Gold hands, with tempered  
machinery and dust tight hinged cases for Rs. 7-8 per V. P. P. with spare  
glass, spring, box and guarantee. Warranted  
to stand rough usage. Can be easily repaired.  
Have no appearance of cheapness about them.  
Others sell at double our rates. Mr. A. R. Mehta from Bandora says:—"The  
7-8 watch I purchased from you two years  
back, gives correct time as yet." Acting Superintendent,  
Government Farin, Khandesh, says:—"A watch maker  
has valued your Rs. 7-8 watch for Rs. 15." Mr. J. Sutcliffe,  
R. W. Fusi. Regt., Lucknow, says:—"Some valued  
it at Rs. 15 and were completely surprised when  
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Candian Gold Chains, Lockets, Pencils, complete  
shirt Studs and Rings set with chemical  
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Rs. 7 and the locket for Rs. 10." Mr. G. Smith,  
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Rs. 30." WESTERN INDIA TRADING CO., BOMBAY.

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Deodorizers and Oleaners.

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Prevents contagion by destroying its cause.  
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killing the very germs of contagious diseases.  
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by temporarily disguising them (as is often  
the case), but by chemical combination, substituting  
instantaneously for a poisonous a pure and healthy  
atmosphere, and thoroughly eradicating the evil.

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**Rivers Steam Navigation Co.**  
**"Limited."**

This Company's Steamer "BEHAR" will leave Calcutta for Assam, on Tuesday, the 4th proximo.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. on Saturday, the 1st proximo.

**CACHAR LINE.**

The steamer THIKAH of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 4th prox. (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. on Saturday the 1st proximo.

ASSAM DESPATCH STEAMER SERVICE FROM GOALUNDO

DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.

A Daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. (Madras time) train from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta via Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels via Kannia only.

All particulars as to rates of freight and passage by all the above mentioned Services to be had on application to—

MACNEILL & CO.,

Agents,

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Calcutta, the 27th February, 1890.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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AND

Review of Politics, Literature, and Society

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1890.

} No. 414

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### VERSES

WRIT BY SIR CHRISTOPHER WHEN A PRISONER AMONG  
THE TURKS AT MOLDAVIA AND EXPECT-  
ING DEATH AT THEIR HANDS.

#### I.

ERE down the blue Carpathian hills  
The Sun shall fall again,  
Farewell this life and all its ills,  
Farewell to Cell and Chaine !

#### II.

These Prison shades are dark and cold,  
But darker far than they  
The shadow of a Sorrow old  
Is on mine Hearte alway.

#### III.

For since the day when Warkworth wood  
Closed o'er my Steed, and I—  
An alien from my Name and Blood—  
A Weed cast out to die ;

#### IV.

When, lurking back, in sunset light  
I saw her Turret gleam,  
And from its window, far and white,  
Her sign of farewell stream ;

#### V.

Like one who from some desert shore  
Does home's green Isles descrie,  
And, vainlie longing, gazes o'er,  
The waste of Wave and Skie.

#### VI.

So from the desert my Fate  
Gaze I across the past ;  
And still upon life's dial-plate  
The Shade is backward cast !

#### VII.

I've wandered wide from shore to shore,  
I've knelt at manie a Shrine,  
And cowed me to the rocky floor  
Where Bethlehem's tapers shine ;

#### VIII.

And by the Holy Sepulchre  
I've pledged my knightlie sword,  
To Christ his blessed Church, and her  
The Mother of our Lord !

#### IX.

Oh, vaine the Vow, and vaine the strife !  
How vaine do all things seem !  
My soul is in the Past, and Life  
To-day is but a Dreame.

#### X.

In vaine the penance strange and long,  
And hard for Flesh to bear,  
The Prayer, the Fasting, and the Thong,  
And Sackcloth Shirte of Haire ;

#### XI.

The Eyes of Memorie will not sleep,  
Its Ears are open still,  
And Vigils with the Past they keep  
Against or with my Will.

#### XII.

And still the Loves and Hopes of old  
Doe evermore uprise ;  
I see the flow of Locks of Gold,  
The Shine of loving Eyes.

#### XIII.

Ah me ! upon another's Breast  
Those golden Locks recline ;  
I see upon another rest  
The Glance that once was mine !

#### XIV.

"Oh faithless Priest ! oh, perjured Knighte !"  
I hear the Master crie,  
"Shut out the Vision from thy sight,  
Let Earth and Nature die.

#### XV.

"The Church of God is now my Spouse,  
And thou the Bridegroom art ;  
Then let the burden of my Vows  
Keep down thy human Hearte !"

#### XVI.

In vaine !—This Hearte its grieve must know  
Till life itself hath ceased,  
And falls beneath the self-same blow  
The Lover and the Priest !

#### XVII.

Oh, pitying Mother ! Souls of Light,  
And Saints and Martyrs old,  
Praye for a weak and sinful Knight,  
A suffering Man uphold.

#### XVIII.

Then let the Paynim work his will,  
Let Death unbind my Chaine,  
Ere down yon blue Carpathian hill  
The sunset falls again !

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

A RUSSIAN physician, Dr. Bapchinski announces a cure for diphtheria by inoculation of erysipelas.

SAPOLINI, of Milan, claims to have cured 62 cases of deafness of old age. The prescription is simple. It is to mop the membrana tympani with a weak oleaginous solution of phosphorus. Under this application, it is said, the opacity of the membrane is diminished, the circulation increased, and hearing improved.

FOR ill-treating a Persian officer, two Russian military officers—Captain Lohmann and Lieutenant Lewaneffsky—have been courtmartialled to degradation and deportation to Siberia.

A SCHEME has been drawn up for a Siberian railway. The cost is estimated at 250,000,000 roubles and the period of construction is calculated to be ten years. The line will be 4,375 miles long.

THERE is a project for a new military post for the north of the Russian empire. The site will probably be in the Peninsula of the Fishermen. There are roadsteads there which are never frozen; ships could consequently sail thence at any season for either the Arctic Ocean or the Atlantic.

THE newspaper correspondents at the Court of St. Petersburg will henceforth be distinguished by a badge with the name of their respective newspapers attached to their coats. This is intended to keep out doubtful characters who give themselves the airs of Russian and foreign correspondents.

THE Upper House of the Austrian Reichrath has passed a Bill for the regulation of Jewish religious societies. It is being discussed in the Lower. The object of the Bill is to insure the complete independence of the Jewish religious bodies as far as their internal affairs are concerned, and to safeguard the interests of the State in their dealings with other countries. In recommending its adoption by the Lower House, the Minister of Public Worship and Instruction said that the present tendency to make an outcry against the Jews was in no way countenanced by the Government, on the contrary, it strongly disapproved it, and regarded the whole question solely from the standpoint of the law.

HERE is another side of the shield. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

"Germans, Lutherans and generally all friends of religious liberty in Russia are indignant beyond words at the repressive measures which, according to a most trustworthy account, are about to be put in force against the Lutheran Church in the Baltic Provinces. Not content with the suspension of independent pastors and the banishment without trial or hearing of outspoken defenders of the faith and traditions of their fathers, the Government has now resolved to do with the Lutheran Church what it has already done so successfully with the Roman Catholic, the Georgian, the Armenian, the Jewish, and the Mahomedan—transform it into an engine of governmental administration. First of all, the right of presentation to livings—which from time immemorial was, and still is, possessed and exercised by barons and nobles whose forefathers defended and died for the Church—will be now taken over by the Government, and the appointment of rectors, superintendents, incumbents, and generally of every Lutheran clergyman, will rest with the Minister of the Interior. Secondly, the management of all Church property, now confided to the pastors, who have always most creditably acquitted themselves of the charge, will in future be handed over to a committee dependent upon the civil governor of the province. Thirdly, the Theological Faculty of Dorpat will be transported bodily to St. Petersburg, and there metamorphosed into an ecclesiastical academy—a process the nature of which was so thoroughly understood by the late Pope, Pius IX., that when the Roman Catholic Faculty of the University of Vilna was subjected to it, he excommunicated all the ecclesiastical dignitaries who had hand or part in carrying out the scheme. The indignation of the Russian Germans is intense. It is seriously apprehended that it will lead to armed resistance."

PRUSSIAN drums and military instruments are to be introduced into the Turkish army. Germany has made proposals for reorganization of the Turkish army after the German model.

THE University students are causing anxiety in Naples. These hot-headed young fellows, the hope of Italy in the future, are a constant

source of trouble to the local Magistrates. Early last month, the University was closed and occupied by carabineers and infantry. The students—the fifth power of the realm—are indignant at this violence against "the sanctity of the Temple of Science," and, four hundred of the most "advanced" have applied for withdrawal of their names from the books of the Naples University, for enlistment in other Universities of the kingdom.

FOR bad treatment of their mother and themselves, two brothers Richard and Davies aged respectively 18 and 16, murdered their father while driving home from Crewe.

THE "London and China Telegraph" recently published the following particulars of a rich silver mine newly brought to light in Japan:—

"South of the city of Fruhera, in Shribeshi territory, at a point where the river divides into two branches, the Inakura and Ishinosawa, and familiarly known by the name of Futatsumata (two branches), is situated the Fruhera mine. It was first discovered on July 10, 1885, by three wood choppers. Ten days afterwards they applied for permission to work the mine. A charter was granted in February of the following year, and on March 2 operations were commenced. Scarcity of capital, however, compelled them to abandon the enterprise when only a depth of 13ft. by 15ft. wide, had been reached. But immediately their charter had expired, an officer of the Hokkaido Mining Company sought and obtained the permission of the discoverers to work the mine, and then renewed charter. Work was recommenced on May 24, 1888, under the superintendence of Mr. Kono, an engineer, and the mine has already proved to be of a most fertile character. Thirteen veins have been struck, and it is expected that more will be found. It is also stated that precious metal lies in the bed of the river. Five pits are now being worked by the Company. One of these the Shachihoki (Grampus) was found to be very rich in silver when only a depth of 30ft. had been reached. When analysed, the best yields were found to contain 1½ per cent. of silver, middle ¼ per cent. and common ½ per cent. silver and ¼ per cent. gold. We cannot expect that the output will continue so abundant, but if experienced engineers were employed it would not be difficult to maintain an average of 5 per cent."

BOMBAY has commenced the segregation of the leper—the present cure for leprosy. Under stretch of authority granted by the Bombay Act VI of 1887 for the better sanitation of the city, itinerant lepers will be arrested and lodged in the Albless Leper Home and Petit Leper Hospital.

THE printer and the publisher of the *Bhownaggar Exposure Gazette* are being proceeded against in the magistracy—not for the exposures but for failure to register the publication as a periodical.

HAJI Adam Haji Abdool Latiff, accused of forgery of certain bills of exchange amounting to thirteen lakhs, on the Bombay branch of the Bank of Bengal, has been committed to the sessions. He is charged with forging three bills, with using them knowing them to be forged, with using a forged power of attorney and with cheating and causing delivery of property. He declined to make any statement to the Magistrate, resigning himself entirely to his counsel.

JHUNDA, the terror of the Meerut district, is dead. He was killed in an encounter with the Police who had been on watch to secure him. Jhunda and his party were surrounded by the Police under the command of Mr. Hoskyns, the Superintendent. The dacoits refused to surrender and offered fight. They fought bravely. Their ammunition failing, the leader was killed and four followers taken prisoners.

MR. Arthur Crawford has applied to the Secretary of State for India for payment of the law expenses incurred by the ex-civilian in the Crawford Commission. He bases his claim on the fact that the Commission have found the serious charges not proved.

SIR Arthur Collins, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, ordered a pair of his woollen trousers, valued at Rs. 28, to be burnt. They were left in the butler's room whence they were missing. The Police traced them to one Rangan, who was charged, at the Egmore Magistracy, by the Chief Justice's head coachman William Lewis, with theft of the articles. It transpired in the course of the investigation, that the butler had promised the pair to the accused. The Magistrate, Mr. C. G. Kuppasawmi Iyer, had no hesitation in dismissing the charge. Had the coachman an eye on the unmentionables?

AN outrage on Raja Commander-in-Chief Ram Singh is reported from Cashmere. A man came up to him straight with a petition in hand and, in presence of a guard of soldiers, struck the Raja a blow on the face. The culprit has since been proved to be an idiot. Another lunatic lately attempted the life of Sir Asman Jah, Prime Minister of Hyderabad.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* has found a reason for the speedy completion of the frontier defences. "We are assured," it says, "that the fear of a Russian invasion has deterred not a few wealthy natives from investing their savings in Government securities. Some of them think it prudent to divide the investment of their surplus wealth between the Bank and their own secret coffers under the ground." Treasure hordes are a much more antiquated institution than Russophobia.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* says:—

"The Police have brought a charge against five members of the Arya Samaj at Lahore for printing, publishing, and circulating a book in Urdu on religious matters alleged to be couched in obscene language. The accused in this case are: Durga Pershad, second master of the Anglo-Vedic College, who translated the work; Jowala Sahai, the author of the book; Lala Jewan Das, who read the proofs; Nathu Ram who printed the book at the *Koh-i-Nur* Press, and who is now Editor of the *Kashmir Gazette*, published at Jammu; and Saling Ram, the book-seller. The book contains criticisms on the Vedic commentary by Mahidhar and is against the orthodox religion. The arguments are based on a discussion which took place some time during last year between the members of the New Dispensation and the orthodox *Sadhus*. The verses in respect of which the charge has been preferred against the accused are extracts from Mahidhar's commentary on the *Yajur Veda* which was published in Berlin and London by European Sanskrit scholars under the patronage of the Hon'ble East India Company in 1852. The book is also said to have been once introduced into the scheme of University studies in India, and is recognised as a religious work by orthodox Hindus, who also paraded with the Mahidhar's commentary in a religious procession held at Lahore and Amritsar during last year. The first hearing of the case was fixed for the 23rd instant before Fakir Jamal-ud-din, when Mr. Spencer appeared for the accused. The Kotwal produced three witnesses for the prosecution who stated that they could not understand the book, which was written in very "high" language. The Magistrate asked for further witnesses when it was proposed to call four Pundits named Guru Pershad, Bhawani [Bhanu] Dat, Bhagwan Das, and Gopi Nath, who are Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary of the Orthodox Sabha, to give evidence as to whether the book was obscene or not. The accused argued that the book contained religious criticisms, and therefore the charge under Section 292 I. P. C. could not be applied to them."

We find certain omissions in the list of the accused. Why have not the inkman, the flyboy, the compositor, the proprietor of the printing press, the landlord, the vendors who supplied the paper and the ink both for writing and printing the book, and sundry others who contributed to the production and sale of the book, been sent up by the Police?

It is satisfactory to read that a Bengali—Rohini Kanta Nag—has sailed for Rome to study painting and sculpture. We have native painters of sorts who have learnt the art in India, but no sculptor.

THE second son, Nirmal Chunder, of the late Keshub Chunder Sen has been given an appointment in the Opium Department. The Baboo had been in England for several years, seeing the world at the expense of his princely brother-in-law of Cooch Behar, but had not qualified himself for any of the independent professions.

THE Bengal Chamber of Commerce have elected Mr. J. L. Mackay, of Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., their President in place of the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Wilson gone out by efflux of time.

TWO of the Judges of the Bengal High Court go on leave—Mr. Justice Trevelyan from the 20th March, Mr. Justice Beverley from the 11th April, next. Both of them rejoin Court after the Long Vacation.

LAST month, visitors to the Indian Museum numbered in all 31,453, namely, Europeans 667 male and 222 female, and Natives 23,462 male and 7,102 female. The Museum was open 20 days, the daily attendance averaging 1,572.

MR. N. S. Alexander, we believe, retires from the Service. He left Burdwan on Wednesday. The Maharaja's father and others saw him off at the railway. Mr. C. E. Buckland temporarily acts as Commis-

sioner of the Burdwan Division. Mr. C. C. Stevens who, after a tour of about 2 months in the Division, returned to headquarters last Sunday, makes over charge of the Bhagalpore Commission on the 15th. He takes up the Patna Division from Mr. Boxwell. Mr. C. C. Quinn receives charge from him and officiates as Commissioner of the Bhagalpore Division during the absence on deputation of Mr. Beames. Mr. E. V. Westmacott goes on three months' leave from the 11th instant, Mr. A. Forbes acting as Excise Commissioner. Mr. C. W. Bolton, from the Board of Revenue, relieves Mr. Forbes in the 24-Pergunnahs Collectorate and Magistracy. Mr. A. Wace, Collector and Magistrate of Bhagalpore goes on furlough. Pending the arrival of his successor Mr. Waller, he made over charge on Monday to his Deputy Baboo Bepin Behary Mookerjee, and left the station. Whether he leaves for good or not, Mr. Wace has disposed of his household furniture to the best advantage to his good and obliging friend Raja Hurbulub Narain Sing at cost price. There is no occasion to start. It is simply a bargain for the Raja. In so far as the articles were put to Celestial use, they are the better for wear and tear.

THE Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner, Calcutta, have been given the authority to grant licenses for the possession and transport of dangerous petroleum in quantities not exceeding 40 gallons, and for the possession and transport of other petroleum within the tract of country excluded under the provisions of section 1 of Act II (B. C.) of 1866 from the general police district of Bengal.

FROM the 1st April next, foreign steam-ships having engines of under fifty nominal horse-power are prohibited from carrying passengers from any port within the territories administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to any other port in British India. British steam-ships having engines of a like horse-power are not to proceed from any port within the said territories to any other port in British India, or to any port or place on the continent of India, or in the island of Ceylon, unless they have, as their engineers, persons possessing engine-drivers' certificates granted under the Indian Steam-ships Act VII of 1884, or first or second class engineers' certificates granted under that Act, or the English Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1883, or to which the provisions of any such Acts have been made applicable under the Merchant Shipping (Colonial) Act, 1869.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

SO far from the right divine of kings being scared away in this age of enlightenment and progress of the masses, it takes a bolder attitude. At a public banquet, at Berlin, Emperor William is reported to have affirmed that that Right made the welfare of the lower classes his chief care, and that he would heartily welcome all who aided him in his work and would crush all who opposed him. Is the threat intended for those who oppose the Labour Conference?

THE Czar is under special guard for his life. A female Nihilist has threatened him with the fate of Peter the Third and Paul, son of Catherine the Second, and his father Alexander. The threat has been served on all the ministers. Extra guards have been told off for the safety of the Czar.

SIGNOR Crispi has announced to the Italian Chamber that the position of Italy in Africa was unassailable, and that Italy's and England's interests in that quarter were identical.

M. TISZA has resigned the Premiership of Hungary which he held for 12 years. Count Szapary has been appointed in his place.

THE Queensland Royal Mail Steamer *Quettah*, from Brisbane to London, struck on an unknown rock in Torres' Straits and sank in three minutes. There were on board 282 souls, including 60 Javanese. Of these 136 have been saved. H. M. S. *Albatross* is still searching the islands. The *Quettah* was a three-decked iron screw steamer of 3,302 tons gross, built at Dumbarton by Messrs. W. Denny Bros. in 1881.



A GENERAL amnesty has been proclaimed in Spain in celebration of the recovery of the infant King.

THE *Egalité* advised German socialists to shoot Emperor William. The French Government has ordered the prosecution of that newspaper.

THE success of the Forth Bridge, opened on the 4th instant by the Prince of Wales, has brought down a shower of honors. Mr. Thompson, the Chairman of the Company, and Mr. Fowler, the Engineer, have been made Baronets. Mr. Baker, another engineer, a Commander of St. Michael and St. George, the contractor, Mr. Arnold, being Knighted.

IN speaking to his motion regarding the Cleveland-street scandal, Mr. Labouchere charged Lord Salisbury with privately warning a friend of Lord H. A. Somerset to enable him to avoid, by escape, service of a warrant for his arrest, and asked for a Committee of enquiry. Sir Richard Webster repudiated the charge and explained that though Lord Salisbury had informed Sir Dighton Probyn that a warrant against Lord H. A. Somerset was imminent, Sir Dighton never saw Lord H. A. Somerset afterwards.

Mr. Labouchere gave the Prince of Wales credit and honored and respected him for attempting to secure the fullest publicity to the circumstances attending Lord H. A. Somerset's disappearance. He handed over to Sir Richard Webster the name—since disclosed in the papers to be that of Sir Francis Knollys—of his informant, but Sir Richard declined to look at the paper. Mr. Labouchere was not prepared to accept the explanation tendered on behalf of the Premier and was so far carried away by his anxiety for proper administration of justice that he exclaimed, "I don't believe Lord Salisbury." It was now the Speaker's turn to order Mr. Labouchere to withdraw the unParliamentary language. Mr. Labouchere was beyond himself. He regretted his conscience forbade him crediting Lord Salisbury's statement. The Speaker then proceeded to enforce his order. He named Labouchere and then suspended him for a week. To further discredit Labouchere, Government insisted on a division on his motion, which was rejected by 206 against 66 votes. Mr. Gladstone took up Mr. Labouchere's cause and moved that if a member prefers a charge against one of the Ministry which is denied on behalf of the latter, the said member is not to be restrained from refusing to accept the denial and persisting in the charge because the Minister is a member of the House of Lords. In the Upper House, the Premier repudiated his repudiating Attorney-General. Lord Salisbury stated that he was unable to remember the precise words he had used in his interview with Sir Dighton Probyn but was sure he said nothing regarding the imminence of the issue of the warrant. Here is a pretty kettle of fish. If too many cooks spoil the broth, too many witnesses confuse and confound the truth.

THE Indian Councils Bill has been read a second time. The Past Viceroys Lords Northbrook and Ripon and the Past Secretary of State for India Lord Kimberley cordially accepted the Bill, but regretted the absence of some form of the elective principle. Lord Northbrook expressed himself for some kind of election in the Provincial Councils, but could not agree to a scheme for a Parliamentary session of the Governor-General's Council. He hoped, however, that Government would afford facilities for enabling loyal and educated Natives to enter the Provincial Councils and that the several Presidencies will be represented in the Supreme Council by at least one Member from each Presidency. Lord Granville pressed for the reforms advised by Lord Dufferin. The Government, he said, incurred a great responsibility by ignoring the late Governor-General's recommendations for election. Lord Cross explained that the Bill afforded enough opportunities for able Natives to assist in the government of their country. It was preposterous for outside bodies to be allowed to select the members. It was open to the Viceroy and the Provincial Governors to choose their advisers in consultation with Universities, Chambers of Commerce and other political bodies. Lord Salisbury did not see why so much was made of election in this connection. He thought it was dangerous to open the small channel which has a tendency to widen, and when once opened could not be closed. The Bill is safe in the Upper Chamber. The real fight will take place in the Commons.

ONE of the Indian Oracles in England has fallen. Sir<sup>e</sup> Louis Mallet, long connected with the Home Government of India, is reported to be dead. He was a *keraniraj*—the Prince of Clerks. After an obscure noviciate in some one or more departments, he emerged to name at the Board of Trade, where he acted as Private Secretary to the President. In this capacity it devolved on him to draw up a tariff under Mr. Cobden's Commercial Treaty with France. His success in this work won for him no little distinction. He was rewarded with a knighthood and the honourable sinecure of a seat on the India Council. He afterwards became the unparliamentary head of the India Office as Permanent Under-Secretary. In 1881, he, in conjunction with the present Governor of Bombay, ably represented the Government of India at the International Monetary Conference held at Paris. After an honourable service of many years, he retired in 1883.

Sir Louis Mallet belonged to the small but potent clerkocracy of which, in former times, Laurie and Peter Auber and, latterly, James Cosmo Melville and the Mills were the most distinguished members. More humble than the others, he recognised the gravity of dogmatising on the complexities of a distant land. The elder Mill indeed claimed his never being in India for an advantage as an authority on the subject. Mallet, while in the Indian Secretariat in London, thought fit to journey to India to see how it was like.

He was an able man strong in currency and statistics. He often corresponded on these and of Indian affairs generally with the late Mr. Robert Knight, who esteemed him.

PERHAPS, no name in the English world of letters of the day is so widely and wellknown as George Augustus Sala. A Prince of the Press, in all its different departments of reporting, special correspondence, leader-writing, or *feuilleton* producing, or paragraphing—a veteran in prose fiction, one of the last two stragglers to our fortune left behind of the noble band of the Dickenses and Thackerays—he has for half a century contributed to inform, improve, and inspire the minds of his countrymen and the world in general. Such a being is worthy of every felicity, and it is with sincere rejoicing that we hail his marriage. If this is his first prenticeship at Hymen's mart, it was too long deferred. But better late than never. According to our Hindu notions, marriage is the most important step in life—a necessary purification, a regeneration. The choicest gifts are unacceptable to the gods from the hands of the unfortunate condemned to a life of single misery. Marriage is a sovereign cure for cynicism. Literature itself receives a specific colouring from the great fact of human life—marriage or no-marriage. There is no more efficient antidote to the tendency to the *blasé* in modern writing than a good wife and children. For by marriage we here mean that happy union which we hope and pray has fallen to Mr. Sala's lot. A couple of years back, he travelled round the world, and, on his way back from Australia, came to this country. Unfortunately, he fell into the hands of the official wise men of the East, who sent him off to the bogs of Barrackpore, out of humanity's reach, where his genial, generous spirit pined, and he fell ill and was hastily packed out of the country.

IT is curious to remark how the great masters of literature fail in the regular profession of journalism. Thackeray who turned the brush into a pen, was versatile enough; he is even understood to have achieved the *summum bonum* of literary aspirants, namely, inditing a leader in the *Times*; but, in reality, he was never attracted to the service. Dickens, scion of a journalistic house, himself the first editor of the great Liberal organ, (the *Daily News*), is a conspicuous and confessed failure. Not so Sala, his original disciple, who in this, as in his original pursuit, resembles rather his rival (Thackeray.) His versatility indeed has been the enemy of his permanent fame. His appearance in literature was an event. It augured the continuity of the elder race. But, instead of sticking to elaborate works, he was more and more seduced to the paths of journalism. Herein his success has been prodigious. He and Sir Edwin Arnold together have been the making of the *enfant terrible* of the British Press—the *Daily Telegraph*. But his shoulders were broad enough for many burdens. Accordingly, while he was, in different capacities, supporting those marvellous men of business, the Lawsons, in their determination to make the *Daily Telegraph* a success and break the monopoly and preponderance of the *Times*, giving to the new journal that freshness, life and colour so scorned of the intellectual aristocracy, which carried the heart of the generation by assault, without altogether neglecting the claims of formal literature, he had taken under his protection the *Illustrated*

*London News*, suffering as it did from the competition of newer ventures. In the days of its glory, this was a double-barrelled concern, depending alike on art and letters. With the lamented death of the spirited founder, it suffered in both departments, until the column or two of gossip on things in general under the head of Echoes of the Week signed "G. A. S." latterly gave the paper a peculiar interest in the eyes of English-reading folks throughout the globe. These "echoes" are necessarily of the nature of small talk, but it is no small privilege to approach genius in *dishabille* and catch its unpremeditated wisdom and eloquence. Of late, the echoing columns have lost their charm, often returning an uncertain sound. At any rate, it is not the same echo. G. A. S. having left them, the conductors now try to fill the void with another noted wizard. Mr. James Payn is a clever writer and would be an acquisition to any journal if he took sufficient pains. But there's the rub. Under any circumstances, it is no discredit to Mr. Payn that he could not be a substitute for the charming veteran. The stoppage of the "G. A. S." papers in the *Illustrated* has been a loss to the whole English-reading public. The announcement of their revival will doubtless be hailed by thousands. They will be continued, with the *venue* changed. India will have the honour of the Revival, the *Bombay Gazette* being the paper through which Mr. Sala will address the world. We hope our contemporary's enterprise will be adequately rewarded. We trust the reading classes in India, Europeans and natives, will manifest an intelligent curiosity and a becoming appreciation.

WE have a sneaking partiality for old G. A. S. He was one of our early favorites. He also did us a good turn when this paper was started in 1882. A word in George Augustus Sala's Week is no joke. Dickens was offered £1,000 if he introduced some article of trade into one of his serials. There are numerous speculators at this moment who would pay as much or more to any first class literary man for the same service. We have reason, therefore, to be specially grateful to Mr. Sala for his kindness in speaking in the *Illustrated London News* of the editor of this journal as an "esteemed correspondent" and kindly announcing *Reis and Rayyet*—a name which reminded him of something good to eat.

MUCH as Sheridan was supposed to have exhausted the varieties of puffing, modern ingenuity has still left some crumbs. The Anglo-Indian jester with the queer name of Rudyard Kipling has just, in the columns of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, hit upon an original, if gross, method of advertising his own jest-books and stories. He sends all the way from Europe a sketch headed "On Exhibition," which is published with the significant label "All Rights Reserved," describing an apocryphal tea party at which he was on exhibition as a veritable Bengal Tiger. The sole prodigy of the hour, he was the cynosure of neighbouring eyes—the favorite of all. He was overwhelmed with attentions as the magnificent genius from the East whose name was on every lip in Europe, his works quoted and he there and then cross-examined on his characters. We say "apocryphal party," or else the writer would be a greater savage than Anglo-Indians are taken to be in England to publish such a damaging photograph of an hospitable scene to which he was invited. Surely, he would not dare *in propria persona* to call even a gentleman of the press—the Editor of the *Concertina*—"a burly ruffian with a beard." Besides, absurd as, in these regards, British manners may be, the dear old island has not yet been definitely made over to the administration of the Moon. Mr. Kipling is a satirist, and, in order to justify his satire, he draws with a free hand. He is a downright caricaturist. The only thing real in the matter is the advertising of the writer himself as an author—the puff impudent as we may characterise this outrageous species of the puff indirect. There is no pretence of delicacy in the article, which appears in the name of the writer.

Mr. Kipling is a clever writer. He brings out neatly the contrast between teas at Home and Indian teas. His main theme is, however, a trifling and a hackneyed one. What hope is there for a writer coming on the same ground after the Thackerays and Smiths and Hooks and Jerrolds? The *furor* of admiration of society for ephemeral heroes—the idols of the hour—once a phenomenon of much interest, after having employed the pens of literary men, and inspired the tongue of many a *bel esprit* who has set whole tables in roars of laughter, has at length descended to the bowels of the earth as it were as a spent joke.

So long ago as 1837, July 19, on the eve of the Princess Victoria stepping into the Throne as Queen, the late Earl of Beaconsfield, then plain Benjamin Disraeli, not yet privileged to write the charming letters M. P. after his name, in his letter to his sister, anticipated the main drift of all Mr. Kipling's elaborate machinery and endless gyrations to show off the absurdity of *Lionising*. The passage is as follows:—

"There was an agreeable party at Madame Montalembert's; but whether la Comtesse had taken an extra glass of champagne, or what might be the cause, she lionised me so dreadfully that I was actually forced to run for my life. She even produced 'Venetia' and was going to read a passage out loud, when I seized my hat and rushed downstairs, leaving the graceful society of Lady Egerton, much to my vexation."

How endless is the caprice of nomenclature! There is a municipal township in the Western Presidency called Kasandera or Kasandara. Why not spell it at once Cassandra and make an end of it? Not a very auspicious sound to be sure, but, such as it is, the place has not been able to escape the effect thereof! The town of Cassandra has been laid low. It has been disfranchised—its municipality dissolved by authority. On the principle of charity beginning at home, the prophecy of this Indian Cassandra has come true at home.

If Cassandra is deemed farfetched, still there is no escape. The toils of nomenclology still bind the ill-fated locality. If not Cassandra, it is Cassander and no mistake. And that is a change from the frying pan to the fire. We are reminded of the cruel warrior and base spoliator of the liberties of Athens. We refer to Cassander, the son of Antipater, who abolished representative government and institutions and put one man, Demetrius, in sole authority. There is surely no comfort in either branch of the nominal alternative. Cassandra or Cassander, it is a bad business for the poor Indian Municipality.

An awful name! prophetic of her end.

THIS sort of dissolution of municipalities is becoming far too common on that side. Complaints against municipalities are by no means infrequent in the whole empire: they are indeed the order of the day throughout the world. But nowhere else do these local misunderstandings, disagreements and even open ruptures are pushed to the bitter end—to the very loss of the franchise. We cannot speak to Madras, but our Bengal townships are not better than those of the Western Presidency, yet they just manage to preserve themselves. In Bombay, the municipalities, one after another, are shutting up shop, under compulsion. Is human nature anywise different on the Arabian Sea coast or in the neighbourhood of the Western Ghats? Or, is it the difference of official nature? That is scarcely likely. Bureaucracy is perhaps a pinch more bureaucratic in Bengal than in Bombay.

BE that as it may, the fiat has gone forth, and the municipality of Parantjit has been annexed and the people disfranchised.

WHATEVER may be the imperfections of the Congress, it is entitled to fairplay. They are simply unjust who sneer at it as a Baboo affair. Nothing could be more misleading. Our Bengalis are a drop in the ocean. Madras is the backbone of the movement—"blessings on her and eternal praise!" We wish our people of the North had half the earnestness of our brethren of the South, and were capable of their sacrifice.

On the 15th February, Madras held a great meeting of thanksgiving to her delegates returned from Congress and of other cognate purposes. The gathering was so large that the meeting was held in the open air. The chair was taken by the veteran P. Soonnasoondrum Chettiar, who delivered one of his excellent addresses. His speech was interesting for its personal touches—its very egotism if you will. Such references become only such lips, and their exclusion is niggardly and indicative of faint-heartedness. They are worth ten times their quantity of impersonal disquisition. What could be more eloquent in the way of argument than the single statement that "despite my physical deterioration I attended the fifth National Congress on an hour's notice with my respected friend, G. Mahedava Chetty, as a matter of stern duty?"

At the very outset, he contributed the following interesting reminiscence of the early history of our Native Indian politics:—

"You put me in mind of my vigorous youth, which enjoyed the company of that great tribune of the people, whose name is enshrined in the hearts of every one who knew him or heard of him. I mean the

noble Gajulu Lukshmanarasu Chettyar, of undying fame. My ideas were formed and my judgment was matured in his day. What seemed but a dream in those times is near fulfilment now. I congratulate myself that I live to see this approaching accomplishment of my cherished ideas, in the same spirit in which, two years back, my friend Rajah Sir T. Madhava Row congratulated himself on his being so far well in health, as to stand before the assembled delegates in Madras, and to witness in that gathering and its efforts, the proudest results of the British rule. I am, as you see, more than three score years old. But I have, as you well know, mixed with you all freely, and have been observant of the work and aims of many of you. I should be false to myself and to my powers of observation, if I did not see in the Congress, its leaders, and its work, the fruition of the aims and efforts of which my friend, the late Lukshminarasu Chettyar, may well be taken as the originator and the embodiment. He and his co-workers were the germ. The National Congress, with your strength behind it, is the sturdy growth from that germ. Standing on the border-land of two generations, I am able to take a retrospect into the past, and have an outlook into the future *on the progress made in this generation*. Doing this, I am bound to declare that while it was only permitted to the workers of my youth to lay the foundation whereon the great Proclamation of the British Queen was built, the Congress is the logical sequence following from those materials. More hopefully and more emphatically, do I now declare, after the fifth National Congress, that the Congress is the glory of British Rule in this land of historic fame—words that were uttered at the commencement of the third Congress."

Here, in this city, our boys, old and young, have returned from the field and quietly merged themselves in the community.

ON Wednesday evening, the wedding of the second son of Kassim Ariff, the well known Surat merchant of our town and the proprietor of the only silk manufactory in the Bengal Presidency, was celebrated with the daughter of Nawab Syud Ameer Hassan Khan of Bhikuapahari of Patna. The Nawabs of Bhikuapahari are political pensioners. They are the descendants of the first Mahomedan Family in the Province of Behar, from the Mahomedan Period. They are closely connected with the Oudh, the Nizamut and the Chitpore Families.

From our town, Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur proceeded to Patna on Tuesday evening, and the Hon'ble Syud Ameer Hosain on Wednesday evening to join in the festivities which continued for several days.

MR. Justice John Freeman Norris is under trial—for having condemned Private Thomas O'Hara to death. At the last Criminal Sessions, Thomas O'Hara and William Bellew were tried by Mr. Justice Norris for murder of the toddy seller Sheikh Saleem of Dum Dum. Both pleaded not guilty. After the close of the reply for the prosecution, Bellew was, under direction of the Judge, found not guilty by the Jury, but O'Hara was, after the charge of the Judge to the Jury, found guilty by them and capitally sentenced by the Judge. The Advocate-General found that there was misdirection by the Judge to the Jury, and recorded a certificate under Sec. 26 of the Letters Patent of 1865 for consideration by the High Court of the points of law indicated. A Full Bench was appointed for the purpose, from which the Native Judges of the Court were excluded. We suppose they were disqualified by their nationality to be peers either of the prisoner or the condemning Judge. The Chief Justice himself with Messrs. Justices Prinsep, Pigot, Macpherson and Norris, formed the Bench. The suspicion of bias in the black Judges was held sufficient to disable them from the exercise of their functions, but the inevitable bias, not to say the natural fury, of the White Judge *in extremis* was nothing. So Mr. Justice Norris tried himself with the help of his brother Judges. The Bench heard the case for 3 days and has reserved its decision. Mr. Woodroffe argued the case on behalf of O'Hara. Mr. Justice Norris pleaded his own cause from the Bench by questions, explanations and, last not least, admissions. The Standing Counsel represented and replied for the Crown.

CALCUTTA has been shocked by the almost simultaneous deaths of two young members of the Upper Ten of native society. Raja Poorna Chunder Singh of Paikpara, the head of the illustrious House of Lala Baboo, was aged 38. Kumar Promod Kumar Tagore, the eldest son of Raja Sir Sourendra Mohun Tagore, was barely 25. The latter is a peculiarly painful case. He was an accomplished young gentleman of amiable manners who will be mourned by all who knew him. The father bears the loss heroically.

THE rules directed against the saltpetre industry in municipal Calcutta have been extended to the area included in a radius of two miles from the limits of the municipality. It was a matter of

course, the rules having been already enforced beyond the law in this new area, this was the only way of justifying the illegality.

A NATIVE correspondent writes :—

"Mr. H. Lee is a *Philo-native*. As a private individual, he mixes in the company of native gentlemen, playing with them at cricket and lawn-tennis as freely as if he were one of their number. He takes their leaders into his confidence, and thus keeps himself well-informed of local wants which he removes with promptitude. With a keen discrimination of character, he has a good word for every honest worker in his district. And yet a native newspaper daily 'crams and blasphemes' our benefactor."

M. FOUGUE, the mineralogist, has, with a mixture of silicate of copper and of lime, produced the brilliant crystalline "azure" of Pompeii, long the wonder of artists and scientific men. The new "azzurrino" is said to be perfectly unchangeable and identical with the Alexandrian blue known to the Ptolemies and imported into Italy in the first years of the Christian era. The lost arts are one by one being recovered.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1890.

### THE HOWRAH MUNICIPALITY.

#### DIFFICULTIES OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

DR. Gregg has been found tripping. He reported to Government, among other things relating to the Howrah municipality, against its drainage. The drainage of Howrah was roundly condemned and the Commissioners came in for some rather sharp reproof. It would now seem, however, that Dr. Gregg's view is not supported by professional opinion. Having taken some levels, he came to the conclusion that the slope of the country was westwards from the river, while he found the existing drains of Howrah were designed upon a contrary assumption, Dr. Gregg naturally became impatient, and was somewhat severe in his condemnation of the drainage system which all along had, in his opinion, been based upon an error. It would now appear, however, from the Government Resolution on Dr. Gregg's Report, that the error is his, rather than the municipality's.

This is, indeed, a sad *contretemps*. But it would not have been in vain if it taught us the need of caution and forbearance in criticising matters municipal. Nothing is more common than these criticisms. Few have any idea of the difficulties besetting the path of a municipal reformer. We must do the Sanitary Commissioner the justice to say that he has given his earnest attention to the subject of drainage in general, and if his view in the present instance is found to be wrong, it only suggests the inherent difficulties of the question. We only regret the strong remarks into which he allowed himself to be betrayed.

The drainage of Howrah was condemned by Dr. Gregg as constructed upon an altogether erroneous system. The slope of the ground in his opinion is westwards from the river, while the drainage is made to run in an opposite direction into the

*Holloway's Pills.*—Nervous Irritability.—No part of the human machine requires more constant supervision than the nervous system—for upon it our health—and even life—depends. These Pills strengthen the nerves, and are the safest general purifiers of the blood. Nausea, headache, giddiness, numbness, and mental apathy yield to them. They dispatch in a summary manner those distressing dyspeptic symptoms, stomachic pains, fulness at the pit of the stomach, abdominal distension, and regulate alike capricious appetites and confined bowels—the commonly accompanying signs of defective or diminished nerve tone. Holloway's Pills are particularly recommended to persons of studious and sedentary habits, who gradually fall into a nervous and irritable state, unless some such restorative be occasionally taken.

Hooghly, and accordingly he recommends that it should be diverted westwards, instead of being allowed, as at present, to flow into the river. When we read this in Dr. Gregg's report, some time ago, we had our misgivings as to whether such a gross mistake about the level of an old town like Howrah could be possible, or, being committed, persisted in so long. And we now find that we were not wrong. In the Government resolution are quoted professional opinions which are at total variance with Dr. Gregg's opinion. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, endeavours to reconcile the difference in his usual kindly way. He says :—

"Dr. Gregg is aware of this report, but does not accept the conclusion arrived at. It appears to the Lieutenant-Governor that Dr. Gregg's scheme is perhaps not necessarily at variance with Mr. Johnson's opinion, and that his proposals are to drain the town in a different direction from that which was originally understood. Whether this is so or not, it is certain that the Sanitary Commissioner's proposals merit further consideration, and with this object his report will now be transmitted to the Sanitary Board in order that a further professional enquiry may be made. The question is one of such great importance to the health of Howrah and of the port of Calcutta that no steps must be left untaken to come to a final decision on it."

Municipal administration in Howrah has, however, in other respects, not apparently been much of a success. The Sanitary Commissioner calls it "the dirtiest, most backward and badly managed" of large municipalities. And this is a municipality, which, with casual interruptions, has always been under official management. Our present object is not, however, so much to enquire where the fault lies as to show how faults are hard getting rid of in the best circumstances. It makes little difference whether the administration is official or non-official. For defects are to be met with everywhere, more or less. No town will bear strict investigation, and this without applying an ideal standard. In the case of Howrah, Dr. Gregg attributes the mismanagement to the Commissioners who are mostly persons of scant leisure, but the opinion of the Government points to the officials of the town as the more responsible of the two. The blame may be fairly apportioned between them in equal moieties, but a more pertinent question suggested by the case remains. If such a disgraceful state of things may be possible in a place having such manifest advantages of what is fashionably called the Surrey side of the metropolis, must not the task of municipal administration be in itself a peculiarly hard one? It may be all very well to insist upon a high standard of efficiency in the conservancy and other arrangements of our municipalities. In the growing sense of comfort and civilized tastes in the people, nothing could be more desirable than that such a standard were even approximately reached. But manifestly there are numerous difficulties of detail, and the more the subject is studied in its practical aspects, the more one is confronted by these inherent difficulties.

These difficulties will easily occur to those who have attended to the subject. They are of more than one kind. At the present moment, there is some tumult in Calcutta in connection with the question of the best method for the collection of small rates from occupiers of huts, and this is suggestive of the larger question as to the best method of collecting arrears of municipal dues. There is now a rigorous system followed of collecting them by distress warrants. This is indeed a hard system, and it is no wonder that the self-governing Committees in the country are, as a fact, chary of having recourse to it. The effect of their amiable forbearance to exercise the powers vested in them by law is, however, simply disastrous upon their funds. They must command

adequate resources for municipal expenditure, and with an impoverished exchequer the work of town improvement can make little progress, if at all. There are other aspects of the question, and some of these may be seen in the Government Resolution on Dr. Gregg's drainage report on the Howrah Municipality. The question of drainage is everywhere a difficult one, and the progress made so far has been very small. Let us hope the new Sanitary Board, with the assistance of its Engineer member, will at last succeed in doing something worthy of itself.

#### NOTES FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A BOOKWORM.

March, 1862.—In my researches in the Wellington Square Dutt Family Library to-day, I lighted upon a book with the following title page:—"The Ladies' Monitor, being a series of letters first published in Bengal on the subject of Female Apparel, tending to favor a regulated adoption of Indian Costume; and a rejection of superfluous vesture, by the Ladies of this Country; with incidental remarks on Hindoo beauty, whalebone stays, iron busks, Indian Corsets, man-milliners, idle bachelors, hair-powder, side saddles, waiting-maids, and footmen. By the author of *A Vindication of the Hindoos*."

'From vulgar bounds, with brave disorder dart  
And snatch a grace beyond the reach of art.'

London: Printed for the author, and sold by———well, 344, near Catherine Street, Strand, Printed by De—ns & Co. Hart-Street, Covent Garden. 1809." The book is in most parts worm-eaten, and hence in copying the title page I have indicated by—a dash where I have failed to make out. The motto, from the few words which were left of it, I have supplied from memory. Though published in London, the book is one of the early contributions to English Literature in and by India. It presents too a picture of society and manners not only in India but also in England more than half a century ago. Under the head of "To the Reader" the author says that most of the letters contained in his book were published more than eight years ago in one of the Calcutta weekly papers. They were (in Calcutta) subsequently collected and given over to the Printer with a considerable Introduction called "Preface," &c. The Printer dying, the MS. was returned to the author who now launches his work in England. The author is an enthusiastic admirer of Indian beauty, Indian costume, Indian manners, Indian morals, and Indian institutions, and earnestly calls upon his countrymen and countrywomen to imitate them. In 1809, it appears that a short-waisted garment had just come into fashion. The author contends that it is in imitation of the Indian Peshwaz. He at the outset declares that had he despotic power he would make Englishwomen dress like the Hindoo females (of Bengal) with their single robe covering from head to foot. He denies, what is asserted, that Hindoo beauties are rather small, and explains any seeming smallness of the Hindoo beside the European beauty by the fact that the latter wears shoes and bonnet, and is literally a mass of clothes. He condemns in the severest terms the dress of English ladies, says it is unnatural, inconvenient, ugly, positively injurious to health and painful; condemns stays with whale-bones, iron busk, &c.; instances a lady who having got a fall was severely wounded by her busk, another who wore upwards of two hundred square inches of whalebone; says the steel busks are generally three inches in breadth each and that every lady used three of them; quotes the *Genuine Memoirs of Asiaticus* who came to India in 1783 in support of his opinion of Indian women; says even the latter writer's love for Miss Charlotte Rivers could not prevent him from ranking Indian beauties above English, &c. The author ably advocates polygamy, advises ladies to discontinue side saddle, proposes a tax on bachelors, advocates early marriages. The book exhibits how much more than at present language was lax—the author and even his female antagonists using language which would be highly indecent and vulgar now. It appears from the book that even at that age there were *punkahs* in India. I also glean that Mahomed Ali Khan, Nawab of the Carnatic, had born to him by the ladies of his seraglio seven hundred



and fifty eight children, that three ladies (English) in Bengal used to ride like men, and that they did the same in England. There is a nice anecdote. Hussien Reza Khan, late minister at Lucknow, called at a friend of the author's where he was present. While talking, the lady of the house appeared muffled to the chin in a large cravat *a la mode*. The Mahomedan fancied she had caught cold, and expressed his sorrow at the circumstance when he was told it was simply a new fashion.

#### NATIVE OFFICERS AND THE LEAVE CODE.

THE native officers generally do not understand the proper value of leave, nor do they know how to utilise it. They are rather indifferent to this great privilege upon which depends a great deal of their health and future prosperity. Their unpardonable apathy towards such an important privilege has made the authorities also rather indifferent to it, and the consequence is that applications for leave do not receive sufficient consideration and attention. The practical effect of the wholesome Leave Code is that officers of this class are not emboldened to apply for leave when they require it most. Those with any experience in the matter must admit that native officers as a rule do not get leave with that facility, promptness and ease with which Civilians and European officers generally are allowed to avail themselves of it. They wonder at the distinction. They see that the other classes get leave for the asking, while their suit is summarily and arbitrarily rejected, or their superior officer finds excuses not to recommend it. Cases have occurred of applications backed by medical certificates being rejected and the applicants obliged to perform their heavy duties for 2 or 3 weeks with fever on and under other disabilities for which a European would not stay 24 hours in his station. Not unoften the leave is sanctioned after the occasion for it is gone, and then cancelled wholly or partially. The reason for the refusal is invariably want of officers coupled with the diplomatic expression "The exigencies of the public service." There is occasionally an order from the Commissioner or other supervising authority to the District head not to send up any application for leave.

But there are officers and officers. There are those who find it beneficial to enjoy the privilege. They must either suffer for the omission of others, or resort to subterfuges to gain their end and health.

They make themselves sick for the Doctor's certificate not for sick but privilege leave. Their various plans of obtaining leave cannot but leave an unhealthy influence over the moral tone of the service.

The application for leave must in the first place be sent up by the District Officer, then recommended by the Commissioner and afterwards sanctioned by Government. After the application has passed through the first stage, the applicant is obliged to see the Personal Assistant Saheb of the Commissioner or the Commissioner himself to see that his application is forwarded and not shelved. Then he must write to his friends in Calcutta to watch its further progress through the Accountant-General's Office to save its being sent back by the clerks of that office, on some technical plea. After it has braved through the 3rd stage, the Chief Secretary is interviewed, either by the officer himself if he can call upon him, or by some influential gentleman on his behalf. I don't mean to insinuate that such procedure has to be followed in each and every case. The Civilian or the European is not troubled with these cares and anxieties. In urgent cases, even before the leave is Gazetted, he is relieved at once, or the matter is settled D. O. and the leave Gazetted after a long time.

Once a Native officer applied for leave on the ground of ill-health. He was advised by the higher authority of the division to get a bed and sleep in office for sometime and then do the work. This was indeed very kind of that superior officer but the applying officer could not see his way to benefit by this practical and kind suggestion.

An officer is overworked or his health fails him. He requires complete rest. Although entitled to privilege leave, he must apply with a medical certificate. But such certificates are not in ordinary cases easily available. If you don't know the Civil Surgeon or he is a queer sort of man, then you must approach him through some of his pet

Assistants. But I think when an officer absolutely requires leave and there are not very strong grounds to refuse it, he ought to get it quickly without adopting any improper means. An experienced person with sufficient common sense can always judge when one requires leave to recruit his health.

If native officers want to enjoy good health and the pleasant things of the world and do their duties properly and not in a half-dead condition, they ought to value their great privilege of leave and avail themselves of it when they have won it. They should not always keep it in deposit for *sraddh* ceremony of their deceased relations or such other occasions. If they shew a desire to value and appreciate the very liberal and just leave rules which the wise Government has provided for them, it would, I am sure, remove the obstacles which now lie in the way.

These officers ought to be the judge of their own powers and functions, and accordingly regulate their leave. I am inclined to think that the difficulties they experience are of their own making in some measure.

The great object of these liberal rules is that those for whom they are intended should fully benefit by them. It is farthest from their intentions that a man would be in ill health for years and drag himself to office in search of money at the expense of health and die a miserable death in harness.

#### A LOVER OF HOLIDAYS.

#### EDUCATION OF MAHOMEDAN LADIES.

At one time the Mahomedans were justly proud of their female education and there were very eminent female scholars and poetesses among them, as a reference to *Tazkeratul Khawatin* will shew. Even in the present backward state of our general education there are still poetesses and female scholars among us of whom we may well be proud, but alas! their number is small, and within a short time we will lose them in the natural course of the world, and it is not expected that any one of the present generation will be able to take their places. It is true that our general education is comparatively backward and it may be argued that the education of the sterner sex must precede that of the fairer. That remark may be applicable to ignorant, illiterate or other classes who have no taste or aptitude for knowledge. We have, indeed, still education of a kind in its different stages among the ladies of the respectable classes, but if we do not take care of what we already possess and try to overcome the difficulties caused by circumstances for which we can not be blamed much, we shall have to repent afterwards. The present state of female education in Bengal and Behar among the respectable and middle classes of the Mahomedans, is, I believe, generally the same as in the other Provinces of India. I mean, therefore, to confine my remarks to Bengal and Behar of which provinces I can speak from personal knowledge.

Our ladies generally read the holy Koran and sometimes also its Urdu translation and other Urdu books on religious subjects, not unoften taking up in addition books on social topics and other interesting Urdu publications especially selected.

There are very few who, in addition to the above, read Persian, write or correspond in Urdu and read Urdu newspapers.

There is another class who can read a little Bengalee and Hindi and compose in those languages. This class can be found only in the interior and not in large or old towns.

The great difficulty in the way of our female education is the absence of teachers. At the present day the mother, the grandmother or other elderly female relation teaches the girls and young ladies of a family. In some instances, old, trustworthy and respectable Moulvis are employed to teach very young girls and in very few cases governesses (*Ustans*) are told off. Now and then the male relations have to do that duty.

Tuition by female and male relations is very prevalent. I think in 5 or 10 cases only out of 100, governesses and Moulvis are employed. In fact, governesses are not easily procurable, and it is very difficult to find suitable Moulvis. Again there are families who would on no account place their girls of 8 or 9 under male tuition. In families where there is no female relation to act the teacher and male members can not find leisure or possess a desire to under take it, education is necessarily neglected. Every respectable and well-informed Mahomedan feels the great want of teachers and governesses. Anglicized Mahomedans sometimes get over the difficulty by introducing European or missionary ladies to their Zenana. Its general effect, as far as it has been seen, is to teach the respectable Mahomedan lady to affect the manners, conduct and habits of the Eurasian lady or of the Bengali who has "shaken off the trammels of superstition." Such a wife may be agreeable to the husband, but she is no gain to the community. For more than one reason, it is not only objection-

able but often most dangerous to introduce this class of teachers into our Zenana. We should never forget the Patna case.

There is no doubt that English education has directed the attention of our wise and thoughtful men towards the manifold blessings and the urgent necessity of female education, and this difficult problem of education is now engaging our attention, as it is more frequently discussed than it used to be some 20 years back. I hear that among Bengalis education in the girl is fast becoming a condition of marriage, and it is no easy task to persuade a young man to marry a girl with no education. If not to that extent, signs of such a desire are clearly visible among our own community, specially among those who have received the benefits of English education. This desire is quite natural and laudable, and the Mahomedan parents ought to take a particular note of it. Enquiries are now quietly made by the would be bridegroom and mild hints are given to his guardians to select an educated bride. I am sure that the time is not far distant when this would be one of the primary conditions of marriage. It is fortunate that in most cases we have some sort of education, and in all cases as far as other accomplishments besides reading and writing are concerned our ladies take the first rank in the best Indian female society.

No one who knows the state of our community will deny that there is a dearth of female teachers and governesses in Bengal and Behar, and that in consequence female education suffers not a little. We require a set of respectable, competent, and well-mannered female teachers. The question, however, is Where can we find them? The N.-W. P. can supply a limited number but they are not generally properly qualified. The want is increasing almost daily and the supply is not forthcoming. Under such circumstances, unless we can fix upon some cheap and convenient plan to educate our girls, we will have to rue and suffer.

I have considered the question for a long time and now venture to suggest the following plan for consideration of the leaders and educationists of our community. I would respectfully ask them, bearing in mind the interests at stake, to lay aside all party feeling and selfish considerations which have thrown back the advancement of our coreligionists by quarter of a century.

Let then there be established a female Normal school in Calcutta or some suitable provincial town. To begin with, let there be three classes with a three years' course. Poor but respectable Mahomedan girls and young ladies, including young widows (of whom there are many) in every old city may be persuaded to enter this school. We must find handsome scholarships and a home for them and give every other possible encouragement. After completing their education in the institution where, besides reading and writing, they would learn needle work, &c., they may be engaged, on a reasonable pay, by us and will thus get a sufficient and respectable means of subsistence and at the same time supply our great want. One lady teacher may be employed by two or three families when one cannot pay her sufficiently. This is only a skeleton proposal and, if worked out with care, energy and unity, is likely to succeed. As regards money, I don't believe there will be any difficulty, if the plan is properly and systematically worked out. I do not deny that there are obstacles in the way, but at the same time it must be remembered that no success has ever been achieved without an effort. In my opinion, this is the only practical way of solving this troublesome problem under the present and peculiar circumstances of our community and the purdah system. No respectable Mahomedan can allow his daughters and female relations to go out of his house in search of education, however valuable it may be. This is not the place to discuss the propriety or otherwise of such a course, but it is a fact, and is fully consistent with their notions of respectability and propriety as with their practical experience of the world.

There is a class of men who, without caring to enquire into the merits of the question, are ever ready to pass an opinion on this complicated subject and are satisfied when they find themselves in print. Such men mislead the public and are far off the real issues. Such empty talk cannot remedy the evil. We have had enough talk and now is the time for action.

A MAHOMEDAN.

—2nd March 1890.

#### ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

I beg to enclose herein for your perusal two Question Papers set at the Entrance Examination which is still going on. One of these contains passages in Bengali and the other in Hindi, both intended for translation into the English language. I wonder from what source these literary dainties could have emanated—more specially the Bengali pieces! Could Missionary Bengali of our old days go further? If such stuff be imitated by our young undergraduates, as the specimens of composition in their own vernacular, there can be but little hope for our country, at least in the direction of linguistic excellence. The

orthography, idiom, sense and style of the passages, it will be observed, are all remarkable. What can our new Vice-Chancellor now bring forward in defence of his Examiners? The fault here, at any rate, cannot be laid at the door of our poor school-masters, or their ill-prepared pupils. After this, can it not be said that it is high time that more attention should be paid to the selection of Examiners? For a business like theirs, the best available men are to be secured and no policy should be allowed to interfere.

The Hindi paper is hardly better than its Bengali counterpart. The pyramids in line four have been called "Patharon ke sab se bade dher." Are they larger than the Himalaya mountains, and would the examiner be satisfied if a candidate were to translate them as "the greatest of all heaps of stones?"—*dher*, faithfully translated into English, is a *heap*, no doubt.

Of course, not a line of either the Bengali or the Hindi, as given in these two papers, would bear the slightest criticism, as regards their orthography, perspicuity, or grammar. I should not therefore aim at anything like a critical review of the passages, but would simply draw, with due deference, the attention of the University authorities to the matter and solicit the favor of their preventing a recurrence of such a state of things in future. The use of such productions in the examination papers of the highest educational institution in the land, it needs hardly be told, is simply deplorable.

There is another point in connection with these papers which deserves special notice, in justice to the candidates themselves. If I mistake not, the pieces given in the several languages are meant to be the different versions of one and the same text, and the English translations thereof are expected to be all alike. The examiners may not thus, when awarding marks, refer to the passages as given in each language, but judge the faithfulness and accuracy of the translations from the question paper in one language only. But that will hardly answer. The Examiners are warned that, in the present instance, whether intentionally or otherwise, material differences have been allowed to creep into the passages as given in the several languages and that the English translations could not thus be expected to be identical in all cases. A comparison of para. 2 of the Bengali with the first sentence of the corresponding para. of the Hindi version will at once prove the truth of what I mean to say. And this is not the only instance of the kind. But as I have already stated, the language of the papers does not deserve any detailed criticism.

ONE INTERESTED.

Ranchi, 26th February, 1890.

#### DACCA.

March 4, 1890.

The University Entrance Examination has just been over. Nearly seven hundred students were in for the examination at the Dacca centre. The authorities of schools were a little more careful this year in sending up their boys for the examination; so it is hoped, that the percentage of failure will be diminished. The questions were all very fairly framed, and they admit of little or no objection. In the afternoon paper of the first day, a piece of Bengali prose was given for translation into English. Its style, spelling, grammar, matter and idiom were all very curious indeed. It must have come from the pen of an Anglo-Indian who is bold enough to frame questions in Bengali, pretending to be a professor of the language; or if it has come from the pen of a Bengali at all, he has surely tried to unlearn his mother tongue. Whatever it may be, the questions ought to have been carefully corrected before they were sent to the press. Some boys have been misled, by the bad spelling, into taking the questions in a different light and consequently their answers have been wrong. Will Mr. Rowe be held responsible for this? In this connection, I must tell your readers one thing which reflects seriously on our boasted education and intelligence. Some of the guards have been known to abuse the sacred trust imposed on them, in the examination hall; or, to be more clear, they used unfair means in favour of a boy who had the good luck to be the son of a gentleman who holds high official position. If the report be true, nothing can be more disgraceful to the University, and every right-minded man should feel it his duty to wipe out the reproach. I hope, Mr. Editor, you will strongly urge upon the authorities to be a little more cautious in appointing guards to superintend future examinations.

Is this the way that they mean to spread moral education among the boys? The teachers would do well to receive moral instruction before they are called upon to impart moral education to the boys.

The East Bengal Chhatra Samaj has been doing good work for some years past. The students who come here to appear at the University examinations find great difficulty in procuring suitable lodgings, cooks, and servants. To remove it, the members of the Samaj have formed themselves into a committee to look after the comforts of the candidates. Babu Rajani Kant Ghosh, B.A., was Secretary to the Committee this year. The members did their best to help the boys in all sorts of ways. Medical assistance was also given them when required. The mofussil candidates were entertained in the Northbrook Hall on the evening of the 29th ultimo. Mr. Mondy, the officiating Principal of the Dacca College, took the

chair. Baboo Surya Kumar Ghosh, laboratory assistant Dacca College, performed several interesting scientific experiments to the great delight of the spectators. The most interesting treat was furnished by Professor Wilson, of the Dacca College, who delivered an instructive address on "Examination of Life." Mr. Wilson is a well meaning, intelligent young man. He has been labouring hard for the moral welfare of the Dacca students with unremitting zeal. No European professor was on so familiar terms with the native boys as Mr. Wilson. During his short term of office, he has been pretty well acquainted with the failings and weaknesses of the Bengali students and has won the love and respect of most of them. Mr. Wilson got his address printed at his own cost and distributed it among the students. He touched on several important topics, such as spiritual welfare, moral courage, habits of study, immoral practices among young men, bodily exercise and so forth. In conclusion, he exhorted the students to ask themselves a number of questions at the end of each day or every week. I give them below, and earnestly hope they will be laid to heart by all your young readers.

- (1) How have I spent this past day or past week?
- (2) Have I deliberately done anything wrong, anything which I knew to be wrong?
- (3) Have I tried to be watchful over myself?
- (4) Have I carefully avoided evil temptations?
- (5) Have I had in my mind any proud, vain, greedy, impure, envious or other bad thoughts?
- (6) Have I told lies or deceived others; have I used any violent or bad or impure language?
- (7) Have I been obedient, loving, and dutiful to my parents, teachers and superiors?
- (8) Have I wasted time and been idle in doing my duties?
- (9) Have I been strictly temperate in eating and drinking?

S. K. GUHA.

#### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

*The 12th Ordinary Monthly Meeting*  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CALCUTTA,  
WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 13th March 1890,  
at 4 P.M.

##### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To confirm the proceedings of the General Committee at Meetings held on the 8th, 15th and 22nd February 1890.
2. To confirm the proceedings of the Suburban Improvement Committee at Meetings held on the 7th and 21st February 1890.
3. To confirm the proceedings of the Central Road Committee at a Meeting held on the 11th February 1890.
4. To confirm the proceedings of Complaint Committee at a Meeting held on the 12th February 1890.
5. To consider the proposed Bye-laws passed under Section 412 Act II (B. C.) of 1888, Clauses (c) and (f).
6. Vital statistics for the month of January, 1890.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

7th March 1890.

#### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed tenders for supply of 5 (five) lacs cubic feet of Indigenous Stone during the official year 1890-91, will be received by the Vice-Chairman and will be opened by him in the presence of tenderers who may wish to attend at 2 P.M. on the 19th instant.

2. The stone must be of the quality of that obtained from Rajmehal hills, to be broken so as to pass freely in all directions through a ring 2 inches in diameter and to be delivered and properly stacked in the Municipal Depôts at Baug Bazar and Nimtollah. The quality of stone must not be inferior to that now being supplied, samples of which can be seen at the Municipal Depôts. Tenders for supply of stone of this quality from any other place than Rajmehal may be considered.

3. Each tender may be for 10,000 c.ft. or multiples of that quantity, and to be accompanied by samples of stones in a sealed bag, and earnest money Rs. 100 for every 10,000 c.ft. of stone to be tendered for is to be enclosed with each tender.

4. The tenderer whose tender is accepted must sign a deed of contract duly stamped and registered at his own expense, within 15 days after the acceptance of his tender.

5. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.
6. Any further information required can be had on application.

UDOYNARAIN SINGHA,  
Superintendent of Stores.  
5th March, 1890.

#### ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

*Alipore, March 1890.*

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of Miscellaneous stores more or less as may be required, for the year 1890-91.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees 100 as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to execute a bond and to give security in Government Promissory Notes or cash for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 24th March 1890 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

W. H. MACKESY, Colonel,  
Superintendent, Army Clothing.

#### H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor Reception Fund.

##### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

To close the Accounts Subscribers who have not already sent in their Subscriptions, will greatly oblige the Executive Committee by doing so without delay.

• RAJ KUMAR SARVADHIKARI,  
S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.  
Calcutta, 9th Jan. 1890.

#### MONGHYR.

*Jamalpore, February 27.*

General Strachey and Sir A. M. Rendal, having arrived from England by the first week of the current month, are now busily engaged in overhauling the system of accounts, &c., in the Head Office at Calcutta and are expected to be here shortly, to inspect the way and works. The present topic of the day here, is nothing but reduction.

A few days ago, there was a case of rioting between Hindoos and Mahomedans at Benowra, Thanna Gogree, in Monghyr District, in which the latter came out the worse. The wounded have been removed to Dear's Hospital at Monghyr. The dispute originated in the right over a Jalkur.

Our Officiating District Magistrate, Mr. T. E. Coxhead, leaves the District a few months hence. Major Ramsay, the District Superintendent of Police, Monghyr, has been transferred to the metropolis.

The local H. C. English School has sent up 9 boys to the Entrance Examination this year.

The Volunteers (E. I. Railway) from various stations on the line have assembled here, for the annual inspection which comes off this afternoon. Major-General Hudson, Commanding the Allahabad Division, has come down to do that duty. The inspection lasted for about two hours during which time the Volunteers were put through the different manœuvres by the several officers of the local corps. The General was very much pleased with the way the Volunteers acquitted themselves, and, in an address which lasted about 20 minutes, praised them highly, assuring them of a favorable Inspection report to the Commander-in-Chief. The Inspection over, the Volunteers were treated to a substantial refreshment on the maidan. A Grand dinner was given to the General by the officers of the Volunteer corps headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Allen Mears, Commanding the Jamalpore Establishment of the corps.

#### HIGH COURT NOTICE.

##### ESTATE RAJAH RAJ KISSEN.

Maharaja Sibkristo Bahadoor  
vs.  
Kristo Chunder Ghose.

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 12th March next, at the hour of 1 O'clock in the afternoon, the Receiver of the High Court will put up for auction, at his office on the third floor of the Court House, a lease for six years from the 1st Bysack 1297 corresponding with the 13th April 1890, of the undermentioned property, on the terms and conditions of a draft lease which may be inspected at the said office.

In Zillah Tipperah Pergunnah, Gungamundle, recorded in the Register of the Collector as Towji No. 545, including the Churs appertaining thereto, viz., Nobbo Chur No. 1290, Chur Bahur alias Teetoor Chur No. 1508, Chur Surjo and Sunjoora No. 1964, Chur Assad and Doobur Chur No. 21.

In Zillah Dacca, Chur Goagachia No. 10503, Chur Jalnalpur No. 10505.

For conditions of auction and further particulars, apply to the Receiver of the High Court.

J. C. MACGREGOR,  
Receiver, High Court.

High Court  
Receiver's Office.  
The 19th February, 1890.

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*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*

BY

SAMBUH C. MOOKERJEE,

*Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,

Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who d being tire

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1890.

No. 415

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A RURAL LIFE SCENE.

#### I.

THE farmer sat in his easy chair,  
Smoking his pipe of clay,  
And his hale old wife, with busy care,  
Was clearing the dinner away ;  
A sweet little girl, with fine blue eyes,  
On her grandfather's knee was catching flies.

#### II.

The old man laid his hand on her head,  
With a tear on his wrinkled face ;  
He thought how often her mother, dead,  
Had sat in the self-same place ;  
As the tear stole down from his half-shut eye,  
" Don't smoke," said the child, " how it makes you cry ! "

#### III.

The house-dog lay stretched out on the floor,  
Where the shade after noon used to steal ;  
The busy old wife, by the open door,  
Was turning the spinning wheel ;  
And the old brass clock on the mantle-tree  
Had plodded along to almost three.

#### IV.

Still the farmer sat in his easy chair,  
While close to his heaving breast  
The moistened brow and the cheek so fair  
Of his sweet grand-child were pressed ;  
His head, bent down, on her soft hair lay,  
Fast asleep were they both, that summer day.

### DELAROCHE'S PICTURE

#### ON NAPOLEON CROSSING THE ALPS

UNCONSCIOUS of the dreary wastes around,  
Of sleet that pierces with each fitful blast,  
The icy peaks, the rough and treacherous ground,  
Huge snow-drifts, by the whirlwind's breath amassed—  
Through which the jaded mule with noiseless tread,  
Patient and slow, a certain foothold seeks,  
By the old peasant-guide so meekly led ;  
Moves the wan conqueror, with sunken cheeks,  
O'er heights, as cold and lonely as his soul—  
The chill lips blandly set, and the dark eyes  
Intent with fierce ambition's vast control,  
Sad, keen, and thoughtful of the distant prize  
With the imperial robes and warlike steed,  
That face ne'er wore such blended might and need !

## VIVISECTION IN INDIA.

To the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Knowing you to be a true friend of dumb animals, and an ardent upholder of the Law of Mercy wherever it is possible for mercy to be exercised, I venture to call your attention to the feeling with which the Report of the Hyderabad Chloroform Commission (so-called)—in reality a Commission for Vivisection—has been received in this country.

It is not a noisy feeling, or one that is to any great extent represented in the daily newspaper press ; but among the calmest and most resolved friends that India has in the British Islands, (and I am sure the same remark will apply to America, and to several European nations, when once the facts are known) it has a depth and intensity which I do not remember to have been equalled, in any like case, in my experience of public affairs.

The feeling is one of simple horror that India, of whose gentleness and mercifulness many Englishmen have strongly, and often, spoken, should have been selected for experiments which it has been publicly asserted would not be permitted in this country, lax, as English law is with regard to the system of secret torture which goes under the name of vivisection.

The *Lancet* states that in Hyderabad 490 dogs, horses, monkeys, goats, cats and rabbits had been used—(kindly notice the word that I have italicised), and that 600 experiments had been carried out, under the direction of this Commission. The same animals had, in some cases, been used more than once, after an interval, say of three or four days. Every intelligent reader of the words knows what this means.

" In order " (the Report says) " to test the alleged danger from shock during chloroform administration, the Committee performed a very large number of those operations which are reputed to be particularly dangerous in this connection—such as extraction, evulsion (tearing out) of nails, section of muscles of the eye, &c. In many cases the operations were performed after the animal was merely stupefied by chloroform and not fully insensible." The stories of the fiendish cruelties inflicted by vivisection as we know it in England, I shall not attempt in any case to re-narrate. They are too horrible to keep before one, or to dwell upon.

I am quite sure that the Nizam cannot know what, in its naked deformity, vivisection really is, and how it has been depicted and stripped of its pretences, by men of the highest character and culture, both in science and literature, in this country. The vivisectioners say that the operations are in many cases painless. They do not say in all cases ; and for what they do say their word is not accepted. From all parts of the British Islands have come words as direct as these—" *We do not believe you !* The power, and the exercise of the power, of secret torture are in their very nature brutalising ; and neither you nor any other men are to be trusted to draw the line at which you suppose that there is no suffering. No such power as you claim ever was entrusted to any human beings without leading step by step to cruelties far beyond what was at first contemplated, or at least avowed."

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

We are pointed also to the fact that some eminent men have carried on these operations. I reply that eminent men have condemned these operations; and that for one vivisector who might perhaps be trusted to reduce the suffering to its smallest possible limits, there must, in the nature of things, be scores of vivisectors who do not care in the least what amount of suffering they inflict, or how long their helpless victims suffer.

There are many strong and unanswerable arguments against the practice of vivisection in any hands. I will mention three. Eminent doctors, and scientific men, testify that, in their opinion, Nature does not give up her secrets to the vivisector; that her way to knowledge, for any purposes of mercy to man never can be the way of cruelty and suffering intentionally inflicted on any other living creatures.

Another argument is that in the medical profession, (in many cases distinguished by gentleness and pitifulness, and in which these qualities are so greatly needed and so deeply prized) there is great danger that even the habitual sight of cruelty and torture will harden the heart to the cry of suffering, and turn the mercy into cruelty, the kindness into callousness.

Others point, with undeniable examples from history, to the fact that the love of cruelty grows; and that people who have begun by torturing animals which cannot speak, have generally ended by torturing helpless human beings.

Each of these arguments is, I think, worthy of consideration from its own point of view; and the concluding one is surely of great importance to India, which depends so much on its power to protect itself from every form and kind of cruelty. What may not be the consequences if these practices are allowed? You know that the kidnappers of half a century ago found in eminent doctors customers for dead bodies. Allow vivisection to prevail in India and we may have a new system of Thuggee, sanctioned by the Law and blessed by Science—till the evil thing is found out. This is but one reason among many which will occur to your readers why India in particular should not have vivisection forced upon it on any plea whatever. For the protection of India itself, and especially of its poor people, I plead against this unholy experiment.

But, Sir, these arguments, strong as they may be, do not include the one which I venture to submit to the Nizam, and to you, and to the intelligent men of India, as the strongest and highest argument of all. That we have no warrant, in the faiths of India, any more than in the faith of England, or in any instinct of the human heart, for the claim to inflict torture on any living thing, be the presumed, or asserted, benefit to man what it may. The cowardly plea that the vivisector may, by his researches, learn something useful to mankind has been dealt with by many earnest and gifted speakers and writers; and I am sure it will be met in the same spirit by many of the true men of India, and by none more earnestly than the generous writer who sketched the picture of the "Bengalee pariah, my poor Tom."

I can fancy poor Tom under the vivisector's knife, and fastened to a board, every limb bound down so that he could not stir, and his mouth gagged so that he could not cry. Can you, Mr. Editor, fancy this, and then fancy the writer who drew Tom's picture looking on, like a philosopher, callous to the suffering? The latter fancy is beyond me. I can fancy that writer flying at the vivisector's throat, and rying conclusions with him, man to man.

I earnestly appeal to the Nizam, on behalf of many English ladies, whose feeling I know that these words all too weakly represent, and of many Englishmen, ardent defenders of India's just rights, that he will reconsider the permission he has given to this Chloroform Commission; that he will consider the danger of opening the door to vivisection in India; the value to India, "Prince and Peasant" alike, of the law of mercy, which never before ran so great a risk of being set at nought in your land.

I am,  
Dear Sir,  
Yours Truly,

JAMES ROUTLEDGE.

P. S.—One other thought I might have mentioned. There is, I think, no doubt that many vivisectors push their experiments to the utmost extent that a living being can endure and live, or endure before death, the object being to gauge the limit of endurance. I leave this fact to speak for itself.

J. R.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Correctional Tribunal at Nice convicted and sentenced Ernest Benzon, of Monte Carlo notoriety, to three months' imprisonment. He was found guilty of obtaining money by false pretences, the serious charges of forgery having been dropped. It was proved against him that in November last he had given a cheque of over 100*l* to the landlord of a hotel in Mentone in payment of a bill for a smaller amount, and had accepted and pocketed the balance, knowing at the time there was no balance at his bankers', the Coutts. His friends however had come to his rescue and paid the landlord. The next was a cheque for 60*l* offered to an English friend for an accommodation of 40*l* at Monte Carlo Casino. This, again, was followed by cheques for 100*l*., 500*l*., and 1,000*l* which Benzon presented to the Crédit Lyonnais in the name of Hargreaves. The first two were reclaimed, but Benzon stumbled upon the last. Before the money could be paid, the bank had discovered the fraud and had Benzon arrested. The culprit coolly admitted that the moneys thus received had been gambled away at Monte Carlo. Nor were Englishmen—including the Marquess of Ailesbury, Captain Day and others—wanting to depose to Benzon's good character. He had funds also to employ the ablest Counsel in his defence. Benzon is said to have wept over the sentence. If there is honour among thieves, there is justice even in Hell.

Mr. A. Phillips has obtained leave from the 4th March to the 27th November. It is not yet announced who Stands Counsel in his absence. Is it to be Mr. Pugh or Mr. Bonnerjee? Mr. Phillips has been Standing much too long and has earned a title to a brief repose.

BADOO Chunder Nath Bose has been confirmed as Bengali Translator to Government, in which post he had been officiating since the lamented death of Baboo Rajkristo Mookerjee. At this rate, the great Circumlocution Office will soon lose its head.

Mr. F. J. Marsden's furlough for one year is Gazetted from the 25th. But Mr. A. P. Handley has already taken charge as Chief Magistrate of Calcutta and Judge of the Court for the trial of Pilots. Mr. Handley has a long time to signalize himself. May we trust he will bring greater vigour to the office and will not allow things to take their own courses? At present, the head clerks virtually act the Chief Magistrate in their respective places.

A GERMAN professor, Victor Mayer, predicted in a lecture at Heidelberg "that we may reasonably hope that chemistry will teach us to make the fibre of wood a source of human food." Alas for poor Malthus's credit! The next cheering prospect for Europe—for conservative Asia will none of it—is, we suppose, the success of the experiments of the unsavoury Professor of the College of Laputa.

ON February 18, at Abbazia, Count Julius Andrassy died of cancer of the bladder. The Austrian Empire remembers his services. The Emperor condoled with the Countess in the most sympathetic terms. A monument, at the cost of the State, will be erected to the memory of the late Count in recognition of his services to the throne and country.

EMPEROR William has taken Tomy Atkins under his special protection. Officers have been strictly enjoined not to ill-use their men. "In my army," says the Emperor, "every soldier shall be treated in a legal, just, and worthy manner; because such a treatment forms the essential foundation for awakening and increasing in him a pleasure to serve and a devotion to his profession, as well as love towards and confidence in his officers. If cases of continuous and systematic ill-usage of subordinates occur, the generals in command are to report to me and make me acquainted with the names of the superior officers who are responsible for the want of supervision, and with what measures they shall have taken against such officers."

We are afraid the German soldier, if not knouted like the poor Cossack, is habitually ill used, or else why this earnest interference by the Kaiser himself? But what a commentary on the political and social progress of Europe that the soldiery of armies maintained by conscription, are not to this day "treated in a legal, just, and worthy manner!"

cording the feats of Richardson, the most celebrated of English fire-eaters, at the house of Lady Sunderland:—

"He before us devoured brimstone on glowing coals, chewing and swallowing them; he melted a beer-glass, and ate it quite up; then taking a live coal on his tongue, he put on it a raw oyster. The coal was blown on with bellows till it flamed and sparkled in his mouth, and so remained till the oyster gaped and was quite broiled; then he melted pitch and wax with sulphur, which he drank down as it flamed. I saw it flaming in his mouth a good while. He took up a thick piece of iron, such as laundresses use to put in their smoothing boxes; when it was fiery hot, held it between his teeth, then in his hand, and threw it about like a stone; but this I observed he cared not to hold very long. Then he stood on a small pot, and bending his body, took a glowing iron with his mouth from between his feet, without touching the pot or ground with his hands, with divers other prodigious feats."

So late as 1718, a Savoyard, of the name of De Hightreight or Heiterkeit, caused a considerable excitement in England. The whole metropolis was after him. And no wonder. For, he deliberately ate live coals, chewed brimstone on flaming fire, and swallowed them up. About the same time, flourished Powell, the greatest English fire-eater since Richardson. The astonishing nature of his feats may be judged from one of his bills which we reproduce entire, to wit:—

"Please to observe that there are two different performances the same Evening, will be performed by the famous

Mr. Powell, Fire-Eater, from London:

who has had the honour to exhibit with universal applause, the most surprising performances that were ever attempted by mankind, before His Royal Highness William late Duke of Cumberland, at Windsor Lodge, May 7, 1752; before His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, at Gloucester House, January 30, 1769; before His Royal Highness the present Duke of Cumberland, at Windsor Lodge, September 25, 1769; before Sir Hans Sloane and several of the Royal Society, March 4, 1751, who made Mr. Powell a compliment of a purse of gold, and a fine, large silver medal, which the curious may view by applying to him; and before most of the Nobility and Quality in the Kingdom.

He intends to sup on the following articles:—

1.—He eats red-hot coals out of the fire as natural as bread. 2.—He licks with the naked tongue red-hot tobacco pipes, flaming with brimstone. 3.—He takes a large bunch of deal matches, lights them all together; and holds them in his mouth till the flame is extinguished. 4.—He takes a red-hot heater out of the fire, licks it with his naked tongue several times, and carries it round the room between the teeth. 5.—He fills his mouth with red-hot charcoal, and broils a slice of beef or mutton upon his tongue, and any person may blow the fire with a pair of bellows at the same time. 6.—He takes a quantity of resin, pitch, bees'-wax, sealing-wax, brimstone, alum, and lead, melts them together over a chafing dish of coals, and eats the same combustibles with a spoon, as if it were a porringer of broth (which he calls his dish of soup), to the great and agreeable surprise of the spectators; with various other extraordinary performances never attempted by any other person of this age, and there is scarce a possibility ever will; so that those who neglect this opportunity of seeing the wonders performed by this artist, will lose the sight of the most amazing exhibition ever done by man.

The doors to be opened by six, and he sups precisely at seven o'clock, without any notice given by the sound of trumpet.

If gentry do not choose to come at seven o'clock, no performance.

Price of admittance to Ladies and Gentlemen, One Shilling. Back Seats for Children and Servants, Six-pence.

Ladies and children may have a private performance any hour of the day, by giving previous notice.

N. B.—He displaces teeth or stumps so easily as scarce to be felt. He sells a chymical liquid which discharges inflammation, scalds, and burns, in a short time, and is necessary to be kept in all families. His stay in this place will be but short, not exceeding above two or three nights.

Good fire to keep the gentry warm."

In France, fire-eating occurs in one of the charming letters of Madame de Sévigné, under date the 30th June, 1680.

### HEALTH OF THE SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE.

The health of the Subordinate Judicial Service—of our Sub-Judges and Munsifs—as also of the Bengalee pleaders has begun to attract attention. Neither the general public nor the authorities are aware why their health suffers. Diabetes, nervous debility in its various forms, and other serious complaints are making a havoc in the ranks of these officers and pleaders, most of whom are Bengalis, and not old. Some Deputy Magistrates have succumbed to them, or injured their health so much as to be unfit for any active public or private life. I believe a large percentage of the Judicial officers and about 15 per cent. of the pleaders suffer from one or the other complaint. Many causes are assigned for this deplorable state of things, chief among them being sedentary and lazy habits, starchy food, great mental work. It is said by way of apology that these hard-worked officers and members of the bar have no time for any kind of physical exercise, as they are in harness both in Court and out of it. The officer writes his decisions at home and the pleader makes money, and therefore they are unable to get out of their rooms either in the evening or in the morning. The men who have ill health are daily sinking and losing strength, as in that condition they work voluntarily or are

obliged to go through their routine duty. These men clearly accelerate their death and commit a sort of suicide unconsciously. Others who are yet healthy do not take any warning from the pitiable condition of their unfortunate brethren. I am sure most of these gentlemen cannot realize what is the first and best standard of health or its normal state, and how a healthy person enjoys everything in this world and with what strength and clearness of head he can do mental work. Most of these B. L. judicial officers and pleaders ruin or injure their health while graduating in the University and they come to their daily avocations with a shattered constitution to work in climates which no weak person can stand, or do that amount of work for which they are almost physically unfit. One finds among these officers men who are living and moving pieces of flesh without life or vitality in them. They can write and write sitting in their rooms, but are generally useless for anything else requiring locomotion. These gentlemen ought seriously to consider this question of life and death, success and disappointment in this world, and try to change their habits and turn to good account the education they have received. There are people both in India and in many other parts of the world who have more important and responsible duties, and less leisure, but still they keep well and preserve their health by exercise, timely rest and habits which preclude them from becoming lazy.

Ask any of our officers if he knows what is rest and has ever realized the practical meaning of that sweet word, and you are sure to be disappointed at the reply. These men have no idea of rest, they have never in their whole life utilized their leave or holiday to any useful purpose. Although they have long holidays and are also entitled to privilege leave, scarcely 10 per cent. of them ever move out of their stations or malarious homes for change. Privilege or other leave the judicial Baboo generally takes to perform the marriage ceremony of his children or the *Sradh* of his parents or to place himself under the treatment of some good doctor in Calcutta or elsewhere, or to go for a change after he has completely lost his health. I don't know any Bengali who has ever taken leave in order to give himself rest or to recruit and refresh his health by a change of climate without being pressed by a doctor. During the Poojhas he goes home generally to bring on a relapse of the malarious fever or other complaints. It is a pity that these men would not know what is rest and how leave should be utilised. Many persons for financial considerations do not take leave, as that would entail extra expense in several ways; others are afraid of losing their old station or an agreeable superior officer. But the most important reason is the expense. They will only sit at home and accumulate money at any cost. Tell them to move in society in a reasonable way and they laugh at you. The diseased forms of Munsifs and Sub-Judges are only visible when the Lieutenant-Governor comes to a station and they are forced to pay respects to him.

I think a man should enjoy his leave and take rest when he gets tired of his work or finds himself overworked, and not wait till his disease is declared incurable. Our officers and pleaders are content so long as they can drag their huge and flabby bodies to court. I have seen a Munsif working lying down on a quilt in the *ejlas* with a pillow under his breast. Even in this state of health, this worthy officer thought he was fit to work and draw his full pay. Such ought to take a lesson from their European masters who enjoy their holiday and live. The Mahomedans come next as they also know how to live and enjoy life, and who cannot live without society. When Mr. Gladstone or Prince Bismarck can find time for rest, exercise and society, your plea of want of leisure must fall to the ground. A healthy person can work better, quicker, and longer than a living piece of flesh with occasional enforced motion. How many valuable lives have been lost in the midst of their usefulness only on account of these lapses in the national habit. Look at the mournful list of the native Judges of the High Court and other eminent Bengali gentlemen who died young. We see every day how suddenly and without the least previous intimation, a civilian or European goes on leave. From this you must infer that whenever he thinks rest necessary, he at once quits his desk.

The education which Native officers receive does them no good as regards their habits and ways of living.

It is now high time that the Bengali gentlemen generally and these officers and pleaders especially should seriously consider the matter and try to improve and safeguard their health. They must acquire active habits, and do regular exercises, if necessary in some cases they should improve their diet and understand the value of rest and know how to enjoy it. Society itself is a curer of many diseases which grow from indolent and lazy habits. I have seldom seen a person sick or sorry who moves in society.

If a European suffers from such bad health in which our men work for years, he would probably commit suicide, as a person who knows the comforts and sweets of full health, would not remain an indoor patient in his own house for years or for the whole of his life.

HEALTH.



## Public Papers.

## NOTE ON THE RATES OF WAGES IN LOWER BURMA.

Outside the towns the usual pay for coolies engaged for short periods and not paid by results is annas 8 a day. In the busy season some men are paid Re. 1 a day in Rangoon, but they have to work very hard for it at the rice-mills. An industrious cooly can earn annas 12 a day either in town or in the district when paid by results. The Burmans earn as much as the Indians. The Public Works Department and Municipalities pay Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 a month to coolies who work eight hours daily. These coolies only work six days in the week.

Most of the Indian coolies leave Burma in May. Those that remain find work on roads. As repairs only are carried on at that season, but a limited number can be employed. The coolies come across to Burma about November and it is believed that every one of them finds work in the dry weather, i.e., from November to May.

In the districts adjoining Rangoon, agricultural labourers are paid as follows:—Ploughmen get for the season of three months the equivalent in grain of Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, and also their food, which costs about Rs. 5 a month. The ploughmen are usually Burmans from the neighbouring villages, or immigrants from Upper Burma. Natives of India are sometimes engaged for ploughing and get paid in money, a sum considerably less than the value of the grain which is given to Burmans. Very little rice is transplanted in these districts. When coolies are hired for this purpose, the wages are annas 10 to Re. 1-4 a day. Burmese labourers are hired for reaping and winnowing, and receive each for the three months' work grain equivalent to Rs. 30 to Rs. 60. In some cases the sheaves are counted at the end of the day, and the reapers get one-fourth to one-third of the total number of sheaves. Bands of Madrasses under maistrees take up reaping contracts. The maistree makes an agreement with the Burman cultivator to reap his fields for a certain sum together with rations. These men reap very fast, but not so carefully as the Burmans. They merely reap the paddy and do not remain for the winnowing, for which Burmans have to be engaged at rates varying from Rs. 16 to Rs. 24 each. The Indians while reaping earn annas 12 to Re. 1 a day, it is estimated.

In the *Bassein* district labourers are often engaged from ploughing time (June) until the threshing is finished (February). They receive, in addition to their food, the equivalent in grain of Rs. 60 to Rs. 110 for the season (food costs about Rs. 4 a month). Labourers hired for ploughing and planting only (June to October) receive in addition to their food the equivalent in grain of Rs. 30 to Rs. 75. The rate of wages varies with the skill of the labourer. A good ploughman gets the best wages. In planting and reaping time day labourers get a basket of paddy and the morning meal (annas 9 to annas 12). Madrassé labourers are not so numerous here as in the neighbourhood of Rangoon. They do take up reaping contracts, however, and earn annas 12 to Re. 1 a day while at work. Burmans are engaged for the reaping season, and receive in grain the equivalent of Rs. 30 and their food (Rs. 6).

In the *Tharrawaddy* district a ploughman receives the equivalent in grain of Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 and his food for 4 months (Rs. 16). In the south of *Tharrawaddy*, for transplanting and reaping, daily labourers receive in grain the equivalent of annas 9 to Re. 1. In North *Tharrawaddy*, for transplanting, wages are annas 8 to annas 10 a day, and for reaping annas 8 or annas 9 a day.

In the south of *Prome* district labourers receive annas 8 or annas 9 a day. In the north they get only 4 annas and their food (2 annas). Indeed, in the north of *Mahatham* five labourers of Re. 1 with food (annas 2 each) is a common estimate.

In the *Tharrawaddy* and *Prome* districts but few natives of India are employed as agricultural labourers.

In the *Henzada* district a ploughman receives in grain the equivalent of Rs. 25 to Rs. 40, and his food for four months (Rs. 16). Sometimes they are paid in money at the end of the ploughing season, and then they get Rs. 20 to Rs. 25, or, including the value of food received, Rs. 36 to Rs. 41. For planting and reaping one basket a day and the morning meal are usually given (annas 8 to annas 10). Women do the planting in this and other districts. Both men and women take part in reaping.

*Occupations engaged in by cultivators whose holdings are so small as that the produce of the land is insufficient for the support of the family.*

In the north of *Henzada* and *Tharrawaddy* and throughout *Prome* the holdings are very small indeed. In the northern tracts of *Henzada* and *Tharrawaddy* the average area of paddy land held by one cultivator is about 6 acres; in *Prome* it is from 3 to 5 acres. In these districts there are numbers of cultivators whose lands do not yield sufficient produce for the support of the family. In such cases the cultivator often works for daily wages in the fields of a neighbour who has a larger holding. Many of these cultivators have carts, and cart for hire or else travel about the country in the carts during the dry weather selling provisions. The Settlement Officer estimated that in this way a cultivator in North *Tharrawaddy* or *Prome* could by occasional carting during the dry season add without difficulty Rs. 50 to Rs. 80 to his income. The owners of very small holdings of paddy land often have betel or other gardens as well. Some also engage in dry weather cultivation on the islands in the *Irrawaddy*. Some (especially in the *Henzada* district) find employment in the fisheries and others in the forests.

Where the land is cultivable throughout and of average fertility, it can support in comfort an agricultural population of 400 to the square mile. In the north of *Henzada* the density of population slightly exceeds this number in several circles in which the people (with very few exceptions) are engaged in agriculture, and there are no other employments except carting of grain. Cultivators do not generally in this locality engage in trade as in *Tharrawaddy*, and the villages and towns in which the bazars are situated are not within the circles now referred to. The people in these circles are comfortably off. It appears then that where the land is cultivable throughout, even though there are but few traders, a population of 400 to the square mile is not excessive.

W. T. HALL.

## CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

FORM E.

## ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 132 OF ACT II.  
(B.C.) OF 1888.

Notice is hereby given that the valuation of

the District of Calcutta, noted in the margin, has been completed and that the books containing the said valuations can be inspected on any day (Sundays and holidays excepted) at the Office of the Commissioners, No. 4 Municipal Office Street, between the hours of 11 A.M., and 4 P.M.

Any person desiring to object to the said valuations must, within fifteen days from this date, deliver at the Office of the Commissioners a notice in writing, stating the grounds of his objection.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman will proceed to hear the objections under Clause a of Section 136.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.  
Municipal Office,  
14th March 1890.

## ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Alipore, March 1890.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of Miscellaneous stores more or less as may be required, for the year 1890-91.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees 100 as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to execute a bond and to give security in Government Promissory Notes or cash for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 24th March 1890 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

W. H. MACKESY, Colonel,  
Superintendent, Army Clothing.

C. RINGER & CO. have in hand the largest stock of Homœopathic Medicines, Medicine Cases, Medical Sundries, and Books, &c., &c., for sale at their Homœopathic Establishment, 10, Hare Street, Calcutta. Catalogue, free on application.

## JUST PUBLISHED.

## Congress Sketches: A Review

OF THE  
SPEECHES AND THE SPEAKERS

AT THE

Fourth Indian National Congress

Held at Allahabad.

Reprinted with additions and alterations from  
Reis & Rayyet

With a portrait of Mr. George Yule, President.

Sold by the publishers G. P. Varma, and  
at the office of the *Advocate*, at Lucknow, and  
at the office of "Reis & Rayyet"  
for 8 Annas a copy, besides postage.

on the sort of stuff we meet with in the said "selection." The form of Brahmo theology which it expounds—call it the Cooch Behar School—is a miserable hodge-podge. The *New Dispensation* of these latter days accentuates the feeblest side of Keshub Chunder Sen without the compensation of his genius. We present to our readers the following choice *morceau* which we find in a contemporary's columns purporting to be drawn from the *New Dispensation*:

"CHRIST AND KESHUB.

.....Christ announced his mission to be not to destroy but to fulfil the Older Dispensation and perfect it. So is Keshub, not an enemy or destroyer of the previous dispensations of God, but a friend, who seeks to fulfil them and carry them out to their logical sequence. Christ preached faith and hope and heaven to the vilest sinner in the parable of the Prodigal son. Keshub has no other gospel to preach than this parable, which is the essence of all scripture. Christ spoke of himself as the Son of God and declared himself as the universal and eternal atonement of sinful humanity with the holy Father. Keshub also believes thoroughly in Christ's sonship and reconciliation, and bears witness unto this truth. Christ said, I am the way. So art thou, O Jesus, says Keshub. I am the bread of life and shall be eaten by my disciple, that I may become flesh of his flesh and blood of his blood, says Christ. And Keshub, the loyal disciple of the Lord Jesus, lives in Christ Jesus, grows in his strength and rejoices in his joy, and verily Keshub's flesh is Christ's flesh through faith and his blood the blood of Christ. Christ said truly, wherever my disciples and servants are, there am I always, and wherever I am there they shall be. So where Yesudas Keshub is there is the blessed Yesu, and where Yesu is there is and shall ever be his faithful servant Yesudas. Jesus loves the poor sinner, pities him, regenerates him and dwells in him, and he in him and they both dwell together in the Father. So in Yesudas is Yesu and in Yesu is Yesudas living in secret *yoga* and intercommunion, and both the good master and vile servant, are one in the Father. Happy, happy, happy, am I, says Servant Sen, and thrice blessed is my master Jesus."

There is no mincing of matters here. The degradation is now complete. These good people who think themselves religious and better than their neighbours, have now definitively settled into man-worshippers.

THE Chinese Amban reached Calcutta on Tuesday by special train from Darjeeling, and was received at the Sealdah station with the usual ceremonies. There was a gathering of Celestials at the station for greeting his Excellency. The Amban's visit is in connection with the signing of the treaty about Thibet, and his stay will be a short one. On Wednesday, his Excellency paid an official visit to the Viceroy. Next evening, there was a party in his honor at Government House. The Celestials of the East and West met together to hobnob with each other if possible—certainly to stare at each other and laugh in their sleeves, long or short, at one another, as much as to say, What odd fish! what unbelieving barbarian for a' that and a' that!

AT yesterday's sitting of the Supreme Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins presented the reports of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend Act XXV of 1867 (Printing Presses and Books) and on the Bill for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The Committee on the first think that it will be sufficient for a printer to submit a single sample of every publication in the form of book or pamphlet which issues from his press, instead of two copies as originally proposed. The whole effect of the amendment of the existing Act is, that in place of three copies of every book now paid for, the printer will have to supply one copy within one month of the printing of the book, and an additional one or two copies if called for, within one year, but always free of charge. It will not be necessary to deliver mere reprints or subsequent editions in which no additions or alterations have been made, if the first has already been registered. The same exemption applies to periodical works for which the printer has made a declaration before the Magistrate. There is a slight alteration in the procedure for enforcement of the penalty. The Magistrate will proceed to punish a defaulting printer only at the instance of the Receiving officer or one acting under his authority. In both the old and the new laws, the penalty against the defaulting printer is the same as against the publisher refusing to supply the printer with the necessary copies to be delivered to Government—namely, Rs. 50 and the value of the books to be delivered. And why so? Is it not reasonable that the refusing publisher should bear the forfeiture of the printer defaulting not willingly but being incapacitated by the publisher? The Government gains doubly by one omission. Both publisher and printer are punished for the sin of one of them. This is so unfair, so manifestly unjust, that we wonder that the blot has not been removed. Why should a man suffer for the recalcancy of another?

The poor printer is handicapped enough to require such superfluous attentions of legislators to make his lot insupportable.

THE Press Bill is but another proof of the carelessness with which Indian laws generally are drafted. We do not speak of the policy, which has in a manner been forced upon Government by unscrupulous authors and publishers. We refer to literary lapses—verbal incongruities, conflict of different parts and provisions, and so forth. The Bill omits the word "three" in the preamble but makes no corresponding change in Part V. of the Act. The directions under that Part for registration of books being left intact, the following direction in sec. 18 of Act XXV of 1867, must, of course, stand!

"Such memorandum shall be made and registered in the case of each book as soon as practicable after the delivery of the copies thereof in manner aforesaid."

But, then, under the proposed measure there will be only one copy delivered, the subsequent copies may not be called for or may be called for long after the registration and the drawing up of the memorandum. We do not know whether other corrections are called for. We leave the Legislative Secretary to find that out.

NOT only is the penalty identical in both the existing law and the Bill in progress, but the very language used. Thus we find in both the value of the withheld books is to be added to the mulct of Rs. 50. The more homely counting-house word "price" is scrupulously avoided. We confess we do not like the sound of the more respectable term in the connection. It is Protean in meaning. Thus, the value of a thing may be out of all proportion to its price. The other word is not so equivocal. The *price* of a thing is just what it will bring—fetch in the market. Of course, there will always be a difficulty when the books are out of print and not in court, specially in the case of books not for sale. Then the word "value" is likely to enhance the difficulty. A specialist may put an exaggerated idea of the importance of two-penny half-penny tractate. A bibliomaniac on the bench is not an unlikely contingency.

IN the Bill for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Select Committee have introduced several important and necessary matters. The law may be introduced into, or withdrawn from, any local area. The word "animal" is made to mean any domestic or captured animal. That beastly operation of *phuká* is specifically declared penal wherever committed and punishable with both fine and imprisonment. Disabled animals are to be detained in an infirmary and cared for and treated at the cost of the owner. Police-officers are declared ineligible for arresting offending persons without warrants. But Police Commissioners and District Superintendents of Police equally with Magistrates are empowered to issue search warrants on information in writing. They are further enjoined to order immediate destruction of an animal when its sufferings are such as to render such a direction proper. Lastly, the Committee save religious prejudices and rites by declaring that "nothing shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion or religious rites and usages of any race, sect, tribe or class."

The new measure is more humane and wide in scope than the existing law. It sufficiently reflects the progress of kindly feelings towards the dumb creation.

BAROO Jodooolal Mullick threatens to be the Wat Tyler of Municipal misgovernment. The cordial sympathy of his countrymen has promptly solaced him in his contest with the town Corporation for resisting a harsh law by withholding payment of rates. Good promises to come out of evil. An unfeeling law has been recklessly driven over a doomed people. He who runs may discern that the new assessments which are being made in the town, are perfectly unbearable. The discontent brewing for sometime has come to a head, and a movement has been set on foot to apply to Government for relief. Pursuant to a requisition numerously signed, a meeting of rate payers has been called by the Sheriff, for ventilating the grievances of the house-owners and adopting memorials. We hope it will not be allowed to degenerate into an affair of boys, great or small. It deserves a better fate. The subject is a practical one—a matter of business, and the feeling of the town with respect to it is perfectly genuine.

We read in the biography of [one eminent Civilian by another this capital story; to wit:—

"When Mr. Hotham was made a Baron of the Exchequer, who never had any business at the Bar, he [Serjeant Hill] gave, as usual, a dinner at Serjeant's Inn, to the Judges and the Serjeants. Serjeant Hill drank his health thus:—'Mr. Baron *Botham*, I drink your health.' Somebody gently whispered the Serjeant, that the Baron's name was not *Botham*, but *Hotham*. 'Oh!' said the Serjeant aloud, 'I beg your pardon, Mr. Baron *Hotham*, I beg your pardon for calling you Mr. Baron *Botham*, but none of us ever heard your name in the profession before this day.'—Twiss's *Life of Lord Chancellor Eldon*, vol. I., p. 94.

The Calcutta gownsmen have avoided a similar *contretemps*, by withholding from Meer Ameer Ali Saheb the usual compliment of a dinner to any of their body who climbs to the bench of the High Court.

This is an extreme step. This is the first time that such a slight has been put upon one of their brethren so elevated. This regard—of the left-handed kind—of the profession for the new Mahomedan Judge is, if possible, emphasised by the special and cordial appreciation shown for the retired Hindu. The Bar has decreed a "trophy"—as it is called—to Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter. That is the highest possible honour from the profession, and the best and most legitimate triumph of his long career. Titles are nothing to it. It is the old story—

A king can make a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke, and a' that;  
But an honest man's aboon his might,  
Sound law he mauna fa' that.

Royalty can lavish honours and even create titles, but it can never, for any favorite, create a title to the genuine regard of the people, or extort the admiration of the lawyers.

Luckily for the disappointed, there are Ameers in plenty about, and one of them has come to the rescue. Hossein is moving heaven and earth and what not, to get up a demonstration in favour of Ali. He was even ready to give a party to the City of Palaces at his house in honour of his old friend and now superior. Remembering that Ali did his worst to prevent friend Hossein's last elevation to the Senate, this was very creditable to the latter's magnanimity. Latterly, it was deemed expedient to make a public affair of it. So the apparition of an Association was conjured up, and the matter made over to a body glorying in the name of the Central National Mahomedan Association. Accordingly, invitations were issued for an entertainment at the Town Hall. A good deal of astuteness, not to say *finesse*, has been shown in the arrangements. It was no easy thing to fill the great hall with respectable men, and the name of the self-elected heir of the Caliphs of Bagdad is not likely to draw the Faithful, let alone the Nazarene and the Kafir. Accordingly, they hit upon the "dodge" of different messages to different persons. Vassals, whether of the precincts of the Gothic Tower of Babel in Esplanade Row, or not, were summoned to meet the new Kazy Bahadoor. Gentlemen in general received an invitation of the usual kind, namely:—

"The Central National Mahomedan Association request the honor of ..... company at an Evening Party at the Town Hall, on Saturday, the 15th instant, at 9-30 o'clock. Syed Ameer Hossein, Secretary, 14, Theatre Road, the 1st March 1890."

THEY must be a factious lot who talk of the growing poverty of the people and of distress on all sides. And the arch-rebel is their Coryphæus Sir William Hunter who started the queer notion that forty millions of the people are almost at starvation point. It is all nonsense, for we are a prosperous nation, advancing in wealth by such strides that we are on all sides confronted by the—romance of wealth. Plutocrats are springing up about us whom their country wots not of. In a Chandernagore correspondence of the *Indian Daily News*, we make the acquaintance of a new benefactor of his kind, thus:—

"Baboo Jogendra Nath Basu, a millionaire, has, I understand, offered to pay Rs. 3,000 for metalling the road to Bazra—a village about 4 miles off, if it is called after the name of his deceased father. It speaks much for the Baboo's liberality in removing a long-felt want, and I hope the British Government, through whose dominion the road runs, will accept his offer."

We may be condemned for grovelling instincts, but, to us, we confess, the most striking thing in the above is not so much the donation offered as the declared pecuniary status of the donor. And this confession involves a still more serious one—that of ignorance of his being. We feel the gravity of our admission and of the offence it implies. Not to know the very millionaires in your neighbourhood seems to argue no small perversity. But our excuse lies in the abnormal activity of the Press—the over production of the article. The

"chaff" at heroism in the opening verse of *Don Juan* is prosaically pat to colossal fortunes. We may sing, after the noble Bard—

I want a Cræsus: an uncommon want,  
When every year and month sends forth a new one,  
Till, after cloying the gazettes with can't,  
The age discovers he is not the true one;  
Of such as these I should not care to vaunt,  
Any more than the Father of our Press.

The situation is not, however, without consolation or moral. Happy is the land that knows not its millionaires!

For the rest, our contemporary's correspondent of the French settlement need not be afraid of the British Government declining any genuine donation for the public good. To our mind, the doubt suggested by him suggests a suspicion of the earnestness of the gift. At any rate, it is not clear to us, as to "Delta," that the offer speaks much for the Baboo's liberality, seeing that it is contingent on the glorification for ever and a day of his deceased father. The whole trumpet-blowing is far too early.

THE *Indian Daily News*, which, in its generosity to the weak, is always bringing to the fore the stragglers and strugglers for public recognition, notices the criticisms of Baboo Troyluko Nath Mookerjee or, as since he has been to England he likes to call himself Mr. T. N. Mukharji, in a native weekly, on the Poona Sarvajanaik Sabha's pamphlet on the 'economical question. This gentleman is supposed to be great on these subjects. Ever since "Buck's Baboo" went in charge of Indian exhibits to Europe, he promised to be an authority. And he has more than fulfilled expectation. He is given to speculation, and has a distinct proclivity to originality. In this he rivals the Prince of Prigs who attests for the state all the contracts of the metropolis and utilises his leisure by cultivating the Jains. That gentleman distinguished himself at a time of drought and impending famine, by pressing on Government his plan of forcing, at the cannon's mouth, the continent heavens to yield the withheld showers, and he is since understood to be engaged, with all the ardour of his *confrères* of Laputa, in reducing his plan to execution in a cheap way so as to be thoroughly employed in agriculture. Towards this object, he has himself, after a preparatory course of heroism with the air-gun, accompanied shooting parties to the bogs of Behala, and has been in constant attendance at the artillery practice at Fort William. The connection between cannonading and raining is, however, no discovery, whatever may be the "gumption" of the practical application of the idea for relieving agricultural distress. Mr. T. N. Mukharji's greatness is all his own. He became famous by his thoroughly original scheme of drugging the British poor in Great Britain with the Indian hash of rice and pulse called *kichri*. He is a man of action as well as of contemplation, and, instead of contenting himself with making his suggestion like any other publicist, he made an appeal to the public for contributions we believe, and took measures for opening a dole. The whole idea and the measures for giving it effect were of a piece. We wonder what came of it all. We remember Mr. Mukharji acquired much *kudos* from our easy-going press, and many good people were persuaded that this prodigious office Baboo had, if not extinguished, at least broken the neck of pauperism in England.

THE enquiry into the Durbhanga temple destruction case held by Mr. Boxwell has closed, and the Government orders on his report will soon issue. Meantime, Mr. Beadon, Chairman of the Municipality, has been transferred, and the Mahomedan Vice-Chairman has resigned. The Government also do not claim the site on which the temple stood, while the municipality has been directed to sanction any application that may be made for the restoration of the temple. So far so good. But we hope the Government Resolution will rise to the height of the occasion.

THE Bar has triumphed over the Bench. The British supremacy in India is maintained. The Judges have found Justice Norris guilty of the high crime of misdirection and sentencing away the life of a British-born—a Private in Her Majesty's Army. His Justiceship pleaded guilty. The conviction has been quashed and O'Hara set free to hunt down the "black bastards."

The Judges are not concerned with the effect of their order. Justice is blind, and the Full Bench must be presumed to have given their verdict according to the statute, though they would not trouble them-

selves with the several questions of law raised in argument. But neither the public nor the Government can or ought to be blind to the political consequences of the trial on the country in general—on native India in particular. The result is simply disastrous.

A number of soldiers break out of their barracks fully armed and ammunitioned. They want more spirits to keep up the British spirit for spree or sport. They pounce upon a black bastard, a toddy seller, at dead of night. He refuses or is unable to supply the encouraging liquid as being against law. He is hunted out of his home and to the edge of a tank and there shot down dead. The death remains a mystery for a time. The military perpetrators escape detection. That is military discipline, we suppose. The Viceroy realizes the situation and presses for enquiry. To calm the popular indignation, the Cantonment Magistrate notifies a reward for detection of the braves who skulked and cannot be found. The reward at length succeeds in souls untouched with remorse all this long while, and two of the associates give themselves up. They receive the Queen's pardon and depose to the guilt of their comrades in arms and crime. The special procedure for the trial of the high and British-born is regularly gone through. The Magistrate sends up two accused to the Sessions. The High Court tries them with a special jury mostly of their countrymen. They are ably defended. One is let off, and the other is found guilty and capitally sentenced. The law has its course, the murder is avenged and the country is satisfied.

It was for a moment. An unwritten law more powerful than the Code or the Acts of the Statute-book remained behind. Frequent enough as have been murders by White men, there is hardly a precedent to speak of of capital punishment of a Briton for a Black death. Whether it was or was not against British prestige, it was certainly against the British grain. It is not for black bastards to claim blood for blood. The sentencing Judge must have been carried away by momentary emotion. He himself began to relent. The Chief Justice was applied to for an escape out of the dilemma. He called a Council of Five. They considered the matter for several days. Their understanding was illuminated by the costly White light of Counsellor Woodroffe, the man of light and leading of the High Court. Ultimately, it was decided to blot out the crime from the records of the High Court.

The country will never forget it, though. Just now, the people are dumb-founded.

We trust Government are not idle spectators of this unparalleled spectacle. The leaders of the people too have a duty in this situation.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1890.

### LORD CROSS'S REFORM BILL.

#### AN APPEAL TO INDIAN PATRIOTS AND POLITICIANS.

LORD Cross's Bill is a fair measure, and the Congress would be well advised to take it in good part. Sir Madhava Row is a Congressist himself and he, at any rate, should be listened to. He expresses a hope that the large and important concessions made by the Bill will be welcomed by the Congress with due and becoming gratitude. Nothing could be wiser than such an attitude. It would go a great way to redeem the very character of that movement. It would show that the Congress is not always under the ascendancy of mere agitators, but that there are men of sound practical sense who know what they are about and are able to make their influence felt in its councils. Here is a grand opportunity for the Congress to retrieve lost ground. In itself, the movement must command the support of all honest friends of India's welfare. But the excesses of its leaders have naturally created prejudice against it. Our position with respect to it may be mistaken, though we must confess we fail to understand how such a mistake could arise. Is it possible for our strangely constituted nature to derive no pleasure from those dreams of a regenerated India

which have such a fascination for the Congress mind? An Indian Parliament sitting at Calcutta, or the British Parliament with a large representation therein of the Indian peoples—an Indian Army and Navy manned and officered in sufficient proportions by our own countrymen—Indian Volunteers in every town and station—the Civil Service in its upper and lower grades Indianized in its *personnel*,—why, one must be unhuman not to be charmed by such a gorgeous prospect! We are aware that the Congress aims at nothing less than the realization of a state of things like this. If, nevertheless, our ardour is not set ablaze by an institution with such highly patriotic aims, are we necessarily of the hostile camp? Such an inference would be the greatest wrong that could be done to us. The fact is, it is impossible for any true Indian not to be in real sympathy with the Congress itself—the absolute ideal, unconditioned by time and space, and unhampered by personality. But there may be too great strain put upon this sympathy by the indiscretions of its leaders—their individual ambitions, and demoralising methods. It had and has our natural sympathy and will continue to have it, even in the midst of our keenest regret for its tactical blunders, its extravagances and its want of moderation. The best cause may be spoilt in unskilful hands, and if we have reproved the Congress in somewhat plain terms, it is where we found it going too fast for a prosperous career. Indeed, the Congress has been too much in the hands of professional agitators and political irreconcilables. The leaders are everything, and the rank and file nothing. We are prepared with proof of this, but even if we were ten times more opposed to the Congress and its ways, we would never be a thorn in the side of a movement in which so many good and true men are engaged. Let us at this moment, when the Government of their own motion have brought in a Bill in Parliament for the reform of Indian administration, remind the members of the Congress all over the country that they have a rare opportunity of showing, if they are so minded, that they are not mere puppets in leading strings but capable of judgment themselves. We ask them to think on Lord Cross's Bill without bias, and express their opinion of it as independent men. Is the Bill not a measure of sufficient importance to merit their approval? Will it not put the Legislative Councils on a more satisfactory basis, and give them a more representative constitution? Are not the rights of interpellation, and discussion of the Budget the very things for which the country has cried itself hoarse? And when the Government listen to the cry and concede those rights, is it for us to sullenly reject the gracious offer, simply because one or two things have been withheld on the present occasion? We put it to the Congress men themselves to consider what would be the proper demeanour for Indian politicians at this juncture. Let them calmly ponder and decide for themselves and not surrender their own common sense at any one's bidding.

To understand the question in its just lights, they have only to see what they have got and what they have not. They wanted a more representative constitution for the Legislative Councils. They demanded the right of interpellation and the discussion of the Budget, and they have got all these things. If the Councils are not to be strengthened to the extent, and in the manner, they demanded, and if they really think the Bill objectionable on these grounds,



the best course for them would be to state those objections, while all the same expressing their gratitude for the concessions which they are already promised. You want a lot of things of which some are given while the rest are withheld. This, at the best view, is the position of the question. Is this at all an occasion to justify the tone of sullen discontent and bitter resistance in which the leaders of the Congress have chosen to criticise the Bill before us? Mr. Hume speaks of the Bill as if it were aimed against the existence of the Congress itself, or something equally dangerous or sinister. He calls it "worse than nothing. It is simply an insult to the country. It is a case of the authorities to whom we humbly petitioned for bread, casting a stone in our faces." And organs of the Congress in the press have not been slow to follow suit. And it will go forth in the name of this vaunted political association that there is nothing for Lord Cross's Reform Bill but unmeasured condemnation from those whom he intended by this Bill to please.

Now, is that the real Indian sentiment? Is it even the sentiment of the Congress? Has any one been at the pains of ascertaining public feeling on the subject? There has been no such thing, and yet the so-called leaders of the Congress or, for that matter, of all Indian opinion, say that the Bill is nothing, while in truth it is the mature outcome of long and earnest deliberations on the part of the Home as well as the Government of India as to the steps which, in their opinion, were needed for satisfying the aspirations of educated Indians by enlisting their co-operation in the administration of the country.

We have already expressed our opinion on the elimination of the elective principle from Lord Cross's Bill. It would be desirable, we think, if a modicum of election were given a trial. But our recent experience of its operation in municipalities has not enhanced its claims upon our regard. Nor is the Congress itself very sure as to the best method of applying the elective principle. At first it would confer the franchise on the Municipal and local Boards, but all on a sudden it has lately thrown over those bodies, and gone in for what are called Electoral Colleges. The practical difficulties of constituting such electorates are conveniently lost sight of, in the ardour with which the demand for election is made. We do not know how Lord Dufferin proposed to deal with the question. Probably he took the Congress at its word and proposed giving the franchise to the local bodies. But the Congress has since changed its opinion. Altogether, the problem is of great complexity, and from what we have seen of the abuses and failures in Municipal elections, we are not disposed to enter into another electioneering vortex. Let us not be befooled by words. Let there be no prejudice against names. Despotism may be better than Democracy. And of all tyrannies, Heaven defend us from the tyranny of the majority from which, as M. de Tocqueville first pointed out, the vaunted Land of Freedom beyond the Atlantic suffers in dumb despair! On the contrary, nomination is an excellent practicable system of much elasticity, alive to circumstances, ready to take shape according to need—just the thing for grave experiments, if properly worked. Even the most enthusiastic believer in the mysterious efficacy of the Vote for selection would be reconciled, provided the selections were good. The real difficulty lies in securing that proviso. Men are men, and officials are but too human! The nominations made hitherto have been, with rare

exceptions, of the worst kind, and hence we would still have some sort of election by some simple and easily workable system. We are glad, however, to find that Lord Cross has expressed himself not disinclined to have some system of this kind. His Lordship said that the nominations might be made by the Imperial and Local Governments in consultation with Universities, the Chambers of Commerce and bodies like the British Indian Association. This ought to satisfy all fair minded people, and lead them to support the Bill. It has a good prospect of passing, while the phalanx of Radical opposition with which it is threatened in the House of Commons may, without doing any good, throw back the cause of progress for some years to come. The talk of Mr. Bradlaugh the Invincible carrying his India Bill, is all "bosh" or mere bunkum, and will not delude any one who knows Parliament and Parliamentary work.

### FIRE-EATERS, LAY AND RELIGIOUS—

#### EASTERN AND WESTERN.

THE love of wonder is ingrained in man. No culture or training is proof against curiosity into the marvellous. The sturdiest pocus-curantism, if honest, will dissolve before a miserable *lulus natura*. We are, therefore, by no means surprised to see that the following account of a Hindu religious festival, held on the 11th February at Benares, supplied by a Correspondent to the *Pioneer*, is or has been reproduced in almost every paper in India, Ceylon and Burma, with demonstrations of surprise at the marvel related therein:—

"Yesterday invitations were issued to all civil and military officers and other European and native residents to witness a festival known as 'Angi Kund,' which literally means walking over a pool of fire, at the residence of the Rani of Coorg. The invitations were largely responded to, and all the European spectators were astonished at seeing the natives walking over a pool of living coals. The spot where the fire was placed was about 20 feet long, 4 feet wide and 2 feet deep. At one end of this was situated the god of fires, made of kneaded flour, and the great god Mahadeo was conveyed round the fire three times in a grand palanquin, borne by priests amidst great singing and dancing (something after the fashion of the Indian war dance and song). After the third turn the priests, with a drawn sword, severed the head of the god of fires, which they said had the effect of 'cooling fire.' After the defeat of the god several natives, young and old, of different castes, walked across the fire with bare feet. Whether their feet were burnt I cannot say; at any rate none of them complained, but repeated their walks. At the conclusion 'atar' and 'pan' were distributed."

India abounds in such surprises. Indeed, the commonness of such phenomena blunt the edge of curiosity and destroy the old exaltation of feeling at their occurrence. To speak after the good Irish, marvels are simply matters of course in India—every-day incidents. At any rate, this fiery business is a stale trick. It is known throughout India, in the feats of jugglers, if in no other shape. Its use as a promoter of faith in religious ceremonies may not be universal, but it is popular in the South and the East. The Fiery Festival is observed with great enthusiasm and much *eclat* in the Madras Presidency. It is the veritable Southern ceremony that was performed at Benares and seen with so much wondering satisfaction by the European officers and gentlemen of the Upper Provinces. There is a fiery rite in Lower Bengal likewise, but not synchronous. It is not over yet. There are 25 days for it. When the day comes, our poor miserable Bengal weaklings will pass through the fiery ordeal as gallantly and gaily as any braves or bullies or *Bahadoors* from Far North or South—the Far West or Farther East. We have ourselves seen men not only walk over live coals, but stir and beat a huge pile of burning faggots and scatter the burning coals about in all directions and up in the air, by way of sporting with them, to the bewilderment of simple folk.

There is no *mantra* or charm in all this, and the secret is widely known. The clowns attached to the commonest *jātrās* often emit fire from their mouths. Some jugglers go so far as to cook from fire stowed in the cavity of the mouth.

Nor is the fire-eating business unknown in Europe. There are at least half a dozen exhibitors in England on record, and many more on the Continent. As early as 1633, Sir Henry Wotton mentions an English exhibitor in London for two pence. Next we find the refined Evelyn in his Diary, under date the 9th October 1672, thus re-

"FRANCE for the French" seems to be the ruling spirit of the new French naturalization and military service laws. They are at any rate being worked in that spirit. It has been proposed to exclude the children of all foreigners from the French communal schools, where French children, are, from want of room, unable to obtain admission. There are about 5,000 foreign children, and half of these will be affected by the proposed rule. By and by, we are afraid, poor France may be reduced to Celestial exclusiveness.

THE curriculum for the German cadets will include German history and geography and the German language, the practical use of modern languages, the history and intellectual life of the most important modern civilized nations, and the various examples of heroic conduct in ancient and mediæval times.

Understanding the "intellectual" to include the "moral," that scheme is to the point and thorough. It keeps clear of all the time-honoured superstitions. It is no doubt the outcome of much earnest thought. Its rigid rejection of the claims of pedantry and suppression of useless knowledge is remarkable in Germany. It might look like painting the lily over again to offer advice, but one suggestion we will hazard. The addition of translation of the Mahabharata, say the English version of Pratap Chunder Roy, would be a distinct gain to the studies selected.

A MASTERPIECE of Rembrandt has turned up. It represents a man with an angel on each side of him blessing a table, close to which there is a servant, and bears Rembrandt's signature, with date 1656. At Pecq, near Paris, an old lady died, and her chattels were put up to auction. At that sale, this picture was put up. It was believed to be a worthless copy of one in the Louvre, known as "Pélerin d'Emmaus," and offered at an upset price of 200 frs. only. A joiner, paid for the purpose, purchased it for a knowing Paris picture-dealer. A few hours after, the picture-dealer received an offer of 4,050 frs., but he refused to part with it for less than 250,000frs.

AT Christiana, before the Geografiske Selskab, Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, has explained his plans for a North Pole expedition. He proposes the construction of a ship with a special view to strength, her sides at such an angle that, instead of being crushed by the ice, she will be raised by it. The route is to be through the Behring Straits, whence advantage is to be taken of the favorable current which will carry the vessel northward and thus attempt to reach the New Siberian Islands as soon as possible. Here the vessel would enter the ice floes and would proceed towards the North Pole, in which direction the current would probably carry her.

THE influenza epidemic at St. Petersburg has been followed by a rather serious spread of recurrent fever. Several cases of cholera are also reported, though of a mild character. If influenza brings on cholera, we hope cholera will not introduce influenza in our country. But influenza has already shewn itself in India.

THE Insurance Companies have paid down 2,086,000fr. for damages caused by fire to the château of Laeken.

THE Papers in India as well as Ceylon warn their readers against the Melbourne Cup Sweep.

THE *Belfast News Letter* reproduced a speech delivered in August 1888, at Enniskillen, by Mr. Porter, in which occurred the following passage:—

"It was shown a month or so ago, by sworn testimony, in 'The Times and O'Donnell' case, that Mr. Campbell, the M. P. for South Fermanagh, sat in the office in Westminster, and wrote the orders and gave the knives to Mrs. Byrne, who brought them to Ireland, by which Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke were murdered."

Mr. Campbell is the Private Secretary to Mr. Parrell, and he sued the proprietors of the *News Letter* for libel, claiming 5,000l damages. The plaintiff complained that that was a false and malicious publication, insinuating that he wrote the orders for the Phoenix Park murders on May 6, 1882, and supplied the knives for the bloody crime. The defendants traversed the publication of the defamatory

words and relied on the fact that the alleged libellous matter was contained in a *bond fide* report of a public meeting. The jury found for the plaintiff and awarded 200l damages.

THE Bengal Chamber of Commerce has re-elected the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Wilson and appointed Mr. W. J. M. McCaw in place of Mr. J. Stevenson, as its representatives on the Board of the Port Trust.

MR. J. H. S. Cotton having retired from the Calcutta Corporation, there was a bye-election in Ward No. 16. Dr. K. McLeod has been declared elected. There was no polling. Dr. McLeod brings his experience of a past Health Officer to strengthen that of the present. He will enunciate with authority on the Board the schemes of his friend for the sanitation of the town.

WITH the commencement of the new official year, a distillery in which spirituous liquors may be manufactured after the native process will be established at each of the stations of Krishnagpur in the district of Nuddea, at Berhampore in Moorshedabad and at Soory in Birbhoom. No liquor, not manufactured at the said Sadar distilleries, will be allowed to be sold within certain prescribed limits without a pass from the Collector of the district, and no still allowed to be constructed or worked or spirituous liquors manufactured, except at the said distilleries.

THE Charitable Endowments Act (VI) of 1890 received the assent of the Governor-General on the 7th March 1890, and, from 1st October 1890, it comes into force in the whole of British India, inclusive of Upper Burma and British Baluchistan. Under the Act, "charitable purpose" includes relief of the poor, education, medical relief and the advancement of any other object of general public utility, but does not include a purpose which relates exclusively to religious teaching or worship.

THE first half-yearly departmental examination of 1890 of Assistant and Deputy Magistrates in the Regulation and non-Regulation Districts, and of officers in the Police, Medical and Forest Departments, begins on Monday, the 21st April, 1890.

ONE good man has taken another good man's place. Mr. R. W. Carlyle has been Gazetted Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong. Mr. P. C. Lyon, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, replaces Mr. Carlyle as Under-Secretary to the Bengal Government. Captain J. W. Currie, Aid-de-Camp, acts as Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, till the arrival of Mr. E. G. Colvin from Baluchistan. We are glad to see that Mr. G. Toynbee is gazetted Commissioner of the Burdwan Division. Mr. D. Cameron, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, and not Mr. A. E. Staley, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, acts as District and Sessions Judge of Dacca.

BABOO Brij Mohan Thakur and Rai Bahadr Hari Mohan Thakur, of Bhagulpore, have made a donation of Rs. 1,000 in aid of the funds of the Behar Sanskrit Sanjivan Sabha, and won official recognition in the Gazette for "their liberality and public spirit." This brace of Thakurlogues conveys, to our mind, a mixed picture of both love and hate—union *in esse* and disunion *in posse*. It shows the assertion of legal rights against the etiquette of the East and the sentiment of submission to seniority.

*Holloway's Pills*.—Important for the delicate.—It is difficult to determine which is the more trying to the human constitution, the damp, cold days of autumn and winter, or the keen, dry, easterly winds of spring. Throughout the seasons good health may be maintained by occasional doses of *Holloway's Pills*, which purify the blood and act as wholesome stimulants to the skin, stomach, liver, bowels, and kidneys. This celebrated medicine needs but a fair trial to convince the ailing and desponding that it will restore and cheer them without danger, pain, or inconvenience. No family should be without a supply of *Holloway's Pills* and Ointment, as by a timely recourse to them the first erring function may be reclaimed, suffering may be spared, and life saved.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE House of Commons has agreed to Mr. Smith's motion on the Parnell Commission without division. The closure was repeatedly applied, and on one occasion there was no House. Lord Randolph Churchill attacked the Government and caused sensation by a remark that the "mountainous labour of the *Times* had only produced a ghastly bloody rotten fatus in the shape of the Pigott forgeries." Mr. Gladstone's motion denouncing the Pigott forgeries and urging that Mr. Parnell was entitled to reparation, was, after a week's debate, lost by a majority of 71 votes—339 against 268.

THE cause of education in British America has received a heavy blow. The Toronto University has been destroyed by fire. The name remains—unhurt amid the war of elements—but the local habitation is gone. It is, among other things, at once a literary and an æsthetic calamity. It was the finest educational building in Canada and contained a valuable library consisting of 33,000 volumes, valued at 1,000,000 dols. The building with the contents are estimated at 1,500,000 dols. The insurance amounts to only 160,000 dols.

A CLERGYMAN, Canon Baynes of Bristol, has been sentenced to four months' hard labor for robbery. Dr. Dodd evidently left his cloak behind in the Church for the benefit of holy men in difficulty. In India, the Dodds and Baynes would be Mohants of Tripati.

THE *Novoe Vremya* having many a time called M. Notovitch, the Russian agitator, an imposter, the latter, who is now in Paris, repels the charge and threatens legal proceedings against the offending print. In vindicating his own conduct, he divulges some secrets which implicate him as well as the editor. He makes no secret of being the prime mover of a Russian patriotic league for rousing public opinion in favor of a *rapprochement* between France and Russia. He claims M. Sourvorin, the editor of the *Novoe Vremya*, as one of the most active and important members of that organization. Notovitch bore a present to M. Déroulède from this party, and afterwards, at the special solicitation of the editor and proprietor of that paper, carried a Russian sword to General Boulanger. The last was in acknowledgment of the important services rendered to that paper by the General, by sending the necessary documents, towards the defence of the action of libel brought by the German Military Attaché at St. Petersburg, Major-General Villaume, against the *Novoe Vremya*. He was the correspondent of that journal, but he ceased to be so since the editor discovered him to be a Jew and withdrew his credentials. Notovitch had been to India in 1887, ostensibly as a Correspondent of that Russian paper, in the interest of a Russian official, but Lord Dufferin smelt a rat and declined to see him. Who was this Russian official who has such a deep interest in India that he actually sent a private Embassy all the way to this country? Was it Giers? Hardly. Lord Dufferin would scarcely have refused audience to the delegate of a friend. And what business could M. Giers personally have in India? Whether it was M. Giers or the holder of a jaw-cracking Slavonic name that sent over to us Notovitch, the errand was assuredly political. He came on state business. It would be satisfactory to know what the business was. Of course, Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, who has supplied the Indian information, knows. It cannot be a very agreeable business to India, we suspect.

THE Indian Councils Bill has passed through another stage—the Committee. So far so good. For the rest, the telegrams are not very intelligible, or intelligent either. Thus, we suppose, we are expected to be grateful for the information that Lord Cross is willing to empower Provincial Councils to legislate on local matters, and that he considers the extension an advantage to India. It is more to the purpose that his Lordship has announced that negotiations are proceeding with the Viceroy with a view to further decentralisation. But the crowning conundrum is the news that Lord Herschell has given notice of a motion for a new clause enabling local Councils, with the approval of the Viceroy, to amend laws prior to the subsequent passing of the Act,

IT is the season of the Simla Exodus. Preparations are making for the flight. The officers and clerks have drawn their travelling allowances. The Viceroy leaves Calcutta on the 30th March but does not reach Simla before the end of April. His Excellency travels *via* Saharanpore, Dehra, Mussooree and Chakrata. The Secretariats at Calcutta begin to close within a fortnight, namely, the Finance and Legislative Departments on the 28th instant; the Home and Revenue on the 29th instant, the Public Works on the 31st instant, and the Foreign Department on the 3rd April.

THE Government of India is slow indeed to reduce the Exodus expenses. Last year, the education allowance for children left in the plains was withdrawn. That was doomed on account of the frauds practised on Government by their fathers. This year, the travelling allowances have been curtailed a little, the lowest grade clerks, as a matter of course, suffering the most.

The family maintenance, the grain, and house-rent allowances will be continued as before to the clerks, and the officers will draw the Presidency house-allowance on the heights of the Himalayas.

BOMBAY has bade farewell to the Duke of Connaught and the Duke has taken leave of India.

MR. Grattan Geary, of the *Bombay Gazette* and President of the Bombay Corporation, has taken Mr. Symons, a broker, to task, and has obtained a summons against him for damages, for insinuating, at the Town Hall loyal meeting in honor of Prince Albert Victor, that Mr. Geary had openly expressed sympathy with the Fenians. At that meeting, Mr. Geary lost the chairmanship of the Reception Committee by one vote. It speaks not a little for the popularity of Mr. Geary that, notwithstanding such an ugly imputation, he missed the chair by a hair's breadth against the whole official influence.

THE weakness of our High Court has assumed the character of a grave public grievance. Unfortunately, we see no signs of a disposition to redress. Such a disposition would undoubtedly have taken advantage of every opportunity to infuse fresh blood. The applications for even short leaves would not be neglected. And how behold the latest arrangements! Mr. R. F. Rampini, District and Sessions Judge Burdwan, and Mr. Charles H. Hill, Barrister-at-law, Public Prosecutor, Allahabad, officiate as Judges of the Calcutta High Court in places of Messrs. Justices Beverley and Trevelyan. Mr. Justice Tottenham also goes on leave from the 17th April for five months, Mr. H. W. Gordon, District and Sessions Judge, Sarun, officiating. At any rate, we trust Mr. Hill has left his advocate's conscience behind at Beni Ghat and will now cultivate judicial spirit, and never in his office wish to advance the interests of his N.-W. P., "clums." Mr. Tottenham has, we suspect, had enough of his Kazi Bhai and is driven to seek a change.

THE Chamber of Commerce has complained to Government that the whole cost of the Fire Brigade is levied on the jute-pressing industry, and prayed for adequate relief by throwing a larger portion of the cost on the general tax-payer. Municipalities must now prepare to vote a share of the rates for the Fire Brigade expenses.

THERE is, or used to be—for we do not see it now—a weekly publication under the name of *The Liberal and the New Dispensation*, written by a wellknown Armenian journalist whose position on the daily press enabled him to continually bring it to the front in the columns of the *Statesman*, just as another gentleman is doing the same invaluable service to another paper in another paper. From the dissensions that had broken out in camp of the lamented Keshub Chunder Sen, whose organ it was, and the way in which his family went on alienating his most valued coadjutors and disciples, until his very brother, the amiable and accomplished Krishna Behari Sen, himself an experienced journalist, was driven from its helm and from all participation in it, we confess, we were not very sanguine of its continued existence to any purpose. But we are glad to have mistaken. Still it moves! Life is patent and beyond misgiving, so far as regards one of the Siamese Twins—the religious side of the double-barrelled organ. For, we see a "selection" from the *New Dispensation* in another publication. Life, then, is certain. Would it were worthier! We certainly cannot congratulate the conductors

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 (the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
 Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tired

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND  
REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1890.

No. 416

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A LYRIC OF THE LOWLY.

THE strawberries grow in the mowing, Mill May,  
And the bob-o'-link sings on the tree ;  
On the knolls the red clover is growing, Mill May,  
Then come to the meadows with me !  
We 'll pick the ripe clusters, among the deep grass,  
On the knolls in the mowing, Mill May,  
And the long afternoon together we'll pass  
Where the clover is growing, Mill May.

The sun stealing under your bonnet, Mill May,  
Shall kiss a soft glow to your face ;  
And your lip the red berries leave on it, Mill May,  
A tint that the sea-shell would grace ;  
Then, come, the ripe clusters among the deep grass  
We 'll pick in the mowing, Mill May ;  
And the long afternoon together we 'll pass,  
Where the clover is growing, Mill May !

### MY WIFE'S A WINSOME WEE THING.

*The last Song of Dr. Charles Mackay, written two days  
before his death.*

My wife's a winsome wee thing,  
Wed twenty years or mair,  
And aye the bonnier growing,  
As baith mine eyes declare.  
'Tis love that made her bonnie,  
And love that keeps her sae,  
In spite o' Time and Fortune,  
On Life's uncannie way.

Love scares awa' the wrinkles  
From aff her smooth white brow,  
And duty done through good and ill  
Aye keeps her conscience true,—  
And yield her happy peace of mind,  
If e'er the world goes wrong,  
And turns the murmur of lament  
Into a cheerful song.

The kisses gather on her lips  
Like blossoms on the rose,  
And kindly thoughts reflect the light  
That in her bosom glows,—  
As wavelets in a running stream  
Reflect the noontide ray,  
And sparkle with the light of heaven  
When rippling on the way.

She is a winsome wee thing,  
And more than twenty year  
She's twined herself about my heart  
By all that can endear,  
By all that can endear on earth  
Foreshadowing things above,  
And lead my happy soul to heaven,  
Rejoicing in her love !

December 22, 1889.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

AN Ape, much cheer'd (he chatter'd like a man)  
Denounced the weakness of the government.  
"Where shall we find true valour?" he began.  
"Not in the craven crew we are content  
To call our leaders. Let him lead who can !  
Old kingdoms tempt new conquerors. Prevent  
The impending ruin of this empire old !  
Tho' big, the brutes that lead us are not bold."

And so, taken at his word and his own estimate, *filed* by all the boys,  
young and old, stuffed with meat and rint, merrily goes he to conquer  
Old England.

\*\*\*  
THREE female students from Sidney, Australia, have joined the Calcutta Medical College. Has the fame of our College travelled so far—for chivalry?

•••  
LADY Bayley summers this year in England instead of Darjeeling. She has booked her passage by the B. I. Steamer *Turaba* sailing from Calcutta on the 17th April.

•••  
MR. Biggar is said to have left behind him upwards of 50,000*l*, besides real property. The bulk of his estate, under his will, goes to his relatives—instead of the Irish poor who subscribe the Rint.

•••  
SEVERAL journals in Lisbon complain of a small geography manual in use in Indian schools, as giving an offensive description of the Portuguese. A just complaint. With the exception of the British, nearly all nations have cause for complaint, most of all the natives of India.

•••  
THE man of Iron of War, Krupp, returned the year before last an income of 4,380,000 marks. Last year, he returned 5,580,000 marks equivalent to £279,000. Thus in one year the income swelled by £60,000—the income of a first class nobleman in England. Krupp, who is the richest man in Prussia, now makes about 35 lacs a year.

\*\*\*  
WE learn—

"The assassination of the late Emperor of Russia is to be commemorated at St. Peterburg, by the erection of a magnificent church on the spot where the tragedy took place. A large sum had been subscribed towards the work, which is being carried on under the auspices

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

of a committee, of which the Grand Duke Vladimir is President. The confidential functionary who had charge of the funds in whom this aristocratic committee, of course, had 'unbounded confidence,' has disappeared, and £50,000 has disappeared with him, the melancholy result being that the Emperor has insisted upon his brother, the Grand Duke Vladimir, replacing the deficiency out of his private fortune—an order which has caused the relations between them to become decidedly strained."

Served right.

..

WE are tired of protecting our own. It is particularly provoking to see the clever *Phan* reproduce entire without acknowledgment our sub-leader on the Principle of Selection for the highest Offices in India, in regard to Lord Harris' appointment as Governor of Bombay.

..

AN infant Brinvilliers is reported from Chester. Elizabeth Roberts, a girl of 10, has been found guilty of attempting to poison Annie Hodgkinson, to whom the girl's father was engaged to be married. It is reported that the girl had taken a great interest in the Maybrick case. Sometime ago, she would put different mixtures, mostly innocuous, in Miss Hodgkinson's tea. Latterly, however, the mixture was of lead and Miss Hodgkinson fell ill. After the administration of the poison, the girl kept on enquiring how her victim was, and once openly remarked, "I thought she would be dead, as I have given her poison." She said that she had been advised by her grand-mother to do what she had done, and confessed to having once poisoned the grand-mother herself. There was no corroboration of the first statement, and the second the grand-mother did not remember. Mrs. Rider deposed to a fact which goes to prove that the girl had a very early predilection for poison and poisoning. The prisoner and another child used to play Mrs. Maybrick, one feigning sickness, the other playing the poisoner. The child has been sent to a reformatory to reform until she grows to be sixteen.

..

HERE is the most amazing record of social degradation in the heart of Christendom :—

"At Deese, a village in Hungary, the schoolmaster died a few weeks ago, and his widow shortly after his death received from an insurance company the sum of 2,000 florins. The following night, a couple of gendarmes, on their beat, took shelter for an hour or so at the widow's house. Towards midnight four men wearing masks entered the house and asked the woman to give them all the money she had in her possession. She gave them twelve florins, but they wanted the 2,000 besides. She then told them that she kept the sum in the next room, and led the four ruffians into the apartment occupied by the gendarmes, who lost no time in placing handcuffs, on the intruders and taking them into custody. But what was the general surprise when the robbers turned out to be the judge, the pope (Greek priest), the public notary, and the parish clerk of the said village!"

That goes much beyond Coleridge's account of Sicily. Friar Tuck is a poor joke beside this association of the most honourable depredators.

..

CARDINAL Newman has entered into his ninetieth year.

..

THE hearing of the Bishop of Lincoln's case has concluded. Judgment reserved.

..

THE following are the Rules for Petitions to the House of Commons :—

Every petition offered to be presented to the House must begin with the words 'To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled;' or with words equivalent thereto.

Every member presenting a petition to the House must affix his name at the beginning thereof.

Every petition must be written and not printed or lithographed.

Every petition must contain a prayer.

Every petition must be signed by at least one person on the skin or sheet on which the petition is written.

Every person signing a petition must write his address after his signature, or his signature will not be counted.

Every petition must be written in the English language, or be accompanied by a translation certified by the member who shall present it.

Every petition must be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto by their names or marks, and by no one else except in case of incapacity by sickness.

No letters, affidavits, or other documents, may be attached to any petition.

No erasures or interlineations may be made in any petition.

No reference may be made to any debate in Parliament.

No application may be made for any grant of public money, except with the consent of the Crown.

No application may be made for a charge upon the revenues of India except with the consent of the Crown."

NEW regulations have been issued for presentations at the Queen's Drawing Rooms. By a drawing room in the strange English tongue is usually meant what we in Bengal call a *baitakkhana*; but here a drawing room is a Durbar. The regulations published are

"1. The privilege of making presentations to the Queen at a Drawing Room is restricted to those ladies who have themselves been previously presented to her Majesty, and who are themselves present at the Drawing Room.

2. Under such circumstances a lady has the privilege of presenting one lady only at a Drawing Room, in addition to her daughters or daughters-in-law.

3. The restriction does not apply to ladies who, from official position or other circumstances, are specially privileged to make presentations to her Majesty.

4. It is not expected that gentlemen will present themselves at a Drawing Room except in attendance on the ladies of their family. Any gentleman who, under special circumstances, should desire to be presented to the Queen at a Drawing Room, will observe the same regulations as are in force for her Majesty's Levées."

Are ladies who have not their lords to protect them left to their fate and the mercy of God?

..

THE following is from *The Grocer* of Feb. 15, 1890 :—

"Our readers will doubtless remember the discovery in the early part of last year of the admixture of American lard with bleached cocoanut oil; this substance, however, seems likely to find a legitimate use as a substitute for butter. In Amsterdam a factory is being started by the 'Dutch Vegetable Butter Company' for the purpose of extracting from cocoanuts and similar oily products of the tropics a substance which is styled 'cocoanut butter.' The credit of discovering that in the cocoanut there exists a good fatty substitute for butter belongs to Dr. Schlunk, of Ludwigshafen-on-the-Rhine. The first attempt to turn his discovery to commercial profit was made by the firm of Müller & Sons, who sank a lot of capital before succeeding in producing a fair saleable article. It is no new thing to convert the cocoanut into a food-stuff; in those countries where the cocoanut palm is indigenous the natives esteem it very highly as one of their most important food supplies. The albuminous flesh of the nut contains from 60 to 70 per cent. of fat, which can be transformed into 'butter' of a clear white colour, yielding on analysis the following results: 99.9932 per cent. fat, 0.0008 per cent. water, and 0.0060 per cent. mineral matter. The process by means of which it is prepared eliminates all disagreeable taste or smell. Its flavour, of course, bears no comparison with that of dairy butter, and it is probably better adapted to cooking than to table purposes. In Germany the poorer classes are taking to this new 'butter' very generally, and it is used in many of the State institutions. It costs about 7d. per lb. Some of the hospital authorities in Germany have ordered this new substitute to be used entirely by the patients instead of dairy butter, because they say that it is more digestible than the latter, since it is freer from acids and other disturbing elements."

..

THE *Indépendance Belge* reports that

"the trade of Antwerp is seriously declining. In 1889 there was an absolute decrease in the tonnage of 467 tons, while in the whole of the eight years ending with 1888 there was only an increase of 900,000 tons; in 1880 the total was 3,063,829 tons; and in 1888, 3,920,714 tons. Rotterdam, on the other hand, is making remarkable progress. During the nine years ending with 1889 her trade sprang from 1,681,690 tons to 2,721,479 tons; while the trade of Antwerp only increased in the same period from 2,766,806 tons to 4,355,511 tons. The tonnage entering Antwerp in 1880 exceeded the combined trade of Rotterdam and Amsterdam by 400,000 tons, while now it is 150,000 less. Other towns also have been striving to deprive Antwerp of her trade, notably Bremen, Flushing, Dunkirk, Marseilles, and Bordeaux. In 1880 Antwerp had at her command the entire transit traffic between South and East Germany, Northern and Eastern France, Switzerland, Austria, England, and America; but it is now being distributed between the ports above named. It appears that excessive dues have driven the shipping from Antwerp Harbour. For example, ships of 1,800 tons have to pay in the Scheldt taxes to the amount of 400 fr., which they do not have to pay either at Hamburg or Rotterdam."

We trust inter-urban rivalry had no hand in the disastrous fires that lately occurred in Antwerp.

..

SWEDEN is rapidly multiplying her beetroot sugar manufactories. Last year, the four manufactories at Arlaf, Staffanstorp, Sábzhölm, and Trelleborg, all in one district, handled altogether 108,222 tons of beetroot. At the present moment, a very large factory is being completed at Helsingborg. It will have a capacity of crushing about 5,000 cwt. beetroot per day, or about 600,000 cwt. during the four months of the "campaign."

..

THE Oerlikon Machine Works, Switzerland, have decided to draw the motive power from Burlach—a distance of 13 miles, where water-power of 500 H. P. will be obtained and transmitted by means of electricity to the works.

A LONDON trade journal remarks that, although India is one of the principal cotton-growing countries, out of 250,000 tons of cotton-seed oil consumed in England in 1888, only 4,000 came from India. It attributes the smallness of export to the very near impossibility of forcing Indian seed from the fluff and to the smaller percentage of oil in Indian as compared with American and Egyptian seed. Another reason given is that good prices are obtained on the native market for all vegetable oils.

THE Chairman, Mr. Finlayson, of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce at the last annual meeting, complimented the members saying that the British flag carried 45 per cent. of all goods and passengers in the world, and congratulated the Clyde ship builders on the record of the *City of Paris* which had not been beaten. He also pointed out that the foreigners who worked long hours had the advantage of the British nation in the textile trade, and hoped the eight hours Bill would never pass except for colliers.

No less than twenty-four glass bottle manufacturing companies in the United Kingdom have united and formed themselves into a mammoth company under the style of "The Glass Bottle Industries, Limited," with a share capital of £1,400,000. The object is stated to be "to acquire and consolidate certain glass works throughout the United Kingdom, so as to cope with foreign competition, and remove, or at any rate check, certain usages that have for some time past been very injurious to the trade." How intelligently wideawake these Europeans are, compared to our listless stupid ways of depending on Providence!

BERLIN is to be made a seaport as far as possible. The German Government has decided upon a canal connecting the capital with the Baltic. This will be a truly imperial and statesmanlike use of the French milliards.

THE pre-Victorian light gold coins are doomed. The Bank of England will receive them till the 31st March, 1890. After that period, they can only realize their value at their weight—£3 17s. 9d. per ounce.

LODGE Marine under the Mastership of the ever wakeful Mr. R. D. Mehta, we find the only masonic body in Calcutta who wished the Duke of Connaught, Grand Master of English Freemasons in Bombay, farewell on his retirement from India. The message—telegraphic—runs thus:—

"To-night (Mar. 10) Lodge Marine, number 232 E. C., in meeting unanimously resolved that, in view of the departure from India of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught and the services rendered by him to the cause of Freemasonry in India, both as Grand Master of English Freemasons in Bombay, and as the brother of our dearly beloved brother the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Grand Lodge of England, this Lodge humbly approach his Royal Highness with valedictory greeting, wishing all health and happiness to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess. I, as Master of Marine, feel proud to convey the message, which I trust your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to receive."

The following reply was received from his Royal Highness's Equerry: "To the Worshipful Master, Lodge No. 232 E.C., His Royal Highness Duke of Connaught sends best thanks for kind telegram received, and wishes all prosperity to Lodge Marine and Freemasonry in India."

What were the Prinseps and other gentlemen Rajmistrees who are nothing if not masons about when the Queen's son, who and his eldest brother had honoured the craft by lending their names to it, was leaving the country?

IN their last Report, the Council of the Ceylon Asiatic Society makes an earnest appeal to Government, for recovering the ancient literature of the Island, by systematically collecting, transcribing and publishing the manuscripts which are scattered about in the libraries of temples, as well as in private houses. Within the last three years, private exertions have secured 69 MSS., some of great value.

A POOR Hindu of the Bombay Presidency, wearied of the journeys in quest of justice through the great Circumlocution Office of British Judicature, appeared in the High Court before the Bench of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Scott, and, after giving them a bit of his mind as to the farce at which they so gaily presided from day to day and month to month, finishing with the remark that he could stand it no

longer to be baulked of justice from pillar to post as it were, in one Court after another, produced a knife with which he proceeded to cut his own throat. He was prevented by the crier and turned out by the guards. Not, however, before the Chief Justice had told him to send a petition representing his grievance. Herein, the Judge showed humanity rather than prudence. What relief can the good Chief or the Full Bench for that matter, administer to the victim of a huge and mournful system—a preposterous machinery, of which the Court is not the least part.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THERE is a ministerial crisis in Germany. The Bismarcks—father and son have sickened of their youthful Emperor. The Emperor too seems wearied of the father, his dominance and constant threats of resignation, and has relieved him of the every-day cares of the Empire. Of course, Prince Bismarck goes out with honors. The Emperor thanks him for past services, and expects that the Fatherland may yet profit by his counsel and devotion in the future as in the past. Prince Bismarck retires as Duke of Lauenburg, Colonel General of Cavalry, and Field Marshal-General of the Forces.

Even these philosophical Germans who are up to the feat of evolving an elephant out of the depths of their moral consciousness, do not see the absurdity of rewarding success in the cabinet with military honours. The retiring Chancellor is preeminently and exclusively a Civilian in every sense of the word. A theologian and a lawyer by education, versed in jurisprudence Roman and comparative, a parliamentarian, a diplomat, and minister of state by profession, what a mockery to constitute the Grand Vizier at the moment of retiring into private life a make-believe warrior and military conqueror!

General Von Caprivi, Minister of the Imperial Admiralty, Commanding the Tenth Army Corps in Hanover, succeeds Prince Bismarck both as Chancellor of the Empire and President of the Prussian Ministry.

No orders have yet been passed as regards the son. Count Herbert Bismarck, whose resignation has not been accepted, continues in charge of the Foreign office.

THE House of Lords has sanctioned the Indian Councils Bill as introduced by Lord Cross and amended by Lords Herschell and Northbrook. The telegram as regards the first amendment, as we pointed out last week, is unintelligible. We publish the Bill elsewhere. The full text of Lord Northbrook's amendment, which has been accepted by Lord Lansdowne, has been supplied to the daily press here from the Government House. It runs thus:—

"Addition to clause 1:—Provided that the Governor-General of India in Council may, from time to time, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India in Council, make regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations, or any of them, shall be made by the Governor-General of India, the Governors and the Lieutenant-Governors respectively, and prescribe the manner in which such regulations shall be carried into effect."

That addition deprives the Viceroy of the absolute power of nomination, and binds the Governor-General and the Secretary of State to lay down, from time to time, the principle and manner of selection of both Supreme and Local Councillors and, at the same time, keeps open the door for election even as recommended by the Congress.

The Bill, it will be observed, quietly justifies all additions—whether by cession or conquest—to the Indian empire since the passing of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, or the earlier Acts 3 & 4, William IV., chapter 85, and 16 and 17 Vic. cap. 95. The Allahabad High Court had already rectified the Acts, and now Parliament has been moved to sanction that Court's interpretation of those laws by declaring that existing territories include and have always included after acquisitions. It was not without a purpose that the Acts were limited to the then existing dominion of Her Majesty. For one thing, the Home Government was always jealous of extension of territories by the East India Company. That jealousy may not survive under the direct government of the Queen, but that cannot justify the sweeping assertion that Parliament always intended to apply those Acts to "Indian territories now or hereafter under the dominion of her Majesty." The righteous course, we need scarcely say, was to admit the illegality and to legislate fresh for the new territories.



THE British workman continues to indulge largely in strikes, and finds the game paying. In January, Hollowware trades, brasstube makers, fire-brick makers, edge-tool makers, boat-builders, grinding and polishing trades, locksmiths, brass-workers, tinplate makers, bedstead makers, nail makers, &c., struck work and obtained advances of 10 and 15 per cent.

Last week, the miners threatened strikes unless they were allowed 5 p. c. increase in July. One hundred thousand colliers stopped work on the 16th instant, causing stoppage of the Lancashire cotton mills for failure of coal. There were riots among the dock strikers at Liverpool and the military had to be called out. There was a meeting of dock labourers on the 17th. A dock owner named Houston exhorted his men to resume work as he had agreed to their demands. He was only yelled at, for, they said, none could go to work while any remained starving. There was a general uproar. The crowd grew furious and were bent on excesses. A passing load of wheat was pounced upon, the bags scattered over the street and the waggoner stabbed. The police who came to the rescue were stoned. Five hundred troops were ordered from Preston to preserve peace. The day following, twenty thousand engineers on the Tyneside Engine Building Yards threw up work. In Lancashire too mills and factories suffered. For want of coal, they were obliged to burn wood. The latest reports are, however, satisfactory. The strikes are settling down. The Liverpool dock labourers have returned to work. The colliers' strike is ended, they having obtained an immediate increase of 5 per cent. and promise of another like increase in August.

THE Berlin Labour Conference is making good progress. The Emperor has dined with the Foreign delegates, and has decorated the French delegate M. Simon with the Prussian Order of the Red Eagle. A Committee has been appointed to discuss the questions of work in mines, Sunday labour and women and children's labour.

THE Labour Question has received prominence in France. M. de Freycinet, in his statement to the Chamber of Deputies on the 18th, said that the first duty of Government would be to facilitate the progress of the working classes and to better their position, and that Bills would be introduced to that end.

THERE is a change in the French Ministry. M. Freycinet has formed a new Cabinet with the following cast :

M. de Freycinet, Premier and War Minister.  
M. Constans, Minister of the Interior.  
M. Ribot, Minister for Foreign Affairs.  
M. de Fallieres, Minister of Justice.  
M. Rouvier, Finance Minister.  
M. Bourgeois, Minister of Education.  
M. Jules Roche, Minister of Commerce.  
M. Develle, Minister of Husbandry.  
M. Barbey, Minister of Marine.  
M. Etienne, Under-Secretary for the Colonies.  
M. Yves Guyot, Minister of Works.

GOVERNMENT has sustained two defeats in the House of Commons. The motion to entrust to County Councils the maintenance of rights of way in Scotland was carried against Government by a majority of thirteen, including Mr. Chamberlain's vote. General Hamley's motion for meeting from the public revenues the deficiencies caused by the equipment of Volunteers was adopted by 135 against 102, many Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists voting with the majority against Government. These defeats are of no moment, yet, the Premier has deemed fit to hold a meeting of the Conservative party at the Carlton Club on the 20th, at which he rated his followers for the bad moral effect of these losses. He ridiculed the idea of an early dissolution, as the results of recent bye-elections were, in his opinion, not at all disheartening.

THE Lieutenant-Governor reached Ranchee on the 8th instant. His Honor was received with the usual honors. There was a *conversazione* the same evening under shamianas spread over the grounds of the Commissioner's house, where a municipal address was read. Sir Steuart Bayley was exceedingly pleased with it. It was brief and asked for

nothing. Sir Steuart Bayley found the district prosperous and expressed his belief to the Municipal Committee that "there is a great future before Chota Nagpore both in agriculture and in the development of its mineral wealth." On the 13th, he distributed prizes at the Government zilla school. The next day, he invested the Zemindar of Padma with the title of Raja. The day following, there was an entertainment at Dorunda, by the soldiers. Sir Steuart then moved on to Chybassa, which little town did its best to receive the Governor. He stayed there one day and left it on the morning of the 17th. On the 21st the Governor started for Hazaribag where he remains two days. His Honor is due at Calcutta on the 27th, to assist the Viceroy in laying the foundation stone of the new Laboratory of Dr. Sircar's Science Association.

AFTER such expression of gubernatorial preference in regard to the literary form of the demonstrations for receiving the Lieutenant-Governor on tour at any town or village, we expect to see an era of, if not wit itself, the soul of wit. Others will doubtless improve upon the Rancheewalas, until the ponderous proportions of the orthodox address of welcome is reduced to a gracile and sparkling epigram. Finally, some wise people might go the whole hog in melioration, and refine the thing out of existence.

There is high literary precedent for such a reform. In the satisfaction felt by Sir Steuart Bayley out of all proportion to the magnitude or rather unmagnitude of the cause, he merely echoed the principle of the famous sentiment—

My pain is great, because it is so small.

And every student of literary biography remembers how the *rationale* was carried to its legitimate conclusion, and a distich completed with the line—

Then were it greater, were it none at all.

WE expect to see a bumper attendance at the Science Association rooms on Thursday next, and the Viceroy ought to be able to announce some ample donations. It is very good of the rulers to honour and encourage a national institution of prime importance. It were equally discreditable to the people to allow it to languish for want of support.

WE rejoice to learn the result of the prosecution of the *Phoenix* for libel. After dragging its slow length along for months, the case has at length ended in the discharge of our colleague Baboo N. Gupta, editor of the *Phoenix*, and his publisher. The proceedings arose out of a newsletter from Shikarpore published by our contemporary on the 19th June last, reflecting on the administration of the jail. The Superintendent, Dr. Corkery, took fire and denounced vengeance on the offending print. He asked for permission to prosecute and obtained it, but not unconditionally. With an appreciation of the public functions of the press and of the difficulties of journalism, bespeaking at once benevolence and broad statesmanship, the Government ruled that the Editor was to be let off, provided he gave up his informant and besides satisfied the local authority that he had acted in perfect good faith and with reasonable caution. Likewise, the correspondent and publisher were not to be troubled, on their submitting to an apology or retraction such as the Commissioner in Sind might deem sufficient. Negotiations for a compromise were set on foot, but they ultimately fell through. So at last Superintendent Corkery appeared before the Magistrate on the 18th December last. After several postponements, granted on the application of the parties, the first hearing came on on the 1st March. The trial came to an end on the 12th, when the Magistrate passed the order of discharge.

SENSATION upon sensation ! If all went—ill, the Bengal public might once more enjoy a legal spectacle such as it has not beheld for nearly thirty years, since the celebrated missionary James Long was sent to jail by the Supreme Court. The virtual trial of a High Court Judge in the O'Hara Scandal has no sooner been closed than we are promised the excitement of the judicial impeachment of a holy man, who is the consolidated apostle of the Gospel and of temperance. Who has not heard, or heard of, Thomas Evans ? That man must be deaf indeed ! Besides going from province to province and district to district and city to city and preaching in the market place, and from door to door, he has been sending forth manifestoes innumerable, booklets, tracts, tractates, leaflets. Add to that, he is an indefatigable correspondent

and contributor to the press—not in one paper or two or half a dozen, but no end of journals. One of his letters appeared in the *Statesman* of the 13th inst. on "Temperance Work in India." It is a characteristic specimen of apostolic literature in which there is little mercy for human frailty and great readiness to damn outsiders. Thus, the lawyers of the highest grade are thus denounced:—

"I have found gentlemen of the bar to be, as a rule, devoted disciples to Bacchus, and in more places than one the 'bar' has been a bar to the work of reform in temperance."

That is not a statement to neglect. Such a charge against any class appearing in a respectable newspaper in the name of a respectable person, is a serious matter, and cannot be passed over without detriment. Silence would mean acquiescence and surrender of character and credit. In the present instance, the superior members of the legal profession have been pointedly denounced as drunkards. It was therefore with some surprise that people saw no notice taken of the accusation. On the 18th, however, "A Barrister" appears in the *Statesman* to tackle the enemy. This limb of the law evidently means work. Without spending breath, he proceeds straight to the point, thus:—

"I beg hereby to call upon Mr. Evans either to substantiate this statement or to withdraw it. It may not be amiss to remind your reverend correspondent that the *Nil Durpan* trial established the principle that a man (in that case too a missionary) may be successfully prosecuted for a libel against a *body of men*, just as readily as for a libel against an individual."

Mr. Evans has not yet come forward in reply, but an indifferent *amicus curiæ* has been sent forward to cover his approach.

BISHOP O'Dwyer, in his Lenten Pastoral, read in the Limerick Diocese, attributes all the poverty and misery of Ireland to intemperance. He denounces in unmeasured terms the almost national practice of the use of drinks at Irish wakes and funerals. We suspect the episcopal artist lays his colours with a spatula, and on this occasion he had charged his palette with black only. Surely, the Irish masses cannot be so very bad. Drunkenness is the special weakness, as the peculiar necessity, of the North, and it is unfair to single out the Irish for impalement for a vice common to a great part of Europe. We do

think that the Slavonic or Teutonic peasantry are a whit superior to the Hibernian.

THE *Englishman* of the 27th February writes:—

"An article on the use of English, by the late Charles Mackay, published since his death in the *Nineteenth Century*, makes very severe strictures on common inaccuracies of speech and writing. Yet the article itself contains the following sentence, in which singular and plural are strangely confused:—'A concert of music, a garden party, a fête champêtre, or a dinner, festivity, or a ceremony of any kind, is not a function, though the penny-a-liner and the *alumni* of the Board-school speak and write them as such.'"

That is a shame to British literature to be sure, but it affects more the magazine than the contributor. If Dr. Mackay, in age and weakness, and in the hurry for the next world, made a slip, that was no excuse for the editor to pass it without correction.

Nor are the people of the *Englishman* more careful. One would suppose that for sometime at least, our contemporary would keep clear of those forms of bad English which, to its knowledge, has been exposed by the late Dr. Mackay. So far from this, we find the same issue from which we take the small paragraph quoted hereinbefore not free from the faults noticed in the very paragraph. Nor is it any poor Eurasian reporter nor Anglo-Indian contributor that is at fault. It is the European specials that are allowed to talk of a party, a concert, a dinner or other festivity as a "function." The truth is, it is the vice of the day.

NAWAB Asman Jah has relieved the Duke of Connaught by taking all his carriages off His Royal Highness's hands, at the magnificent sum of Rs. 20,000. Considering that the Hyderabad Premier already possessed a splendid well-filled coach-house and enjoyed, besides, no end of conveyancing from the state departments, this is proof of no ordinary loyalty in this distant Mahomedan grandee to the House of Brunswick.

Of course, this sort of loyalty must be confined to the few. It is only great Mussulman grandees and ambitious tuft-hunters\* that can afford such costly demonstrations. Even they cannot always afford, though they make a show of doing so. The great Salar Jung (the First) was ruined by this loyalty to Europeans, official and non-official, from Princes, M. P.s., globe-trotters, down to the veriest adventurers—until

he left to the—state, as it ultimately proved, a debt to the tune of between thirty and forty lacs!

Fortunately, there is no such fear in the present case. There are Nawabs and Nawabs, grandees and grandees, even in Hyderabad. There is no comparison between the estate of the Salar Jungs and the resources of the Shumsool Omrah family. Twenty thousand Rupees is a flea-bite to Sir Aman Jah. Only, we would rather his good Knightship habitually submitted himself to such minute punctures in some better causes than overwhelming the high and mighty—or the rich and titled—with superfluous succour.

After all, twenty thousand is no joke, even for grandees, royal or extra-royal. To us, at any rate, Rs. 20,000 for the late Commander-in-Chief of Bombay's second-hand carriages strikes as rather an extravagant figure. We do not know what equipage his Royal Highness maintained here. It must have been on a scale of more than the highest European princely grandeur to justify such a price in disposing of it at leaving. Surely, his landau and char-a-banc are not mounted in gold or silver or fitted with pearl pendants! Nor did he trade in horses and carriages like some people of the lawyer caste in our neighbourhood!

So Mr. Pugh and not Mr. Bonnerjea officiates as Standing Counsel. The last seems to have lost the confidence of Government. When the appointment was first offered to Mr. Bonnerjea, he was not disposed to accept it. But now times have changed, and he feels the withdrawal of the honor.

THE Moore-Norton case has not ended satisfactorily to either. Mr. Justice Sheppard has found for the plaintiff and has awarded only Rs. 100 damages against the defendant.

THE Mohunt of Tripati has but slightly succeeded with the Madras High Court. The conviction is upheld, but the sentence is reduced from 3 years' rigorous imprisonment to 18 months' simple confinement. The dishonour is all the same, though he suffers less in body.

THE Tibetan Convention has been signed, and the Amban is the lion of the city.

HIS splendid munificence has earned for Sir Dinshaw Manicjee Petit a baronetcy.

DR. Coates retires from the Medical College and Service. Dr. Birch replaces him in the Principalship.

MR. J. H. Belchambers, for forty years Deputy Registrar of the Appellate Side of the High Court, is at last on the eve of retirement. Mr. W. H. Joyce, the popular Private Secretary to the Chief Justice, succeeds him. This is expected to be a good selection. Mr. Joyce's promotion confirms Mr. J. Lewis as Assistant Registrar.

MR. H. Lee has joined the Calcutta Corporation, as one of the seventy-five, replacing Dr. O'Brien who has resigned, and is being initiated into the Eleusinian mysteries of the Corporation in order to fit him for the Chair which he is shortly to fill.

THE Maharaja of Vizianagram has, with his truly princely liberality undertaken to bear the entire cost of the new Laboratory of Dr. Sircar's Science Association. The estimate is about Rs. 50,000. The Committee have Resolved to call the Laboratory after the Maharaja.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1890.

### THE METROPOLIS MEETING IN HUMBLE PROTEST.

THE city has spoken and well. Those who were made to feel have, it is to be hoped, cried sufficiently loud to be heard. A good case has been made out against the oppressive incidence of the municipal law. The citizens assembled in public meeting, at their Town Hall on Monday last, to complain to the Ruling Powers of their hardships from operation of law and at the hands of officials, and they acquitted themselves of the delicate and unpleasant purpose with great judgment, resolutely steering clear of all sources of offence and unnecessary irritation. The

Hall was filled to overflowing with the respectable and house-owning classes of the community, from the highest to the humblest. Notwithstanding the influx into the Hall of despairing or excited ratepayers, many of them armed with the preposterous notices of assessment under the new law, the meeting was most orderly and, considering the sufferings of the people, temperate beyond precedent. The speciality of the meeting indeed was moderation. There was no rabid eloquence or rhetorical denunciation. The promoters were far too much in earnest for the mood to attitudinise. The speakers evidently cared only for the business in hand, and meant not to air their talents and accomplishments. The nuisance of the glib tongue could not altogether be eliminated. Where so many professions were represented, the intrusion of Orators could not well be prevented. But the temper of the vast majority undoubtedly kept them in check and there was abatement—in the ordinary sense if not the legal—of the evil. Nevertheless, the connection of these talking machines of flesh and blood must be admitted to have been the weakest part of the whole thing. Their very presence was ominous. But how could that be prevented? There is one gentleman of our community who has been thrown back on us by an indiscreet Government, to its misery and our own, who cannot help himself, to whom the atmosphere of public meetings is the very breath of life.

Meetings, or public calls, he never missed—  
To dictate often, always to assist.  
Oft he the clergy joined, and not a cause  
Pertained to them but he could quote the laws;  
He upon tithes and residence displayed  
A fund of knowledge for the hearer's aid;  
And could on glebe and farming, wool and grain,  
A long discourse, without a pause, maintain.

At any rate, every effort should have been made to restrain the interlopers down to a silent vote at most. Their taking an active part in the proceedings was unfortunate. Their interference gives a character of unreality, not to say puerility, to any business.

That was the single flaw in the affair—the sole rift in the lute—the only incident that detracted from the harmony, completeness and force of the meeting of last Monday.

Whatever may be said of the tactical blunder of allowing professional agitators and orators to be the spokesmen of the classes having the most stake in town, the meeting itself was no sham as such connections might lead the Government to suppose. It was a tangible, formidable reality. It was, to begin with, convened by Sheriff Turner, in obedience to the strongest requisition possible, signed as it was by the owners of half the landed property of Calcutta. It was preeminently a native movement—the cry of distress of the permanent population—of those who live in their own houses and expect to die in them, in the firm and pleasing hope that their children and their children's children to the remotest generation will do the same after them—as distinguished from the fluctuating units—the birds of passage. We have seen the propriety of his action questioned, but in the absence of any constitutional precedent to the contrary, we think Mr. Henry Turner can scarcely be blamed for vacating the chair after declaring the meeting open, leaving the assembled citizens to elect their Chairman. Maharaja Jotendro Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I., seconded by Raja Doorga Churn Law, with the consent of all, offered the Chair to Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur, K.C.I.E. The Chairman, in his opening, spoke of the consternation of the people at the prospect of having to pay

on four times the existing assessment on their houses. He said the value of house property, as of all building materials and the price of labour and construction, had enormously increased, and it would be a tremendous hardship were the people called on to pay on their private residences, under the new law, on the existing value of property which had in many cases descended to them, which had been built in the era of cheapness fifty years ago, and which had all been built during a long course of time and the cost whereof was spread over many years. In conclusion, he gave the tone to the demonstration in these characteristic terms:

"I earnestly invite you to discuss the objectionable provisions of the law, and if we succeed in making out a strong case, our good Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Stuart Bayley, will not refuse our humble prayer to amend the unjust provisions of the new Municipal Act."

This tone of loyal trustfulness and dependence on Government, was not only continued but accentuated by Kumar Devendra Mallick, who was called on to move the first Resolution. He not only relied upon the justice of Government but, speaking from personal knowledge of the character of the retiring Chairman of the Corporation, he unfeignedly expected Sir Henry Harrison himself to come to the rescue of his own victims, and assist them in obtaining relief from Government, if he but knows the extent of the mischief he had caused. There is no reason to question the *bona fides* of this sentiment. It is genuine unsophisticated Orientalism, and proves only that the leaders of this movement come from a wholly different class from the social and intellectual upstarts who, under a misunderstanding of Tom Paine, John Mill and Herbert Spencer, have lost all reverence for parents and society, Government and God. The rigours of the new legislation have forced to the political platform a grave quiet-loving class, respecting themselves and honouring their superiors and rulers, who rarely venture out into the troubled waters of controversy. They are not the men to manufacture grievances; they would never cry unless seriously hurt. Even now, they seem almost ashamed of their situation and as it were ready to accuse themselves of impertinence in coming forward to accuse the authorities. It would be a pity and a shame if such loyalty went unrewarded. The failure of such a modest representation would be a direct premium upon the low arts of blatant agitation and impudent bullying.

For the rest, the Kumar made a capital speech, brief and to the point. He is in feeble health, and could not be heard beyond the precincts of the platform, but his reported words must tell. He moved:—

That this meeting desires to place on record its respectful but emphatic protest against the provisions of section 122 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, which introduces a principle of assessment that is foreign to the law of the land and is opposed to the maxims of English law, as interpreted in a recent case in the High Court; and the meeting views with alarm the severe hardships with which the operation of the Act has been attended in practice, leading to heavy increase in the assessments of dwelling houses.

The question then was seized by the speaking-trumpets. No sooner was the first Resolution seconded by Baboo Damodar Das Burman, than the Surrender Not sprang to his feet and bored the audience until he had torn the question to tatters, absorbing, after his wont, all the talk, and anticipating everybody. Of course, he did not sing in unison with his predecessors. He characteristically defied the Powers—

• My sentence is for open war.

He protested, emphasised, gesticulated, stamped, made himself hoarse, to show how he could—work himself into frenzy for the occasion. He lives in an atmosphere of "protest" and "emphasis." Fortu-

nately for the cause, as an active member of the Corporation for a long series of years, he spoke not without the book. For once, he made a creditable statement, the facts and reasoning of which would have been far more effective, if presented without their vicious setting. Babu Lal Mohan Ghose followed, exposing the erroneous impression under which the preposterous principle of assessing residences had been adopted by Sir Henry Harrison and sanctioned by the legislature. It was understood to be the English principle. If it was English, it would not necessarily be suited to India. But Mr. Ghose challenged Sir H. Harrison to establish its pretension to be English. He had applied to the Chairman for his authority, but Sir Henry had wriggled himself out of it. He had no leisure to grant the doomed citizens even the assured consolation of suffering from a genuine British principle. Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose contended that the English law knew no such principle, and quoted certain recent cases in the High Court and the Chief Justice's dictum.

The second Resolution was moved by Nawab Syud Ahmed Ali, of the Chitpore Family. As a nobleman, he used the right word in confessing that he could not adequately express his sense of "disgust" at the way in which the taxes on *bustee* or thatched hut lands are levied, the owners of the land being required to pay in advance for all his tenants! The Resolution runs as follows:—

That the provisions of the Municipal Law which make it obligatory upon owners of *bustee land* to pay the rates leviable from tenants and then to realize them, have entailed serious hardship upon owners and loss of revenue to the Municipality; and this meeting desires to express the earnest hope that this part of the Municipal Law, and other sections which the Committee on further consideration may consider objectionable, may be modified."

After a good speech in Bengali by Baboo Amrita Lal Bose, and a long one in English by Baboo Amarendra Nath Chatterjee, Baboo Koonjo Lal Banerjee supplied the comic element by travelling out of the record. He took upon himself to propose, without offering an amendment, that the memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor then before the meeting be condemned, and a new one embodying "other minor objections" unnamed be prepared by the Committee. It is needless to say that there was no Pantaloon to second Harlequin.

The Resolution Final naming a body of gentlemen to carry out the objects of the meeting, was entrusted to Mr. R. D. Mehta. It is a mere formality and is usually performed *pro forma*. But such an obscure rôle does not suit this young Parsee who, if Ormuzd, the good God, grants life, will yet distinguish himself farther than his worst enemy apprehends. Ingenuity can carve an opportunity under the worst circumstances, and in coming to plough a thoroughly exhausted field, Mr. Mehta was able to contribute some golden sheafs of corn to the harvest of discussion. At the outset, he brought the meeting back to its normal tone with which it had set out before the music was shattered by the Vandals. Lucky Sir Harrison, even the Parsee believes in him! Said he—

I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution. I am quite sure that if we personally lay our grievances and appeal for justice to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, or to the Viceroy if necessary, those high-minded statesmen will, with their usual generosity and concern for the people, redress them. Nor can I bring myself to think that even Sir Henry Harrison will raise difficulties in our way if we are able to convince him that our case is a just one and that we have legitimate grounds of complaint.

Our duty is clear in the matter, we have to go on with our representation, persevere in it, of course with moderation and discretion, and triumph ultimately we must.

Nothing can ruffle his all-round graciousness. He fondly strokes the chin of the lamb he has prepared for immediate sacrifice.

The principle of assessment in the abstract is just, but it is not expedient to put into practice, seeing that it will have the effect of doubling, trebling or quadrupling the amount payable at a single step.

He concluded with a couple of practical suggestions, to wit—

1. Nothing has been provided for outlay on repairs during the six years of the continuance of the assessment. This really puts the valuation higher than it ought to be.

2. The peculiarities in the mode of constructing residential houses forced upon Hindus, Mahomedans, &c., by their habits and customs, should not be liable to taxation, as the measure involves the imposition of an indirect taxation on those habits and customs.

These are original contributions to the subject. The first comes from the man of business. The second shows a higher speculative grasp.

### THE BUDGET.

NOTWITHSTANDING some ugly appearances like the increasing drain of our resources in military expenditure, Dewan, Barbour has on the whole produced a satisfactory Budget. The Annual Statement for 1890-91 was presented to the daily press in the afternoon of Thursday the 20th, but with instructions not to "publish or make known in any way any portion of it" until it was formally laid before the Viceroy's Legislative Council the next day. With the abolition of the Press Commissionership, there is a tendency to favor the daily to the exclusion of the weekly press. The weekly papers on the Press Commissioner's list are, we believe, equally entitled to the courtesy of Government for such scraps of information as are thought safely communicable to the public, both in the interests of the governors and the governed.

The Budget estimate of 1888-89 shewed a deficit of Rx. 698,000, the revised estimate, made a year later in March 1889, reduced it to Rx. 201,700, the actuals, however, give a surplus of Rx. 37,018.

The estimate of 1889-90, framed in March 1889, shewed a surplus of Rx. 106,300. In revision, after certain special arrangements of figures and transfers, it is made to yield a surplus of Rx. 1,809,700, after restoring the Famine Grant to Rx. 600,000 (or Rx. 1,058,100 including the net charge on the revenues on account of the Protective Railways constructed through the Agency of Companies), and postponing the contribution of Rx. 490,000 from Provincial resources for which credit was taken in the Budget Estimate, to 1890-91. There is a steady permanent improvement under all the main Revenue heads—in Land Revenue, Salt, Excise, Stamps, Provincial Rates, Customs, Assessed Taxes, Forests, Registration, and Tributes from Native States. Bengal Opium gives an increase of Rx. 286,400, for it sold at Rs. 1,136, instead of Rs. 1,070 a chest as originally calculated. There is also a decrease in the expenditure side of Rx. 708,800 for poor crop in the province. There is a saving of about Rx. 200,000 in exchange, originally calculated at Rs. 4'38d. but subsequently taken at Rs. 4'55d a rupee.

For 1890-91, the Budget surplus is Rx. 270,4000. It would have been more but for the heavy and special expenses in connection with the Army. That expenditure for 1890-91 is shewn at Rx. 21,505,100, of which that in England is Rx. 4,620,100 against the revised estimates of Rx. 14,950,000 and Rx. 4,126,600 respectively of 1889-90. There is considerable increase in the English charges, namely, £614,800, for re-arming the British troops with the new rifle and supplying 21 more batteries of 12-pounder breech-loading guns. The Finance Minister prepares the country for similar expenditure in the year 1891-92. And yet he hopes in that year for "a position of comparative ease, with a surplus in hand, moderate in amount, but sufficient to allow of some improvement in financial conditions."

Sir David Barbour affords no relief of any kind from the Income Tax, but raises an additional revenue of Rx. 100,000 by subjecting imported spirits and Indian brewed beer to the same tax as is levied on imported beer.

Not the least notable thing in the present Statement is the declaration on the subject of the Famine Insurance Fund. Under the clearing influence of Parliamentary agitation, the eyes of Indian Bureaucracy are distinctly opening.

Having produced a satisfactory Budget, though not without fresh taxation, the Finance Minister is free to speak freely on the Famine Insurance Fund. He admits the diversion of the Fund to other than its proper uses, but says, the Government is alive to the fact and will make up omissions in future years.



## DEATH OF "BEL BABOO."

ONE of the most popular figures of the native stage of the metropolis has been removed by the death, by his own hand, of Amrita Lal Mookerjee, better known as "Bel Baboo." The young man belonged to a well-known Brahman family of Calcutta--the House of the illustrious Doorga Charan Mookerjee. He showed a turn for mimicry from the time when he was a little boy, which afterwards developed into unmistakable genius. His histrionic powers were indeed so remarkable that he could always command attention. He became a favorite of the audience as soon as he joined the professional stage a little over eighteen years ago. Before the pre-actress days--the Age of Darkness, as it may fitly be called, of the modern Indian Theatre--his impersonation of female rôles was as clever as his later male performances were uniformly successful. His *Malika* in Denobandhu Mitter's *Nabin Tuptabini* is not likely to be forgotten by any one who ever witnessed it. Not the cleverest of lady artistes has ever been able to over-shadow or even equal him there. After the introduction of actresses, up to the time of his death, he filled innumerable characters, in none of which, serious or comic, he failed to make an impression. Always happy in his conception, it was rarely that he overstepped the modesty of nature. But it was more in comic than serious impersonations that "Bel Baboo" betrayed his wonderful force and versatility. His very appearance was a signal for "fun," and he spoke and strutted upon the boards amidst the deafening cheers of an audience turned mad with laughter. Comedy was his forte, and in comedy, he was equally at home, in the high and the low. He was the man who introduced harlequinade on the native stage. As harlequin, he was without a rival; he has hardly yet found an imitator. It was a marvel what an artist in high histrionics was this volatile buffoon. As Gadadhar Chandra in "Sarala," Bel Baboo was more than delightful--simply charming. Gadadhar Chandra will never allow its interpreter to fade away from our memory. In modern India, genius in any art languishes for want of proper appreciation, becoming more a source of mortification than pleasure to its possessor--the Bohemian's art has yet to be recognized amongst us. In the West, the death of a comedian like the late Amrita Lal Mookerjee would be regarded as a great social, if not a national, calamity. Here, in our unformed society, nobody thinks of noticing publicly his death or regards it as much of a loss, and no memento perhaps will remain of his worth except in the wicked columns of *Reis and Rayyet*. Of course, the Star Theatre was closed on last Wednesday out of respect to the memory of this Prince of Actors, who was one of its main pillars.

## THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

AS INTRODUCED BY LORD CROSS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST FEBRUARY, 1890.

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:--

1.--(1) The number of additional members of Council nominated by the Governor-General under the provisions of section 10 of the Indian Councils Act 1861, shall be such as to him may seem from time to time expedient, but shall not be less than ten nor more than sixteen; and the number of additional members of Council nominated by the governors of the presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay respectively under the provisions of section 29 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, shall (besides the Advocate-General of the presidency or officer acting in that capacity) be such as to the said governors respectively may seem from time to time expedient, but shall not be less than eight nor more than twenty.

(2) It shall be lawful for the Governor-General in Council by proclamation from time to time to increase the number of councillors whom the lieutenant-governors of the Bengal Division of the presidency of Fort William and of the North-Western Provinces and Oude respectively may nominate for their assistance in making laws and regulations: Provided always, that not more than twenty shall be nominated for the Bengal Division and not more than fifteen for the North-Western Provinces and Oude.

(3) Any person resident in India may be nominated an addition-

al member of Council under sections 10 and 29 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and this Act, or a member of the Council of the lieutenant-governor of any province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, touching the making of laws and regulations have been or are hereafter extended or made applicable.

2. Notwithstanding any provision in the Indian Councils Act, 1861, the Governor-General of India in Council may from time to time make rules authorising at any meeting of the Governor-General's Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations, the discussion of the annual financial statement of the Governor-General in Council and the asking of questions, but under such conditions and restrictions as to subject or otherwise as shall be in the said rules prescribed or declared: And notwithstanding any provisions in the Indian Councils Act, 1861, the Governors in Council of Fort St. George and Bombay respectively, and the lieutenant-governor of any province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, touching the making of laws and regulations, have been or are hereafter extended or made applicable, may from time to time make rules for authorising at any meeting of their respective councils for the purpose of making laws and regulations, the discussion of the annual financial statement of their respective local governments, and the asking of questions, but under such conditions and restrictions, as to subject or otherwise, as shall in the said rules applicable to such councils respectively be prescribed or declared. But no member at any such meeting of any council shall have power to submit or propose any resolution, or to divide the Council in respect of any such financial discussion, or the answer to any question asked under the authority of this Act, or the rules made under this Act: Provided that any rule made under this Act by a governor in Council or by a lieutenant-governor shall be submitted for and shall be subject to the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, and any rule made under this Act by the Governor-General in Council shall be submitted for and shall be subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council: Provided also that rules made under this Act shall not be subject to alteration or amendment at meetings for the purpose of making laws and regulations.

3. It is hereby declared that in the 22nd section of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, it was and is intended that the words "Indian territories now under the dominion of her Majesty" should be read and construed as if the words "or hereafter" were and had at the time of the passing of the said Act been inserted next after the word "now;" and, further, that the Acts third and fourth William the Fourth, chapter eighty-five, and sixteenth and seventeenth Victoria, chapter ninety-five, respectively, shall be read and construed as if at the date of the enactment thereof respectively it was intended and had been enacted that the said Acts respectively should extend to and include the territories acquired after the dates thereof respectively by the East India Company, and should not be confined to the territories at the dates of the said enactments respectively in the possession and under the government of the said company.

4. Sections 13 and 32 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, are hereby repealed; and it is enacted that--

(1) If any additional member of Council, or any member of the Council of a lieutenant-governor, appointed under the said Act or this Act, shall be absent from India or unable to attend to the duties of his office for a period of two consecutive months, it shall be lawful for the Governor-General, the Governor or the Lieutenant-Governor--to whose Council such additional member or member may have been nominated, as the case may be--to declare by a notification published in the Government Gazette that the seat in Council of such person has become vacant.

(2) In the event of a vacancy occurring by the absence from India, inability to attend to duty, death, acceptance of office, or resignation duly accepted, of any such additional member or member of the council of a lieutenant-governor, it shall be lawful for the Governor-General, for the governor, or for the lieutenant-governor, as the case may be, to nominate any person as additional member or member, as the case may be, in his place; and every member so nominated shall be summoned to all meetings held for the purpose of making laws and regulations for the term of two years from the date of such nomination: Provided always that it shall not be lawful by such nomination, or by any other nomination made under this Act, to diminish the proportion of non-official members directed by the Indian Councils Act, 1861, to be nominated.

5. In this Act--

The expression "local legislature" means--

(1) The Governor in Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations of the respective provinces of Fort St. George and Bombay; and

(2) The council for the purpose of making laws and regulations of the lieutenant-governor of any province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, touching the making of laws or regulations have been or are hereafter extended or made applicable:

The expression "province" means any presidency, division, province, or territory over which the powers of any local legislature for the time being extend.

6 Nothing in this Act shall detract from or diminish the powers

of the Governor-General in Council at meetings for the purpose of making laws and regulations.

7 This Act may be cited as the Indian Councils Act, 1890; and the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and this Act may be cited together as the Indian Councils Act, 1861 and 1890.

### THE DUM-DUM MURDER.

#### ACQUITTAL OF THE PRISONER O'HARA.

In this case, on Monday last, we decided that it was our duty to exercise the power of review given us by the 26th clause of the Letters Patent. We accordingly heard counsel for the prisoner and for the prosecution, and yesterday made an order quashing the conviction, setting aside the judgment and sentence, and ordering the prisoner to be discharged. Having arrived at the conclusion that this must be done, it was our duty to make the order without delay. But as we thought it proper to state our reasons in writing, we deferred until to-day the delivery of our judgment in the case; and we now proceed to state the grounds on which we have considered it our duty to quash the conviction.

In our judgment upon the application for a review of the case, we had stated the reasons which led us to the conclusion at which we arrived, namely, (1) the improper reception of evidence consisting of the communication to the jury of statements said to have been made by two of the witnesses for the prosecution, and (2), a virtual misdirection by the learned Judge to the effect that one of them, Goldsborough, was not, within the meaning of the law, an accomplice, as we have held that he was.

In reviewing the case for the purpose of determining what judgment should be passed upon it, it becomes our duty to decide, whether, apart from the evidence improperly admitted, and apart from what must be considered the natural and reasonable effect of the misdirection in the case, the conviction can be allowed to stand. —See Evidence Act, s. 167, and 9 Bo. H. Ct. Report, 375.

We must therefore consider this case as the jury had they been properly advised would have done, namely, upon the footing, that Goldsborough *alias* Taylor was not an independent witness but an accomplice within the meaning of the Evidence Act, giving his evidence under pardon conditionally granted to him as a witness in the case, and open to the presumption to which that character made his testimony liable. He is the witness upon whose testimony alone the prisoner is charged with the actual commission of the murder. We have no power, under the Letters Patent, to send back the case for a new trial. We must come to our own conclusion as to the effect of the evidence in the case, using for this purpose, according to the established practice, the notes of evidence taken by the learned Judge in the case, and which he has supplied to us. As Goldsborough is the source and support of the case against the accused, it is absolutely necessary to consider the whole case, changed as its aspect is from that in which it was most probably regarded by the jury.

It was contended for the prosecution, that our functions in reviewing the case were limited to the mere determination of the question whether there was in the case, as before us, sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction.

We are of opinion that the nature of the case was such as to cast upon us a much wider function than this, which would, in truth, have involved us in a repetition of the same error which made it, in our judgment, our duty to review the case. For in treating the evidence in the manner suggested, the consideration of the amount of credit to be given to the witness Goldsborough would have to be excluded, and we should have had to consider only the effect of his evidence (with the rest), assuming it to be free from anything in the nature of a suspicion attaching to it.

From the evidence of Goldsborough and that of Macdermott, who also gave his testimony under a conditional pardon, it appears that these two, with the prisoner O'Hara, and Bellew, while drinking at the canteen, agreed to go out shooting pigs that night, and that for this purpose they left armed with two rifles, and with some ammunition which they somehow obtained.

There appears no reason to doubt that the object of the expedition was, as stated by these witnesses, the pursuit of sport. They had, however, been drinking at the barracks and appear to have been all of them more or less intoxicated when they left, and they seem soon to have forgotten their original object and to have gone in quest of drink. They went towards the village of Gouripore, having left the barracks about 10-30 P.M. On the way they stopped at the

house of one Boothnath, woke him and demanded toddy. He took them to a toddy-seller, Ajudia Passi, who gave them some toddy. They next stopped at a druggist's shop on their way, broke into it, took from it a bottle of Eno's salt and some other article of small value. After a while, they went to the house of the deceased, found him lying on his verandah and asked him for toddy. Up to this point the evidence of the two witnesses, generally agrees with that of Boothnath, of Ajudia Passi, of Mataboodin, owner of the dispensary, and of Beta Bebee, widow of the deceased; of these only Boothnath identifies any of the party, an identification upon which we are unable to rely.

The party soon after, according to these witnesses, left the house of the deceased. Goldsborough says O'Hara pulled deceased along. Macdermott says "He came out of his own accord, so far as I know, on our asking him for toddy." They all went, with the deceased, to a tank about 30 or 35 yards to the south of the deceased's house.

As to what happened on their arrival at that place, there is no evidence adduced, save that of Goldsborough. It was stated at the trial by both Goldsborough and Macdermott, that the latter went on in front of the party, and according to their evidence, he was some distance ahead (how far is not distinctly stated) when what Goldsborough narrates is said by him to have taken place.

Goldsborough *alias* Taylor's statement is as follows:—"The man was sleeping in the verandah, with a mosquito-curtain over him. We asked him for toddy. O'Hara asked. O'Hara pulled him along. Macdermott was in front, Bellew next, O'Hara with the native, and I was last.

"When we got near to a tank the native started murmuring and O'Hara shoved him into the tank up to his waist in water, and whilst he was in the water he murmured again. O'Hara dropped on his knee and fired at him: the man appeared to have been hit: he shouted and threw up his hands. At the moment O'Hara fired I was three yards away. Bellew was a half left turn facing O'Hara. Bellew was 10 or 15 yards from O'Hara. Macdermott was in front still walking on. No one did anything to prevent the native being shoved into the tank. I asked him, O'Hara, 'to get up and not to do it; if anything happened there would be a terrible row.' He said 'Never mind, there are plenty more of the black bastards.' He loaded after he shoved the native into the tank. He was putting the round into the chamber in the act of kneeling. There was a second shot fired by O'Hara a little distance from the tank, after the native had been fired at. At the time O'Hara fired the first shot, the other rifle was in Bellew's hand. Up to the time the native was hit, I had not a rifle in my hands, nor had Macdermott, since he handed his to O'Hara. The native was about 10 yards off when O'Hara fired at him. The native was up to his waist in water. He was on a lower level. O'Hara's second shot was fired at nothing. I did not see when he loaded the second time. I think Bellew's rifle was first loaded, after leaving the tank, on the main road. We passed round another small tank, then took a southerly direction for a long distance. We got some more toddy. I got up trees for it. We went on and took a turn to the left, and came to a tope of trees and we all four fired at chatties. We each one loaded a rifle as we wanted to fire. I got a rifle from Bellew, and used one of my own cartridges. I gave O'Hara one or two more cartridges. I fired two or three shots. We went on and came out on the Jessore road again. When I had fired I handed the rifle back to Bellew, left empty cartridges there. When we came out [on Jessore Road] we sat down and drank toddy. We got on a cart to ride part of the way and got into barracks. It was about 2-30 A.M., when we got back to barracks. I sat on the steps for 10 minutes and unlaced my boots and went to bed."

The moon was full on that date. It was a bright night: and at that time of the night the moon must have been high.

Therefore Goldsborough's story is that, in bright light, the three men, namely, he, O'Hara, and Bellew being so close together, this desperate murder was committed by O'Hara, who before their eyes, knelt down, loading as he did so, and fired upon the deceased.

Macdermott says:—

"The native left the house with us four. I led out first. When I got on the road I found there was no one with me. He came out of his own accord so far as I know, on our asking him for toddy. I did not look back to see how the others were coming. I got to a pond and went past it. I can't say whether we passed another. We got out on the road from the path. I remember passing only one pond. I do not remember passing two ponds. I came till I got to a road which turned to the right. I heard two shots fired, after which I turned round to look for my comrades. I walked, went towards them up to the tank I noticed. I went about fifteen yards. I found my three comrades. I had not my senses properly at the time. I looked for the native, and saw him standing out in the pond. I asked my comrades whether they gave him a swim. They made no reply; they were laughing. We came away on to the main road again. We had to go back 40 or 50 yards from this spot to get into the main road. We then turned again to our right. I could not say who had the rifle. I swear I do not know in whose hands the rifles were when I went back to the pond. We then saw some toddy trees to the left, and I went up a tree to take toddy down.

**Holloway's Ointment and Pills.**—Travellers and Emigrants.—Those who cross the seas change the climate, but they do not change the constitution. The altered conditions of life, the exigencies of travel and other causes render the traveller and emigrant peculiarly liable to diseases and accidents when far from efficient medical aid. With these associated remedies at hand they may be said to have a physician always at their call, and they may be certain that situations will be constantly arising in which they will require a ready resource in time of need. The directions for use which accompany each box and pot of Holloway's Pills and Ointment are written in plain and simple language, and are applicable in all cases.

I did not get it down, but Taylor did. We got two chatties which we took home. I carried them. Taylor told me to come down, as I knew nothing about it. I carried both chatties. He got both down."

That is the evidence given by these two witnesses in their direct examination. In cross-examination Macdermott said—"The two shots were fired rapidly; there was no time to load between them; but they were not together. There was just an interval of clapping hands between them." The widow of the deceased states that her husband was brought into the house at what time of the night she does not say by her mother-in-law and one Luchman, and that he died about daybreak. Luchman was examined for the prosecution, but gave no evidence as to his bringing the deceased into the house. There is nothing to show how, or when he got back to his house.

The medical evidence shows that the death of the deceased was caused by a wound inflicted by one bullet, fired, in the opinion of the Surgeon, from a higher elevation than where the deceased was when he was struck by it, and from a distance of about 10 yards. This bullet entered about 2½ inches above the right collar bone, passed through the left lung out at the left side and broke the left arm of the deceased. Death was caused by internal hemorrhage.

It need hardly be observed that, when it is said that the evidence of an accomplice needs corroboration, it does not by any means necessarily follow that his evidence, when corroborated, ought to be or will be accepted. In that case we are of opinion that even were we to take it that in some of the less important parts of his story Goldsborough is corroborated, his evidence is not, on the whole, such as could be safely acted on.

In several points Goldsborough's evidence is without corroboration:—

1. That Macdermott handed the rifles to O'Hara at the start of the expedition.

2. That he handed ammunition to O'Hara near the dispensary; a statement which he admits he did not make to the magistrate, but made for the first time at the trial.

3. That O'Hara laid hold of deceased and pulled him along; save that the widow does say that one of the soldiers seized him by the arm.

4. That O'Hara shoved deceased into the tank.

5. That he knelt down, loading his rifle in the act, and fired, shooting the deceased.

It is not necessary to deal with contradictions, of which some exist, in the evidence of Goldsborough. He has certainly by his own admissions mended his evidence since his first going before

the magistrate. At the trial he admitted that his evidence there differed, from what he had at first said, in several respects. At first he said Bellew led the party when going to the tank; he now says that Macdermott went first: a change which obviously made a serious difference in the case as to Bellew.

It was at the trial that he, for the first time, said that O'Hara loaded as he was in the act of dropping on his knees: it was then, also, that he first said that he had supplied O'Hara with any cartridges.

But there is a contradiction between his story and that of the other witness Macdermott which is such as to exclude the possibility of acting on Goldsborough's evidence. Macdermott deposes to two shots close together, while the party were at the tank and before he returned to it. Goldsborough's story is wholly inconsistent with this; he states positively that one shot only was fired at that time, and that it was the first shot which was fired after they left the deceased man's house. If Macdermott is speaking the truth, Goldsborough swears what is untrue, and it is quite impossible that this can be either by mistake or for any other innocent reason. If that second shot was fired, why did Goldsborough not state it? Who fired the second rifle? Not Bellew, for Goldsborough did not say so. Who else?

We cannot reject Macdermott's statement; and we think this inconsistency in the case for the prosecution renders it impossible to accept and act on Goldsborough's evidence of what passed at the tank, unless it be confirmed by other evidence, which it is not.

The conclusion is that the conviction for the crime of murder cannot be supported: and under the circumstances we consider that there is no proper course to be taken in this case save to quash the conviction and set aside the judgment and sentence.

W. COMER PETHERAM.  
H. T. PRINSEP.  
JONES Q. PIGOT.  
W. MACPHERSON.

Mar. 12, 1890.

NORRIS, J.—I have endeavoured to consider this case in the light in which I should have directed the jury to regard it, if I had properly directed them that Goldsborough was an accomplice, and in that light I have been unable to rely upon Goldsborough's testimony and I do not find in Macdermott's evidence sufficient corroboration to warrant my acting upon it.

JOHN F. NORRIS.

Mar. 12, 1890.

## CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

### A SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CALCUTTA,

WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL,

on Thursday next, the 27th March 1890,  
at 3 P.M.

### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To sanction the Health Officer's application for privilege leave for five weeks from the 17th April next.

2. To consider the Budget estimates of income and expenditure for the year 1890-91, as modified by the General Committee, and to fix the rates at which the rates and taxes shall be imposed for the year commencing the 1st April next, in accordance with Section 71 Act II (B. C.) of 1888.

3. To confirm the following resolution passed by the General Committee on the 15th of February with reference to the letter of the Honorary Secretaries to the Albert Victor Permanent Memorial Fund of the 7th idem, viz., that the Commissioners warmly sympathise with the objects of the Permanent Memorial Committee and will render all reasonable co-operation in their power as soon as the scheme is sufficiently advanced to admit of their doing so.

4. To consider the proposed Bye-laws framed by the Bye-laws Committee under Section 412 Act II (B. C.) of 1888 Clauses e, f, k, l, m and n.

5. To sanction the grant to Hurrish Chunder Dutt of a renewal of his license to store jute at No. 58 Goureebore Lane.

6. The Chairman to lay upon the table Fire-brigade Budget for the year ending 31st March 1891, approved by the General Committee on the 1st instant.

7. To confirm the proceedings of the General Committee at Meetings held on the 1st and 8th March 1890.

8. To confirm the proceedings of the Suburban Improvement Committee at a Meeting held on the 7th March 1890.

9. To confirm the proceedings of the Complaints Committee at a Meeting held on the 5th March 1890.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation.

21st March 1890.

## CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed Tenders for supply of Miscellaneous Stores during the Quarter ending 30th June next inst. will be received by the Vice-Chairman, and will be opened by him in the presence of tenderers who may wish to attend at 2 P.M., on the 27th instant.

2. Forms of Tender and copies of lists of Stores required can be had on application.

UDOYNARAIN SINGHA,

Superintendent of Stores.

20th March, 1890.

## JUST PUBLISHED.

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OF THE  
SPEECHES AND THE SPEAKERS

AT THE

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Held at Allahabad.

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## ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Alipore, March 1890.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of Miscellaneous stores more or less as may be required, for the year 1890-91.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees 100 as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to execute a bond and to give security in Government Promissory Notes or cash for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 24th March 1890 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

W. H. MACKESY, Colonel,  
Superintendent, Army Clothing.

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(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,

Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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CALCUTTA.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tired

of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing

in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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The steamer THIKAK of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 1st prox. (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. on Saturday the 29th inst.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND  
REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1890.

No. 417

## THE SAGE AND THE NYMPH.

A TALE FROM THE SANSKRIT.

BENEATH a fig tree's spreading shade,  
A holy Sage his dwelling made !  
Of twisted reeds and tendrils wove,  
And grass and broad leaves strewed above,  
The sultry noon to intercept,  
Or noxious night dews as he slept.  
But noon or eve, in cold or heat,  
The tree's fantastic root his seat,  
He pored upon the sacred book,  
Or pondered how from fleshly nook  
To weed away, as deadly sin  
All feeling of the man within,  
Or good or bad ; the heart that chains  
To this world's pleasures, or its pains !  
That from such vile corruption free  
His spirit far from earth should flee,  
For ever from existence mounting  
Back to its pure primæval fountain.

In no unkindliness to man,  
Markanda's life austere began.  
No deed of violence repented,  
No hope deceived, no wrong resented ;  
Nor age, affecting to deplore  
The follies it can share no more.  
Scarce had he traversed half the span  
That destiny has fixed for man,  
Though lonely thoughts and hermit's fare,  
Had done the work of time and care,  
And on his furrow'd brow appears,  
The vestige of declining years.  
Not distant from his cottage lay  
A city, whence some few would pay  
A visit to the Hermit's cell,  
For counsel sage or magic spell ;  
And in requital carry there,  
Milk, curds, or fruit, to aid his fare :  
Whilst near at hand, a bubbling tide,  
Meet beverage for his meals supplied.

Once, as at dawn, upon his mat,  
Before his hut, Markanda sat,  
In meditation plunged profound  
On man and life, a buzzing sound,  
Of voices came—he raised his eyes  
And marked with calm but deep surprise,  
A female train that through the wood  
Came hurrying, and before him stood.  
Of costlier garb, and prouder mien,  
Two dames before the rest were seen ;  
The one of matron form and face,  
The other rich with every grace

That beauty in its blossom heightens,  
And youth with glow unfaded brightens.  
Her eyes upon the ground were cast  
In modest mood, and pensive past  
Across her cheek, a sober shade  
Of thought, where smiles had fitter played.  
The features of the dame expressed,  
Some stormy passion swelled her breast ;  
Which thus in sobbing accents broke,  
As trembling, to the Sage she spoke :—

" Most reverend Sir, if I have ever  
The laws our faith instils received ;  
And a devout and firm believer,  
In all our Brahmins teach, believed :—

" If duly at the morning hour,  
Mid-noon, or at the sun's decline,  
My humble offering, fruit, or flower,  
Hath still been laid at holy shrine :—

" If I have held the ' gods of earth,\*'  
In reverence like the gods of heaven ;  
And ever, at my widow'd hearth,  
A hospitable welcome given :—

" So may you listen to my prayers,  
So to my earnest suit attend ;  
Or thence, at least, a mother's cares,  
To hear with pity condescend.

" This girl has, from her infant years,  
Been cherished as my dearest treasure ;  
The object of my hopes and fears,  
My only care, my only pleasure :

" Confiding that maturity  
Would a sure recompense confer,  
And that her age would yield to me,  
All that in youth I gave to her.

" The gods had gracious done their part,  
And crown'd her days with health and beauty ;  
'Twas mine to see, that taste, and art,  
And talent, should perform their duty.

" To read, to write, to paint, to dress,  
To dance, to sing, to sound the lute ;  
And with the rolling eye express,  
What hearts would say, when tongues are mute ;

" All this, and use of varied speech,  
And skill in various games, was taught her :  
All that to courtly maids they teach,  
My anxious love secured my daughter—

\* The Brahmins are so entitled.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

"Secured in vain, for now she flies  
This life's enjoyments with disdain :  
Her sole desire, in heavenly skies  
To dwell, and ne'er be born again :

"And distant from the world's delusion,  
Her graces and her charms to hide,  
She seeks some thicket's dark seclusion  
With bears and lions to abide.—

"But tell, oh tell her, thoughts of heaven  
Should not in tender maids have birth ;  
Who, like the stars of night are given  
To scatter light and love on earth."—

[To be continued.]

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

WE have much pleasure in laying before the lovers of poetry the opening of an ancient Aryan story, rendered in English verse by a distinguished writer. More when we complete it.

THE Viceroy leaves Calcutta tomorrow at 6-15 P.M., Calcutta time. The departure will be private—a kindness to the would-be satellites which will scarcely be appreciated. His Excellency visits Saharanpore, Dehra, Mussoorie and Chakrata, and arrives at Simla on or about the end of April. The legislature in India has thought fit to abolish the sabbath, and Governors do not mind travelling on Sundays. Lord Lansdowne will be accompanied by Lady Lansdowne, Colonel J. C. Ardagh, C.B., Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Surgeon-Major E. H. Fenn, Surgeon to the Viceroy, Captain H. A. Pakenham, A.D.C., Captain G. C. Lister, A.D.C., Mr. F. W. Latimer, and Lord William Beresford. The last will be with the Viceroy till only the 18th April, when the Military Secretary goes on leave. The Viceregal Court will, we are sure, feel the separation—and all who have to deal with, or come within the influence of, the Court. The Mastership of Ceremonies may not be a great thing, but it is a most delicate office, and a perfect master of ceremonies is as valuable as it is a rare possession. Lord William was such a master by virtue of his unceremoniousness—his straightforward handling of matters and his frank genial courtesy. He was no wise old world ass of a Polonius, but a downright English gentleman. We can say this without suspicion of flattery now he is going away, possibly for good. We may add that we speak from observation and from credible report, not having ourself the honour of his Lordship's personal acquaintance.

To perpetuate the memory of the visit of Prince Albert Victor of Wales to India, the 1st Regiment of Punjab Cavalry, Punjab Frontier Force, will in future be known as "The 1st (Prince Albert Victor's Own) Regiment of Punjab Cavalry."

SOME of the English papers report that "a religious American millionaire has offered the Sultan of Turkey the sum of one hundred thousand dollars on condition that he will embrace the Christian faith." This is characteristically national. In America, we have a people who professing Christianity believe in the Almighty Dollar. As for the hard-pressed monarch of insolvent Turkey, there need be no doubt about the reception of the cool proposition. We can already see the unspeakable Chief of an unspeakable people grinning and cursing audibly—*the Kambakht and Kafir!*

THE Duke of Seville, for speaking disrespectfully of Queen Christina of Spain, was condemned to a fortress from which he escaped. Her Majesty has now made a virtue of necessity, and pardoned the Duke.

IN Sicily, four ruffians got into a train when leaving the station of Ficcarazze, and, entering one of the baggage-waggons, bound the guard and porter in charge of the luggage, broke open a chest, took £,000 lire and goods valued at 4,000 lire, and decamped before the train could reach the station of Palermo.

HERE is the latest revelation of the criminal progress of Christendom, and it is startling enough in all conscience!

"The body of a man, aged about thirty, was found recently in a wood near Princeton, Canada, and it was clear that the deceased had been murdered. The corpse has been identified as that of Mr. Frederick C. Benwell, an Englishman, who arrived in New York in the *Britannic* on Feb. 1. He travelled with a young man named Pelley and with a married couple named Burchell, all going to the Niagara Falls. On leaving there Mr. Benwell went to London, Ontario, for the purpose of buying a farm, and was not heard of again till his dead body was discovered. A statement made in connection with the murder tends to show that a plot was concocted in England to lure young men to Canada, and there murder them for their money. The name of the man Burchell, who has been arrested on suspicion, is prominently mentioned in this statement. Mr. Benwell is said to be the son of a Colonel Benwell, living at Cheltenham; and Mr. Pelley, who travelled with Mr. Benwell and the Burchells, is described as the son of an English clergyman."

The feats of the poor Indian Badmashes in their palmy days pale before the elaborate, circumstantial and sustained villainy of these enlightened and refined Thugs.

IT is said that the Czar has prohibited the Princess Dolgorouki, the morganatic wife of his late father, and her family from re-entering Russia. She also ceases to own the Russian estates given her by the late Czar, valued at thirty million roubles. She will be allowed a full compensation of fifteen million roubles for the loss of the estates—according to the arithmetic and equity of Autocracy.

A PERSIAN letter intimates that the Czar soon visits his Central Asian provinces, where preparations are making for his reception.

HERE is a providential escape :—

"While two children were playing near the top of the cliff at Auchmutie, Arbroath, they slipped, and rolled down a glassy slope that terminates in a perpendicular precipice. Several persons who witnessed the accident hastened down to the beach, expecting to find the mangled bodies of the children. They were, however, amazed to find the little ones on their feet and practically uninjured, their only injuries being a few slight scratches. The height of the cliff, according to the Ordnance Survey Map, is 145 feet."

Age might have sustained, under the circumstances, a series of fractures, simple and compound, to say nothing of the nervous shock, the giddiness, and the rest of it.

A RARE phenomenon was visible at St. Malo on the 5th March. Between four and five in the afternoon, a little above the western horizon, in a row, were seen three suns. The central luminary shone with unwonted brilliancy, and the other two supporters darted rays of all the prismatic colours. Simultaneously, at a little distance, a rainbow shewed itself upside down, with its convex towards the horizon.

MR. William O'Brien, M.P., *vs.* Lord Salisbury is still hanging fire. There was judgment for the defendant, and a new trial was refused by the Divisional Court. The plaintiff applied and has obtained time for entering an appeal against the decision of the Divisional Court, on giving security for costs for 100*l.* There was opposition on behalf of the defendant, on the ground that the plaintiff was an impecunious man and ample security should be taken if time was granted. It appears that Lord Salisbury has already borne heavy costs, namely, at the Manchester trial 3,500*l.* in the Divisional Court 250*l.*

British justice seems as costly at Home as Abroad. Had Lord Salisbury been Governor-General of India, or for that matter an Assistant Magistrate or Collector or Sub-Opium Agent or a District Superintendent of Police in India, instead of a maker of Indian rulers that he is, he would not have to pay a farthing out of his own pocket. That is a material difference—for the taxpayers.

THE High Court has revised the Rules for the admission of Advocates. The old Rules, dated the 1st of July, 1874, have been repealed and the new ones came into effect from the 1st March 1890. Any person entitled to practise as a Barrister in England or Ireland, or as an Advocate in the principal Courts of Scotland, who is of good character, may be admitted as an advocate of the Calcutta High Court. He must apply by letter to the Registrar, Original Side, and file along with testimonials to character a certificate testifying to his eligibility to practise as a Barrister or an Advocate in the United Kingdom. If the Judges accept him, he will be admitted on payment of the admission fee. He will be awarded a certificate of admission under

the signature of the Registrar and the seal of the Court. Any Advocate may, on the payment of a fee of Rs. 5 in Court fee stamps obtain a certificate, under the same signature and seal, showing that his name is borne on the roll of Advocates of the Calcutta High Court. The names of Advocates are to be entered alphabetically on a roll and kept by the Registrar, Original Side, and to be open to all persons for inspection without fee or reward.

**SURGEON-General Sir Benjamin Simpson, M.D., K.C.I.E.,** retires from the service from this date, without any other appreciation by the Government of India of his past services than that evidenced by the knighthood conferred previously. Deputy Surgeon-General W. R. Rice, M.D., Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, N.W. Provinces, takes Dr. Simpson's place as Surgeon-General and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

**Mr. Gay, Comptroller-General,** is more fortunate. He goes on furlough for nineteen months and a half from the 16th April 1890, and probably does not rejoin. The Governor-General in Council in anticipation of his retirement, records "his high appreciation of the public services rendered by Mr. Gay."

**Mr. C. J. O'Donnell, C. S.,** has recovered caste, and has been placed in charge, as Superintendent, of the Census Operations from the 1st April, 1890.

**DURING** the absence, on privilege leave, of Mr. G. H. Simmons, Mr. J. H. Apjohn will act as Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust. Mr. C. E. Symth's time on that Board is up, and the Chamber of Commerce has elected Mr. H. B. H. Turner in his place.

**THE** next Half-yearly Departmental Examination of Assistants and Deputy Magistrates and of Officers of the Police, Jail, Medical and Forest Departments in the Chota Nagpore Division will begin at Ranchi, on the 21st April next.

**THE** First Half-yearly Examination of Compounders will commence, at the Temple Medical School at Bankipore on the 7th April.

**ANOTHER** development of the Post Office of India. From the 1st April 1890, parcels may be exchanged between India and South Australia on terms and conditions applicable to parcels addressed to Victoria, Australia.

#### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to extraordinary pressure on our space, we are compelled to decline or to postpone many communications of interest, as to pass over several topics. Our respected correspondent "An Observer" (Panihati) who writes on the silver difficulty must wait till next week.

#### NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

**BOTH** the Queen and the Prince of Wales are away on the Continent. The Queen left Portsmouth on the 25th instant and arrived at Aix-les-Bains yesterday. Prince George of Wales completed on the 20th March his special course of gunnery instruction on board the *Excellent* at Portsmouth, and has gone to Germany in the company of his father to witness the military manœuvres. The Prince of Wales and his son arrived at Berlin on the 21st, and were received at the station by the Emperor, the Royal Princes and Empress Frederick. There was a banquet at night. In proposing the visitor's health, the Emperor eulogised the Army and Navy of England and repeated the hope, he expressed while in England, that the English Army and Navy would always act in concert with Germany in the interests of peace. Next day, the 22nd, there was a Grand Chapter of the Order of the Black Eagle, and Prince George of Wales was decorated along with various members of the Diplomatic Service and statesmen. On the 24th, there was an inspection of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland's Own Dragoon Regiment, after which the Emperor William and the Prince of Wales dined with the officers. The Emperor drank, amid much enthusiasm, the toast of the Queen, the Honorary Chief of the Regiment. There

was a dinner too at the British Embassy, at which the Prince of Wales and the Emperor proposed each other's health and wished the two nations continued prosperity. Prince Albert Victor of Wales, who has just finished his tour in India, has been admitted as a Major in the German *Blucher Hussars* of which the Prince of Wales is Colonel.

**PRINCE** Bismarck has taken farewell of his Emperor. They parted in all cordiality. The Emperor embraced and kissed the Prince. The retired Chancellor will bear the title of Duke as his second title. The Prince of Wales, now on a visit to the Emperor, has lunched with Prince Bismarck. Count Herbert Bismarck has also given up the Foreign Secretaryship, and Caprivi succeeds both father and son. Emperor William has assured Emperor Francis Joseph that the new Chancellor will preserve the triple alliance existing between Germany, Austria and Italy. General Caprivi and Counts Kalnoky and Crispi will shortly hold a conference.

**THE** Berlin Labour Conference closes to-day. At Koenigsberg—a suburb of Berlin—a workmen's meeting to discuss the eight-hours' question, waxed warm and developed into a riot. The gendarmes were called in to restore order. They charged and wounded several of the crowd, and the crowd hurt two of the gendarmes.

**MR.** Balfour, the Irish Secretary, has introduced the Irish Land Purchase Bill. He proposes to amalgamate the Landed Estates' Court and the Land Commissioners' Board of Works into the Land Department for the purposes of the Act. He prescribes 20 years' purchase at a net rent without arrears. The Government advances three millions, which is secured upon a county contribution, the tenant paying four per cent. annuity. When the grant is exhausted, it will be re-advanced as it is repaid, thereby securing a perpetual fund. A separate treatment is suggested for congested areas. The measure is permissive, not compulsory. Mr. Gladstone pronounced it the most complex ever introduced into the House of Commons, but thought it ought not to be made a party question. The second reading has been fixed for 14th April next.

**THERE** was serious rioting on Thursday, the 22nd, among the students of the Moscow University. They demanded certain reforms in regulations which were refused. Five hundred arrests were made. Troops are guarding the neighbourhood, and traffic is forbidden. The students are found implicated with the Army officers in a plot against the Czar.

**THE** House of Lords has adopted without a division the report of the Parnell Commission. The Gladstonian-Liberals did not vote, but recorded a protest against the adoption.

**OXFORD** has beat Cambridge in the boat race. Both boats led alternately, Cambridge had won the toss and had the best position. The race is said to have been the finest ever known. The weather was lovely, and the crowd of spectators vast. Cambridge was a strong favorite but Oxford, after a severe contest, proved superior by one length.

**UNCOVERING** the head for salute has been abolished in the British Navy. Perhaps, it is considered an unhealthy custom, exposing the saluter to cold. The Admiralty have ordered that instead of raising the hat, a sailor shall salute his officers after the military fashion, but with the side of the hand not the palm to the front. An Army Order prohibits quartermasters of cavalry to wear the cocked hat, but allows them to assume "the full-dress head-dress worn by other officers of their respective regiments."

**FLOOD** and fire have made a sad havoc in America. A disastrous cyclone has devastated the Ohio valley from Cincinnati to Cairo. There is disaster at Louisville. Eight hundred lives have been lost, three hundred houses demolished, the City Hall with 300 dancers overthrown, and the railway station blown bodily into the raging waters of the Ohio. The falling of houses was followed by fire which added to the confusion and death. The dykes at Greenville, Mississippi, are strained to the utmost, and a fresh disaster is expected every moment.



AUSTRIA has decided to spend four million florins on smokeless powder, and the Minister for War has the command of the Emperor to apply to the Delegations for the grant.

OLD Europe is wont to "chaff" young America as "go-ahead." But the sneer invariably recoils upon the sneerer. There is not a smarter fellow under the sun than Cousin Jonathan. There is not a more knowing Government than that of Uncle Sam. Take Alaska, and compare its Past and its Present! Paradoxical, not to say absurd, as it may sound, it was not without extreme unwillingness that Europe voluntarily delivered that country into American possession. Alaska was an appanage of the House of Romanoff—a Province of the Great Northern Empire. It was one of the Russias of which the Czar is the Autocrat. But it was no good—of no more use than to swell the already swollen titles and possessions of that Sovereign. It lay a dead weight on his hands. It was a weakness to the state—a drain on its resources. It did not pay its own way. The statesmen of Russia were heartily sick of it. Yet they had not the heart to give it up. Earth-hunger is a well-known Muscovite weakness. The idea of empire over all the Continents of the Northern Hemisphere was dear to the Russian imagination, and the fact no doubt conferred prestige on the Power. At last, under the financial stress of the last war, Russia disposed of her America for a consideration. She cemented her friendship with the Great Republic of North America by making it over to the latter.

The courts of Europe thought that the Czar had made a bargain, though he got less than 2 million pounds for a vast territory. Of course, the suggestion was that Uncle Sam had been "done in the eye"—as the vulgar phrase goes—by the wily Bear. The question was asked, what will Uncle Sam do with it? But Sam always knows what he is about. And, besides, he has the gift of making good out of evil, if necessary. He did not covet Alaska for a mere costly feather in his diadem. He would not maintain the white elephant like a living god for magnificent worship, but has made it work for him and his as an honest beast. Alaska was purchased from Russia by the United States for 7,200,000 dols. Under the last lease, these islands of what was formerly known in geography as Russian America yielded a revenue of 6,350,000 dols on fur seals. The new lease is expected to secure 20,000,000 dols, or an annual revenue of about 1,000,000 dols. We wish our Government might take a leaf out of the book of American statesmanship.

THE extraordinary overproduction of silver in our generation has caused a currency difficulty throughout the civilised world. That difficulty is nowhere so embarrassing as in America, where the production has been greatest. The Americans are, however, showing the Old World a good example of intelligent activity in dealing with the crisis. After a series of delicate negotiations, they have appointed delegates from all the States of their Continent to meet and discuss the subject and, if possible, find out a remedy. The latest news is that a Committee of the Pan-American Congress recommends the coinage of a common silver dollar for legal tender for all American nations and the issue by the United States of certificates on bullion deposited by the people of the Central or South American States. It is expected that the said Congress will adopt these suggestions.

WE have been able to gather the following stray bits of economic and commercial information from various sources, and lay them before the reader for what they are worth. In the issue of the 13th May 1888, the "London and China Telegraph" has the following note:—

"Of late shark-fishing has been usually successful on the Java coast. The flesh of these creatures, hard and tough as it is, finds ready sale as an article of food. Salted and dried, it answers among the natives as relish to rice. Shark's fins also meet demand among the Chinese, who look upon them as strengthening diet."

If measures were taken on a large scale for catching sharks in and about India, our ordinary fish supply would be appreciably augmented, while the dried and salted sharks themselves furnished an addition of cheap food for the million.

MR. G. Strachey, Her Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires at Dresden, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 11th May 1888, with respect to the sale of cocoanut butter in Saxony, says:—

"The local sanitary police decided some time since that the regulations of the margarine law were applicable to cocoanut butters. On the complaint of some Munnheim makers of the article, the provincial authorities quashed this decision as illegal."

They ruled that a cocoanut butter, being on analysis to be in the nature of a pure vegetable fat, was not a preparation similar to animal butters in the sense of the margarine law. This surrogate might, therefore, lawfully bear the designation of cocoanut butter and could be sold without restriction."

Where are cocoanut butters in India? Ghee having been abolished, we badly want an honest substitute.

AGAIN, the Earl of Lytton, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 3rd May 1889, encloses copy of a decree of the French President, applying to Guadeloupe the law of the 4th March 1887 and the official regulations of the 8th May 1888, relative to the repression of the frauds in the sale of butters.

THE following particulars respecting the egg trade of Denmark are extracted from a report to the Foreign Office, dated the 15th April last, by Mr. Conway Thornton, Her Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires at Copenhagen, and issued as a Memorandum by the Agricultural Department of the Privy Council:—

"About the year 1866-67 the total exportation of egg from Denmark is stated to have been, annually, about 45,000 score, with a declared value of 32,400 kroner, Danish money, equivalent to 1,800/ sterling.

In the year 1877 the total had risen to 944,000 score, at a value of 925,000 kroner, or 51,388/.

In the year 1885 the number exported was 3,624,480 score, representing a value of kroner 3,359,893 or 186,660/ nearly.

In 1886 the figures given are 4,650,500 score, value in kroner 4,030,121 or 223,895/ nearly, and in 1887 5,546,725 score valued at kroner 4,725,255 or about 262,514/."

A COMMUNICATION, dated the 6th May last, encloses to the Secretary of the London Office of the Inspectorate General of Chinese Maritime Customs, a statement, from which it appears that the number of foreign type merchant vessels owned by Chinese at the Treaty Ports on 31st December 1888 was 135, with a total displacement of 34,426 tons. Of this total, 72, with a tonnage of 9,910 tons, were sailing vessels, and 63, with a tonnage of 26,519 tons, were steamers.

THE President of the Stockton-on-Tees Chamber of Commerce, at the annual meeting, said that the Teeside salt field now covered an area of 11 square miles of the average thickness of 70 feet. In some places the stratum was even 100 feet thick, and there every acre contained 200,000 tons of salt. According to him, there was sufficient salt in the district to supply the whole world for 800 years.

A GENTLEMAN of the name of Leiner, who had formerly been in the army and risen to majority, was serving a tradesman—a beer agent—as an office clerk in Vienna. One day, coming out of a bank after cashing for his master 37,600 florins and putting them in his pocket-book, he suddenly fainted and fell down insensible. On recovering soon after, he missed the money, pocket-book and all. Some one must have taken advantage of his helplessness, he declared, to purloin the pocket-book. The Police suspected Leiner himself, to the derision of his master who believed his clerk incapable of theft. Leiner afterwards issued an advertisement allowing the purloiner or possessor of the note-book with its contents, the option of keeping for his own use and enjoyment 7,600 florins if he just quietly, without disclosing himself, returned him by post the balance, 30,000 florins. We must here, for the sake of what follows, give the very words of the account which is going the round:—

"After writing several letters he went in an omnibus to the Central Cemetery, and, standing on the grave of his first wife, he shot himself dead with a revolver. Early in the afternoon his employer received an unpaid letter, which when opened was found to contain the 30,000 florins. The address was printed, and cut from one of the advertisements published in the morning. Had the poor fellow waited a few hours longer before committing suicide the proof of his innocence would have been seen from the letter. There are, however, some persons who think that it was he who, before shooting himself, put the money into the post office."

These "some persons" are a horrible lot, many, we are afraid, imagine. We confess we incline to think *with* the "horribles;" they have a truer appreciation of that living paradox, man, and show an insight into the deeper mysteries of our nature. For us, however, at this distance, depending on a meagre scrap of fifth-hand report, there are special difficulties in arriving at a confident conclusion. The very chronology of the transaction is defective. It is not clear whether Leiner shot himself the very morning the advertisement appeared. If that was the case, poor Leiner's memory must remain forever burdened with the Pelion upon Ossa of reproach—the suspicion of having sealed treacherous larceny with suicidal blood.

MR. Labouchere has labelled the Premier as—Untruth thy name is Salisbury. In addressing a meeting in North St. Pancras on March 1, the day after his suspension from the House of Commons for systematically refusing to withdraw the offensive expression that he did not believe Lord Salisbury, he said :—

"It was a matter of the most absolute indifference to him what the majority in the House decided in regard to him or upon many other more important subjects. He regarded the majority of the House of Commons as the most disreputable crew of men that ever Providence in His wrath inflicted upon a people. Why was he suspended? The House of Commons seemed to think that the members for Northampton should be very believing men. The House of Commons not many years ago expelled his colleague because he did not believe in things heavenly; they suspended him (Mr. Labouchere) because he would not believe in things of the earth, earthy. He declined to believe in the Marquess of Salisbury. He would like to see the Conservative who would stand up and say on his honour that he believed one single word the Marquess of Salisbury ever said. When people wanted to say that a person was telling a lie, and wished to say it civilly, they said, 'You tell a Salisbury.' He thought Lord Salisbury, when he (Mr. Labouchere) said he would not believe him, would consider it a delicate flattery. Everybody liked to excel in some particular character. Lord Salisbury's speciality was that he could not tell one single word of truth."

At another meeting, to influence the same election in favor of a rival candidate, Lord George Hamilton remarked :—

"He devoted his attention to what he called the deplorable incidents of the previous night in Parliament, and after describing what took place said that while the debate was in progress he said to his neighbour, 'Why is our time thus taken up with such things?' 'Oh,' was the reply, 'do not you know what it is done for? It is to influence the North St. Pancras election.' He found that was the general opinion in the lobbies, and he saw that night that Mr. Labouchere was advertised to address a meeting in St. Pancras. They must recollect that since Mr. Labouchere had been in political life he had been playing the same game. Personal calumny and mendacious title-tattle were the weapons with which he fought. If his career were cut short the whole thing to be said of him would be that he had devoted his life to making personal calumny profitable. If they returned Mr. Graham at the head of the poll, not only would they be doing great service in maintaining the unity of the Empire, but a still greater service in striking a deadly blow at the malpractices of political black-guardism. It was regrettable that any section of a political party should ever sink to such methods."

But Labouchere, however, won the day. The election turned in favor of Mr. Bolton (G. R.) by 108 votes against the Conservative candidate Mr. Graham.

THE Tichborne claimant has announced that his case will be re-opened in April. A fund of 150,000*l.* has been guaranteed towards the necessary legal and other expenses. He is staying at the Plough Hotel, Far Green, Hanley, and looks remarkably well. Every evening he delivers free discourses on his last trial. He has found that of the 385 witnesses, 272 were positives and 113 negatives.

Let nobody laugh at this *Udyoga Parva* of the Tichborniad—these preparations for recommencing a lost—all too lost—game. No matter the cause has been over and over condemned, no matter the impudent Claimant has been thrice slain, his chances are not all exhausted, so long as there are subtle lawyers and incompetent judges. Law is a strange land of contradiction—of Hope and Ruin. It is a region of surprises. Nothing here is so certain as the unexpected. From what we have recently witnessed in India, we see no ground to despair of the fortunes of the adventurous butcher. It was Orton's misfortune to fall into the hands of a crazy irascible Irishman as his advocate, who in the same breath ruined both client and counsel—his own good self. Had the Claimant been advised by, say, a Charles Paul, had his case been argued and watched over by a James Woodroffe, what wonder that the perspicacity of a Coleridge would have been eclipsed!

THE Government Resolution on the Sone Canals Committee's report shows the usual difficulties of dealing with recommendations of Commissions and Committees of Enquiry, where such recommendations involve material changes of administrative principles or policy. Minor suggestions are more easily given effect to, but where more fundamental questions are in issue, a Commission may argue ever so conclusively, the Government always fight shy of its proposals. It is thus that Commissions after Commissions have sat and collected evidence and reported, without much good coming of it in the end. In the case of the Sone Canals Committee, some of the matters which it was required to report upon were of the gravest import. The complaints against the canals were not merely directed against the assessment of the water-rate or the exactions of irrigation

departmental officers, but against irrigation itself. It was alleged, for instance, that canal water has an actually deteriorating effect upon the soil, and a desire was expressed for reverting to old methods of irrigation from wells and reservoirs. An equally, if not more, serious grievance, was the injury alleged to be done by irrigation to the health of the districts by the dampness of the soil occasioned by its channels, and 2ndly by the obstruction to drainage caused by the canal embankments. These and some other equally grave matters were referred to the Committee for investigation and report. The Committee went into these questions and made enquiries with a great degree of pains and diligence.\* But *cui bono*? The Committee's finding as to the reality of the alleged grievances can hardly lead to any practical results. The Epidemic Commission similarly found the Railway Embankments to have occasioned the malaria from which the country was free before. But was it possible for the Government to do away with the Railways in order to secure the health of the people? In the same way, it is now too late to complain of the canals, which must be accepted with their evils for the measure of protection they afford in seasons of deficient rain-fall against the effects of scarcity.

THE controversy on Indian excise administration has proceeded far too long and with too much bitterness to make it desirable to pursue it any further. The Government of India have just addressed an elaborate despatch on the subject to the Secretary of State, in which they defend their excise policy from the charges formulated in the Resolution of the House of Commons passed at the instance of Messrs. Caine and Smith. The Government contend that their excise policy has always been free from the reproach laid against it, of being aimed merely at the production of a large revenue at the expense of the morals of the people. On the contrary, the principle which has formed the basis of that policy has been to check the manufacture and consumption of intoxicants by imposing upon them the highest possible duties short of prohibition. The contention may be accepted. The abstract principles that are laid down by the highest authorities in this or any other case, may be open to little objection, but the actual administration of sound principles in the hands of a subordinate agency may nevertheless be as bad as popular opinion, probably with some exaggeration, describes it to be. Look at the Income Tax for an example. If one were to read the discussions in the Supreme Council at the passing of the Income Tax Act, nothing could be more reassuring than the anxiety expressed by Hon'ble members to prevent it from being a source of hardship to classes of people who may be considered poor and who are expressly exempted from its operation. But who that has any knowledge of the proceedings of the assessing officers and even of Collectors possessed with a zeal for raising the revenue, will deny that great illegalities and hardships are committed by them in utter violation of the law and the wishes of its makers.

The same is the case with excise administration. It is satisfactory, however, that the agitation on the subject has pointedly drawn the attention of the Government of India to the weak points of the excise administration. The outstill system had for years received an encouragement which it should not have done, and the public ought now to be satisfied with the orders which have now been issued for its abolition in all populous districts. The outstill system will, of course, be retained in sparsely inhabited tracts for which the Central Distilleries are not suitable, but they will be safeguarded by proper restrictions on the capacity of the stills as well as by the fixing of a minimum price for the liquor.

THE Metropolitan Institution of Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar has sustained a heavy loss in the death of its popular Professor of English, Baboo Prasanna Kumar Lahiri, M.A. He was a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University, a Prem Chand Roy Chand Scholar, and a favorite pupil of Mr. Tawney's. Vidyasagar's experiment of carrying on his College with an exclusively native staff of teachers, owes the extent of success which has attended it, in a great part, to the deceased professor. Indeed, there must have been stuff in a man who held his own as an expounder of the higher English classics in the midst of the competition of more favored State and Missionary Institutions with their European staffs. He had a rare aptitude for his profession, and it is indeed a pleasure to hear his pupils speak enthusiastically in his praise. Babu Prasanna Kumar was quiet, modest and unostentatious in his demeanour and manners

and, withal, possessed of much true self-respect. It was his self-respecting disposition which made him shun the service of Government. Probably, he thought he could not thrive in a service in which he found people prospering by arts which were repugnant to his feelings. Outside the circle of his own students, he was more widely known as "P. K. Lahiri," the popular author of "keys" for Entrance and First Arts Courses, and even for some of the English text-books for the B. A. Examination. He made a small fortune by this means, of which he has bequeathed no inconsiderable portion for the benefit of the poor, the rest being divided among his surviving relations.

There was a meeting lately held at the Metropolitan Institution to do honor to his memory. Judging from the large attendance at this meeting, and the speeches which were delivered, one can have no doubt as to the great popularity enjoyed by the deceased. Mr. Tawney was present, and expressed the high opinion he had of Prasanna Kumar as his pupil. Mr. Tawney said that he had twice offered him an appointment in the Education Department of the Government, but he declined to accept it. But seeing the great popularity which he had won amongst the large number of students whom he had taught in a private college, he, Mr. Tawney, was not disposed to regret the choice Lahiri made of masters.

A subscription has been opened among the pupils, friends and admirers of the deceased, and the form of the memorial, which will depend on the sum raised, will be decided afterwards.

ON Thursday, in presence of a brilliant assembly of the rank, wealth, and intelligence of the land, the Viceroy, assisted by his Law Member and his Lord Lieutenant of the Province, laid the foundation of the Laboratory for the Science Association. They who were not present missed a rare enjoyment of the highest order. The ceremony was worth attending, if only to hear Dr. Sircar on his favorite topic. He almost surpassed himself on the occasion. Such an address as he delivered, is itself an event,—in India at any rate. But there was a far more agreeable surprise in store for the meeting—the announcement of the Maharaja of Vizianagram's right royal benefaction, made with right royal self-unconsciousness of doing anything extraordinary. We would willingly dwell on the subject and the scene, but between the claims of the Budget debate, the invasion of the Influenza, and other matters, we have space only to reproduce Dr. Sircar's Address. We elsewhere give the full text, which is not to be found in the morning papers.

THE epidemic known as the "Influenza" has travelled all the way from Europe to India, and has made its appearance in several towns in this country. Last week it was very bad at Bankipore. Elsewhere will be found a special account from that town giving the unpleasant details. The unwelcome disease seems to have broken out in Burrabazar of our town. The principal symptoms of the disease are head-ache, prostration, aching of the whole body, fever and severe cough.

KEDERNATH MOOKERJEE, the well-known Head Assistant of the Governor-General's Agent with the late King of Oudh, has been under suspension, as our readers are aware, for several months, while his accounts are being audited by an Auditor specially deputed for the purpose by the Accountant-General for Bengal. He had already been made to pay Rs. 8,000, about a year ago, as he was unable to account for that sum, which had come into his hands in the course of business. We now hear that the Auditor has discovered a deficit of Rs. 10,600, in the accounts. We do not know whether Kedar would be compelled to give up the remaining 2,600, or whether he would be criminally prosecuted. He is, however, a lucky fellow, as we hear he is acting as a broker, in Mr. Upton's office, in the private sale of the late King of Oudh's houses.

COMPLAINT reaches us from Natore, that the Headmaster of the local Municipal High School is bent upon abolishing Persian as the second language in that school. He has accordingly applied to the Chairman of the Municipality and he, it seems, has taken up the cause. Persian is being taught in the school, since its foundation, and there seems no very valid reason for its suppression. If it is not the Court language, it is still the language spoken and understood by educated gentlemen of the Old School in every part of India, and it will do Hindoo boys good to learn that courtly language, and bring them *en rapport* with their Mahomedan fellow-subjects. It is ignorance that divides the two, to the detriment of both and to the injury of the best inter-

ests, social and political, of their common country. There is an urgent local reason at Natore for the study. Rajshahye is a Mahomedan District. It was Mr. William Adam's educational enquiries in that part of the country so far back as the administration of Lord William Bentinck that brought out the fact of the preponderance of the Mahomedan element in the population. Now, for Mahomedans there can be no education with any pretensions to liberality without Persian.

THE Indian Councils Bill having passed through the House of Lords, without a definite recognition of the principle of election, it is not to be supposed that that matter is settled. On the contrary, it is notorious that the whole question will be reopened in the House of Commons by the Radicals. At any rate, the democratic India Reformers will make a great demonstration on the point and try hard for the adoption of election. It is no wonder, therefore, that the communities which are in a numerical minority in India, should take alarm at the prospect, and protest in advance against any such recognition of the system. We understand that the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta, the oldest Mahomedan organization in India, founded by Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur, for the social and political improvement of his community, are preparing a representation upon the subject.

WE regret to have to announce the death, on Thursday the 20th March, of the widow of the late Baboo Rakhal Chunder Mookerjee, of Boinchi. This opulent Brahman Zemindar family was founded by the remarkable and good Thakurdas, father of Rakhal, Behary and Ramlal. Boinchi, once a thriving village, has been ruined with a hundred other places by malaria. Ramlal is dragging on a miserable existence in his retreat at Monghyr. The death of the lady leaves as sole occupant of the ancestral seat her honest and amiable son, Baboo Janoki Nath Mookerjee, once a leader of fashion in Calcutta, himself a valetudinarian. Baboo Janoki Nath is the owner of the estate on which the Battle of Plassy was fought.

MR. F. B. Peacock leaves for good—in every sense—on the evening of the 15th of next month, and Sir Henry Harrison takes charge of the Board the same day and, of course, Mr. Lee comes into his shoes as Chairman of the Corporation.

MR. Brett having taken leave, Mr. Carnduff, Under-Secretary in the Bengal Office, took up the duties of Registrar, High Court, Appellate Side, to-day.

UNIVERSITY scandals will not cease. The Calcutta University, at any rate, would seem determined to imitate the Punjab University in its morals. It is now an open secret that Question papers in several of the subjects of examination had been in the hands of several of the examinees before the examination was held. Is there any Larpent here also? We trust there will be a sifting enquiry, and the culprits brought to book. Already, some easy-going people are endeavouring to hush up the matter.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1890.

### THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET.

THE debate on the Budget was, to adopt Sir Stuart Bayley's characterisation of it, one chorus of congratulation of the Finance Minister. Sir David Barbour had presented a most satisfactory balance-sheet, and naturally the Council was thrown into a happy frame of mind. Compliments and felicitations for his achievement of a good and substantial surplus flowed in upon him from all sides, and if there are anxious cares and toils incident to his position, for once he must have felt himself amply recompensed for them in the general and cordial expression of approval, satisfaction and confidence with which his Budget was greeted by his colleagues. The general character of yesterday's debate being thus pitched in a pleasant key, there were, of course, other notes touched in its course which, without marring the prevailing harmony, imparted more fulness and freedom to the discussion. Indeed, with the bright prospect of a year of surplus before them, it was only

natural that Hon'ble Members should after a complacent contemplation of the outlook, indulge each his own views as to the best way of enjoying their good fortune. If in the rainy day they had restricted their expenses, or laid contributions upon Local Governments or imposed taxation upon the people, these were unpleasant alternatives to which they had been forced by sheer stress of want. Now that a brighter day had dawned, should they not live in a more ambitious style, relieve the Provinces of their tributes, and the tax-payers of their burdens? This was the strain of the debate, and altogether the proceedings were of a highly pleasant character.

The debate was opened by the Hon'ble Mr. Nulkar who spoke with candour of the shortness of the interval that had elapsed since the presentation of the Budget, as well as of the meagreness of the information which it offered with respect to the Home Charges. He expressed a hope that in future Hon'ble members might be in a better position to master the details of the document before they were expected to pass their opinion on it. In connection with the Home Charges, Mr. Nulkar expressed his great disappointment at the Secretary of State's decision against the abolition of the Statutory Civil Service. The recommendation of the Public Service Commission in that behalf, had the merit of eliminating all distinction of race from the principles on which that Commission proposed that the services should be recruited, and if, said Mr. Nulkar, that recommendation were adopted by Lord Cross, the Indian finances would be relieved of the burden now and hereafter to be borne by them on account of pensions of the Uncovenanted Service payable in England in sterling. His criticisms of the items of Revenue were mainly confined to Salt and Abkari. The enhancement of the salt duty was strongly condemned and an earnest appeal was made for its reduction "as a measure of relief to poor humanity." The Bombay Member spoke with almost the warmth of an unsophisticated Hindu on the Abkari revenue and hoped that the obtrusive features of its administration would disappear under the attention which the Government have been recently bestowing on the subject.

The next speaker was Sir Alexander Wilson who spoke with great ability. He supported the Government policy of maintaining existing taxation intact, notwithstanding there is a surplus. "No doubt," he said, "when a surplus Budget is declared, there is a popular expectation of some corresponding reduction in taxation. But the disappointment on this occasion will be tempered with the appreciation of the wisdom of the policy which declines in the first flush of prosperity to part with any of the resources of the State." While Sir Alexander Wilson was at one with the Finance Member in this respect, he had no hesitation in calling on the Government to embark on a course of railway extension on a scale of Imperial magnificence.

We are quite persuaded of the great importance of railways in these days of commercial competition and of their value as protection against the risks of famine. We can therefore sympathise with the representative of commerce in his views on the subject. Our only difference with Sir Alexander is in regard to his position on the subject of taxation. The oppressions and tyrannical proceedings incidental to the administration of the Income tax—the hardships felt by the poorer classes of many parts of the country from the enhanced price of salt—these things are too great and real evils to be maintained in easy

times of financial prosperity. The Viceroy's remarks on the subject are, indeed, conceived in great wisdom, and we can appreciate the forbearance he has exercised in coming to the conclusion to retain the taxes until more confidently assured of lasting financial prosperity. Nevertheless, we hold that the evils in detail wrought by those taxes are not sufficiently realized or believed. We ourselves do not know them to the fullest extent in which they exist, but so far as we know is enough to strongly convince us that their retention can have only one justification, namely, that of an inexorable financial necessity not to be met by other means. But it is useless to quarrel with a decision which has been deliberately adopted by the Government, particularly as the Viceroy in conveying this decision has held forth, as in last year, the hope that on the advent of more assuredly better times, the recommendations made by Mr. Nulkar and by Sayed Ameer Hossein for the reduction of the salt duty and of the exemption of the lower classes of Income tax assessees would be favorably considered.

Sir Steuart Bayley and Mr. Evans urged strongly for the return of the contribution of ten lacs of rupees, which the Government of Bengal had made towards meeting the deficit of the Imperial Government. That deficit had now given place to a surplus, and as the Provincial Governments had loyally accommodated the Government of India and in times of difficulty, it was but fair that that Government should in their turn mark their sympathy with the difficulties of the Subordinate Governments by readily refunding the money of which they have now no need. Sir Steuart Bayley's speech was an earnest argument:—

"The Hon'ble Sir Steuart Bayley also wished to join in the general chorus of congratulation in the success of the Budget the Hon'ble the Finance Member had laid before them, and he hoped the Hon'ble Member would not take it ill if he (the speaker) introduced the rift in the lute by referring to the contributions which were taken from the Provincial Governments. It was scarcely necessary that he should remind the Council why those contributions were taken. It was supposed that it would be difficult to make both ends meet. Under these circumstances local Governments were asked to contribute and they did; the share of the Bengal Government amounting to ten lakhs. This year they had extreme difficulties to contend with in Bengal. There had been scarcity in some parts, the excise revenue had diminished, and they had been compelled to refuse even small requests—in fact, they had been actually starving the administration: in other words, they had nothing to spend on any fresh developments. It was no doubt right, when the Government of India were in a grave and critical crisis, that local Governments should be called on to assist. But now that the gloomy forecast had been dispelled, and they had a surplus of 2½ millions, ought not Provincial Governments to expect a refund of their contributions? Had the state of things which existed now been known a year ago, he felt sure it would never have occurred to his hon'ble friend the Finance Minister to have asked for these contributions as it would have cut the basis upon which the Provincial contracts were founded. That being so, was there any reason—these circumstances having been removed—why the money taken from Provincial Governments should not be restored, and sent back once more to the *status quo ante*? The loss of ten lakhs had put the Bengal Government to great inconvenience, as among other results it did not permit them to increase the number of moonsiffs, of which complaint had just been made by the Hon'ble Mr. Evans, to improve the police, and to contribute towards works of public utility. He therefore asked his hon'ble friend of Finance Minister if he would not be able to restore the contribution."

Sir David Barbour, however, disposed of this appeal rather curtly. He said:—

"From the remarks of his friend the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal it would seem that all that was necessary for the prospects of Bengal as regards the prevention of famine, the improvement of courts, &c., was to get back the ten lakhs. He would, however, take the opportunity to point out that the ten lakhs were not taken yearly, but once for all, and if distributed, the contribution would not amount to one pice per head of population, which would not add very materially to the happiness or prosperity of the country."

The debate was valuable for some valuable reflections made by Raja Durga Charan Law upon the mis-called Insurance Fund. The Viceroy's concluding speech was a most able defence of the financial policy of his Government. The opening remarks of his



Lordship on the Bill now passed the House of Lords for the reconstitution of the Legislative Councils, ought to remove those misapprehensions which prevail in some quarters as to his Lordship's part in the framing of Lord Cross's Bill. His Lordship said :—

"I venture, however, to express my hope that too much credence will not be attached to the wholly unauthorized rumours, which are circulated from time to time, in regard to the attitude of the present Government of India towards this most important constitutional question. For the opinions expressed by us in the correspondence which the Secretary of State has thought proper to lay before Parliament, we accept the fullest responsibility. For other opinions, confidently attributed to us, but not so far as I am aware, disclosed in any statement of our views, official or unofficial, which has been given to the public, we disclaim all responsibility. I will only add that I earnestly trust that even those who would themselves desire to see a scheme more ambitious and far-reaching than that of the Secretary of State adopted by the Government of India and by her Majesty's Government, will not, for that reason, allow themselves to be led to disparage unjustly the measure which has lately been passed by the House of Lords—a measure which I honestly believe marks one of the greatest advances which has been made for many years past in the direction of a liberal reform of our institutions."

### THE INFLUENZA IN PATNA.

Patna is regularly besieged, and Influenza has created quite a panic among the people here. The patient is attacked with strong fever, cough and cold, attended with insufferable pain all over the body, which makes him quite prostrate. Up to this time the victims have been left with only a bad shivering after some days, and no more serious consequences have resulted. The prostration, however, remains for some time after. Luckily, the European camp, with very few exceptions, has escaped its ravages up to this time.

Moulvi A. K. M. Abdus Subhan, Deputy Magistrate, Babu Prokash Chandra Roy, Excise Deputy Collector, Moulvi Hashmat Husain, Sub-Deputy Collector, the Collectorate Sheristadar, the Treasury Accountant, and almost half the Amla of the Collectorate are found absent. It was amusing to notice the Collector going round the other day from room to room, through silent apartments, inspecting a Sherista without Sheristadar and other principal subordinates of the Department.

Parties in litigation and their witnesses are also not regular in attendance. A number of Pleaders and Mooktears are suffering, and the work is practically at a stand-still. Baboos Gobind Chunder Mitter, B. L., and Shama Churn Banerjee, Pleaders, and Moulvi Zahceeruddin, Government Prosecutor, are all ailing. The Civil Court amla are also down with fever, almost all of them.

Mr. A. S. Phillips, the Headmaster of the Patna Collegiate School, Babu Shivanath Sinha, the 2nd master, Moulvi Mahomed Ibrahim, Head Moulvi, and some other teachers of the Institution are also down with the epidemic.

Dr. Asder Ali, the Assistant Surgeon in medical charge of the school, found as many as 45 boys under its influence, on one day only, and he had to recommend their leave in a body. I hear the distribution of prizes to the boys of the School, which was to come off about the end of this month, has had in consequence to be postponed *sine die*.

Neither age nor condition escapes. The venerable Nawab Syud Velayet Ali Khan, C.I.E., and the young Syud Sharfuddin Saheb, Barrister-at-law, are both victims.

Musst. Mahamdi Jan is building a big mosque in the city, and a very large number of laborers and masons work there daily. Some 50 of these men have fallen ill, one after the other; 25 of these are reported to have got ill one day. About 18 men employed at a printing establishment at Bankipore have also fallen ill similarly. In fact, every household contains at least half a dozen sick patients—if not more—at a time.

The hands of the Doctors and Hakeems are quite full in consequence. Hundreds of fresh cases crowd upon them daily. Besides, there is a very heavy influx of work at the two charitable dispensaries in the city and at Bankipore.

The great Shikaree Raja of Maksoodpore in Gya, Rameshar Pershad Narain Singh, who caught alive, sometime ago, four big man-eating tigers and killed two others, which had caused quite a havoc for some years together in a number of villages in the borders of the Hazaribagh District, and which the energetic vigilance and expensive attempts of the authorities, and the regular European shikar parties organized by them could not suppress any way—and two of which man-eating tigers are still to be seen in the Calcutta Zoological Gardens—came up to Bankipore for a short stay to see the outgoing Commissioner, Mr. Boxwell, off and to welcome the new hero Mr. Steven. It is said that even he "the great" has been victimized and laid prostrate by the influenza, though in a mild form. As if by way of compensation, some of the men of his establishment here are suffering greatly. May God have mercy upon the people.

Bankipore, 27th March.

### THE HON'BLE DR. MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR'S ADDRESS. THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

MY LORD—I have been asked by His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, as President of the Association, to lay before Your Excellency, a brief sketch of the history of the Institution. I wish I could approach Your Excellency with something worthy of the representative of the most intellectual nation on the face of the Earth, something that might be legitimately expected from a country, once the mother of civilization and now under the sympathetic care of that nation. But, my Lord, it has not yet been given to my unfortunate country to have made that necessary progress. It would seem, my Lord, that in this part of the world while Nature in her lower aspects, nature inanimate and irrational, has delighted to assume forms of the most stupendous magnitude and of the most gorgeous description, Nature in her highest aspect, nature rational and spiritual, as if under some fatal, irrevocable decree, seems content with mere existence, too unwilling or too idle to take advantage of endowments capable of infinite progression. Indeed, my Lord, it is a sad but positive fact that everything human moves here with extraordinary and annoying slowness. A most convincing proof of this is afforded by the history of this Institution, the first of its kind in all India, established with the professed object of cultivating science in all its branches. It is now twenty years that the desirability of a national Institution for the Cultivation of the Sciences by the natives of India was urged upon my countrymen at the very time when similar appeals were being made for the teaching of science in the schools of Great Britain. It took six years of persistent agitation to secure a subscription of about 50,000 rupees for the establishment of an institution the importance of which to the country under its peculiar circumstances should have commanded 50 lacs of rupees. The project was fortunate enough to attract the favorable attention of the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Richard Temple, and his advocacy gave a powerful impetus towards its realization. For in a short time the subscriptions rose to 80,000, and the Association was established and formally opened in that dilapidated building that is before Your Excellency.

For about eight years that building served as lecture hall, laboratory, office, library and everything besides. The audience at the lectures increasing, the lecture hall was found insufficient. In spite of strong opposition based upon want of funds, it was resolved to build a suitable lecture hall, and a subscription list was opened, and events justified the expectations of the well-wishers of the Association. Liberal donations came in and there was no necessity to touch the funded capital. The foundation stone of the Lecture hall was laid by the then Viceroy, Lord Ripon. It took two years to complete the hall, and it was formally opened by the same Viceroy on the 12th March, 1884.

But while lectures could be safely delivered in the new Lecture Hall, the old building became more and more unsafe for the instruments and the office, so much so that it was thought necessary to remove as many of the instruments to the lecture hall as we could do consistently with keeping it free for the delivery of lectures. When this state of things came to the knowledge of the Maharaja of Vizianagram, His Highness offered Rs. 25,000 towards the cost of the building, but as the plan of the building then made out was an ambitious one, and the estimate of the cost then was at least three times that amount, the Committee could not recommend the Association to take immediate steps to commence the building. The urgency has now however become so great, that there is no other alternative than to begin at once. The plan had to be modified so as to bring the estimate of the cost down to Rs. 50,000. The Honorary Secretary put forth an appeal in aid of the Laboratory and Professorship Funds, which he circulated with the twelfth Annual Report, the outcome of which is that four gentlemen, three of whom are members, have come forward in response to the appeal, the amount subscribed being Rs. 2,520. Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee and Babu Peary Mohan Roy have each subscribed Rs. 1,000, Babu Sib Chunder Dev Rs. 20, and Moulavi Mahomed Yusuf Khan Bahadur Rs. 500. (To these I have now great pleasure to add the name of His Highness the Maharaja of Bettiah who has just subscribed Rs. 4,000.) In the hope that further contributions will be forthcoming both from members and from the general public, the Committee of Management recommended to the Association at their last annual meeting to commence the building at once with the Maharaja of Vizianagram's Rs. 25,000, the floating balance in the Bank, and the amount already subscribed, trusting Providence for the rest.

My Lord, our trust in Providence has not been a vain one. We have not had to wait a moment too long for the fulfilment of the words pregnant with prophecy for all time, "Providence helps those who endeavour to help themselves." The Maharaja, who had so generously subscribed half the cost of the laboratory, prompted by the same generosity and that enlightened liberality which knows no distinction between mine and thine, qualities which so eminently characterize His Highness, sympathizing with our necessity and our difficulty, and seeing the importance of our undertaking not only to Bengal but to all India, lost no time in relieving us of our anxiety by announcing that he bears the entire cost of the laboratory. Your Excellency, therefore, lays the foundation-stone of a structure which

will not have to depend for its completion upon the grudging subscriptions of many, but which will be begun and completed through the beneficence of a single individual.

My Lord, I wish I could here rest and cease from troubling and tormenting the public for further subscriptions. But I do not see, my Lord, how I can do so when we have other and equally pressing necessities. A suitable building for a laboratory had indeed become a first necessity, but the building secured, other necessities, logically and independently of my will, are springing up, and they must be attended to, or all our previous labors will end in nothing. The building is not all that we want. We must have scientific instruments and apparatus to locate in it. Hitherto, my Lord, through the munificence of a single individual again, Babu Kali Kisen Tagore, still unknown to fame and the Government, though well known to the needy and the deserving, and though, to quote the words of Lord Ripon, "a member of a family eminent among the families of India for their public spirit,"—through the munificence of this gentleman, my Lord, we have been able to go on with our lectures for the diffusion of scientific knowledge amongst the people of this country. But the instruments, which his magnificent donation of 25,000 for that single purpose enabled us to purchase, are now over a decade old, and besides, since that time, new and improved forms of old instruments, many new instruments of precision, and many instruments illustrating the latest discoveries, have been invented which we must have, in order, at least, to keep pace with the progress made in more favored countries. But even if we have a building filled with all the scientific instruments and apparatus in the world, including models of those big instruments which have been applied for the purposes of life, we shall not have all that we want. A building and instruments are but the preliminary requisites. We must have the main requisite. We must have men who will have leisure to continually and patiently work with them, and then, but not till then, we shall have a laboratory which will fulfil its legitimate function, that of discovering and appropriating the treasures of truth from the laboratory of the Universe.

Aristotle is credited with the sentiment that he would prefer search after Truth to Truth itself, so great is the pleasure attendant upon the search, and so powerful a means is it of strengthening the faculties of the mind. Lessing goes far beyond Aristotle, for he would prefer the search, though it were with the condition of perpetual error. My Lord, it may be the height of presumption to question the wisdom of Aristotle and of Lessing, but even at that risk I cannot help observing that if the search had invariably proved a barren one, unrewarded by the discovery of a single truth, if the search were a mere groping in the dark, it would be absolutely devoid of all pleasure, it would be in every sense vexation of spirit, and could never contribute to discipline or enlargement of the faculties. The search serves as a powerful educational agency only because it brings the mind into contact with the eternal verities, the living facts and phenomena of nature; it proves a source of exquisite enjoyment only because of the gradual revelation by it of truth, direct or collateral, and because, in consequence, of the expectation of further revelation, in the course of the search.

My Lord, I knew a lad of 14 or 15, when I was of the same age myself, a lad, not at all remarkable for intelligence, but who had what is called some thirst for knowledge, a little enthusiasm in the pursuit of knowledge, who would feel an unspeakable pleasure in the possession of knowledge, and, who, in exact correspondence with the pleasure he himself felt, had an ardent desire to make others share with him that pleasure. I remember an anecdote of this lad, my Lord, which will bear to be related even before your Lordship's presence. With the characteristics of mind just mentioned, he was naturally fond of reading scientific books. One day while reading Milner's *Tour through Creation* he came across the discovery of Sir William Herschell that the sun was no fixed body in space, but with his planets and their satellites, was in motion and probably around some larger sun. The grandeur of this fragment of truth so overpowered him that he went out of his study, and for some time paced the long street on which his house was situated, regardless of the state of *dishabille* in which he was. From that day his thirst for knowledge increased with each drink that he could take at the pure fountain of truth. He fully realized that truth was stranger, more beautiful and sublimer by far than fiction, and he resolved to taste nothing but truth preferring to keep his mind blank rather than fill it with vain and idle fancies. Born in a country where the intellectual atmosphere is anything but favorable for scientific culture, and where even European men of science find it no easy thing to persevere in their favorite pursuits, that lad, my Lord, met with impediment at every step, but he has not forgotten his love. He knows fully and feels keenly that he has not been able to do anything for his old love. All that he has been able to do, my Lord, is to appear, as he does now, before your august presence, with indeed the weight and infirmities of age on his shoulders, and with unrelenting Time dragging him down the vale of tears, but with not an iota of his ardour abated,—in this state, my Lord, and after having, in a manner, wasted the best energies of his life he appears before you to-day, and supplicates Your Excellency to do for his countrymen what he has been almost vainly endeavouring

to do, namely, to remove the impediments that stand in the way of the Cultivation of Science in this country.

My Lord, it is not for the pleasures of science alone that I am asking Your Excellency to add your powerful voice to my feeble voice urging and inviting my countrymen to cultivate science in all its branches. The applications of Science are now so numerous and have indeed become so intimately blended with every phase of individual and social existence that a knowledge of science has become indispensable. For as one of the profoundest thinkers of the age has put it, "to the question, what knowledge is of most worth?—the uniform reply is—Science. This is the verdict on all the counts. For direct self-preservation, or the maintenance of life and health, the all-important knowledge is—Science. For that indirect self-preservation which we call gaining a livelihood, the knowledge of greatest value is—Science. For the discharge of parental functions, the proper guidance is to be found only in—Science. For that interpretation of national life, past and present, without which the citizen cannot rightly regulate his conduct, the indispensable key is—Science. Alike for the most perfect production and highest enjoyment of art in all its forms, the needful preparation is still—Science. And for purposes of discipline—intellectual, moral, religious—the most efficient study is, once more—Science. Necessary and eternal as are its truths, all science concerns all mankind for all time."

Such, my Lord, according to Herbert Spencer, is a comprehensive summary of the advantages of science, which is but a short name for positive knowledge acquired by the human intellect by coming in direct contact with the works of God. By the necessity of our constitution the acquisition of this knowledge is a gradual process. It was no display of modesty on the part of Newton, but it was the enunciation of a fact of human nature as universal as gravitation itself, when he said that what he had achieved was only by patient and continued application. Yes, my Lord, this is the only, because it is the natural, road to our knowledge of Nature. There is no other, certainly no easier, royal road. This is what our educated youth do not seem to have yet fully realized. They do not seem to me, I wish I were wrong, they do not seem to me to believe in the cumulative effect of small things. They do not seem to realize in its full significance the fact that Nature effects her greatest wonders by the integration of infinitesimals. And they will never have this conviction brought home to them unless they themselves set to work with all the humility of a child and with all the earnestness of a devotee. This is what I entreat Your Excellency to impress upon them. And I am confident, my countrymen will yet achieve things in the field of science, no way inferior to what are being achieved in countries of the West. My Lord, it is not partiality, but genuine conviction, which prompts me to say that it is not intelligence, but a proper direction of that intelligence, that is the chief needful in this country.

My Lord, I begin with lamenting the annoying slowness with which everything human goes on here in India. The reason of this must have been obvious from what I have just said. It is because we want to do everything too quickly, it is because we do not want to do things by slow but sure natural means and methods, but by impossible, supernatural, that is, non-existent agencies,—in a word, it is because in all our undertakings we ignore the true relationship between cause and effect, that we lag so much behind, and in most cases miserably and altogether fail. My Lord, I told you in the beginning that it is now twenty years that the project of this Institution was put forth just at the time when men of science were making similar appeals in England. What mighty advances in the field of science have been made in England in these twenty years, whereas we here are just going to lay the foundation-stone of the laboratory of the only scientific Institution in all India. If my countrymen had fully realized the importance of the Institution, if they had but spent a thought as to the amount of money that is absolutely necessary to fully equip it and set it agoing, we should certainly have done better things than we have done. Is it too late to rectify this error? Are there not noblemen and princes, blessed with abundance of wealth, who are willing to follow the enlightened example of the Maharaja of Vizianagram, and found Professorships, as he has founded the Laboratory? Yes, there are, and they have but to will it, and scientific with its necessary accompaniment, technical education, will be a *fait accompli* even in this country in no time.

#### PROPOSALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT FOR FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCE.

[*Being Sec. III. of Part I of the Financial Statement for 1890-91.*]

14. It will be seen from what I have just said, that the estimates for next year would have shown a very considerable surplus but for the heavy and special demands that have fallen on them in connection with the Army. These special demands come to no less than Rx. 1,361,300, exclusive of a provision of Rx. 892,300 on account of Special Defences. It is reasonably certain that there will be special demands of a somewhat similar nature in 1891-92, but it is not probable that they will be so heavy as in the coming year. Nor are the finances of 1891-92 exposed to any special dangers, so far as can now be seen, other than those vicissitudes which must always attend Indian finance. On the other hand, we

may look forward during 1890-91 to the normal growth of revenue. There are, therefore, strong grounds for holding that in 1891-92 we shall at least find ourselves in a position of comparative ease, with a surplus in hand, moderate in amount, but sufficient to allow of some improvement in financial conditions.

15. In view of this comparatively favourable prospect the Government of India has decided to anticipate the future to some extent and to take immediate steps for the partial restoration of the Famine Grant. This can be done by measures which I shall now explain; but in the first place I propose to refer briefly to the nature of the Famine Grant and its history.

The policy of strengthening the finances in connection with Famine was originally adopted in order to protect the country against the financial effects of Famine. It was calculated that Famine would cost, either directly in expenditure intended to relieve distress, or indirectly through loss of revenue, no less than Rs. 15,000,000 every ten years, and it was therefore decided that in ordinary years the Government should take measures for providing a surplus of Rs. 1,500,000. This surplus would be used either to reduce debt directly by buying up and cancelling public obligations, or to indirectly reduce debt by diminishing borrowing.

16. It has been sometimes assumed that the object of this policy was the provision of funds for the actual relief in time of famine of persons who were in distress, and it was argued that when the money so provided was no longer available, the people could not be relieved in case of famine, and must perish. This was not the case. Whether a surplus exists or not the Government recognises its obligations in case of famine, and the actual amount of cash in the treasury is regulated from time to time by considerations which are quite independent of the absorption or maintenance of the Famine Grant. The objects which the Famine Grant is intended to secure are purely financial. So long as it is maintained we have in ordinary years a surplus of Rs. 1,500,000, and this surplus of Rs. 1,500,000 in ordinary years will, it may reasonably be hoped, balance the deficits which must occur from time to time in a country of which the financial conditions are so uncertain. The policy of maintaining a surplus in ordinary years was devised with special reference to the injurious effect on the finances which is produced by famine, but in practice it is an insurance against temporary financial disaster of any kind, because to strengthen the finances by creating a surplus has precisely the same effect whatever may be the object of those who take measures to strengthen them. In any case the finances are strengthened and are able to better meet any special demands on them.

17. The misapprehension as to the nature and effects of the Famine Grant seems to have arisen, to some extent, from the manner in which the policy was carried out in years subsequent to its first adoption. The Famine surplus was intended, in the first instance, to operate in the direction of reducing debt. At a subsequent period it was decided to use one half of it for the construction of Railways and Canals which would protect the country from famine. I think this was, under the circumstances of the case, a wise and prudent measure, but it was a slight departure from the objects of the original policy. These were, as I have said, purely financial. In so far as the Protective Canals and Railways constructed from the Famine Grant returned a fair profit, or lessened the cost of relieving famine, in so far the original purpose of strengthening the finances was maintained. In so far as they failed to return this profit the original purpose was departed from. On the other hand it was an important consideration that the construction of these Railways and Canals might have the effect of mitigat-

ing famine to the extent of preserving human life, which would otherwise have been lost.

18. The Government of India was willing in past years to go further in the direction of using the Famine Grant for the construction of Protective Works, than was actually done, and would have appropriated it to meet any loss that might arise on Protective Railways constructed by means of borrowed money; in 1886 the Secretary of State did actually agree that the interest charge on the Indian Midland and the Bengal-Nagpore Railways should be a charge against the Famine Grant. These Railways were held to be of importance for the protection of the country against famine, and it was only on the understanding I have stated that their construction was sanctioned. The decision of the Secretary of State is contained in a Despatch which is published as an Appendix to this Statement. This matter has somewhat fallen out of sight in recent years, because shortly after the decision of the Secretary of State was given, the financial difficulties of the Government became so great that the Famine Grant was practically abolished for the time, and there was no special reason for calling attention to the fact that a portion of it went to meet the loss on the Indian Midland and Bengal-Nagpur Railways.

19. The Government of India and the Secretary of State have, however, always attached importance to the maintenance of the Grant for Famine Relief and Insurance. If the Indian finances show bare equilibrium in normal years, the deficits of bad years can only be met by borrowing; such borrowing must in time lead to a large growth of debt incurred for non-productive purposes. The provision of what is really a yearly surplus of Rs. 1,500,000 is the most effective means of preventing the growth of debt of this character.

20. The manner in which it is proposed to partially restore the Famine Grant at once will now be explained.

We receive this year a special contribution of Rs. 490,000 from Local Governments. This transaction is carried out by debiting the amount to the balances of Local Governments and crediting it to the Government of India. It is practically the same thing to all parties whether the transaction is carried out this month or next month. The credit is therefore postponed till next month, and the effect on the finances is to diminish our surplus of this year by Rs. 490,000 and to increase that of next year by an equal amount.

After this change is made there will be a surplus of Rs. 2,243,200 in 1889-90 and of Rs. 794,900 in 1890-91. In both these years a certain amount of expenditure is already shown under the Grant for Famine Relief and Insurance, partly on account of the construction of Protective Canals and partly for relief of distress. Of the surplus of 1889-90, a sum of Rs. 433,500 will be utilised to raise the total Famine Grant to Rs. 600,000; of the surplus of 1890-91, a sum of Rs. 524,500 will be utilised to raise the Famine Grant of that year to a like amount. The surplus of the Revised Estimate will then stand at Rs. 1,809,700 and the surplus of the Budget Estimate of 1890-91 will be Rs. 270,400.

The amount provided to meet the net charge on account of the Indian Midland Railway and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is Rs. 458,100 in 1889-90, and Rs. 432,800 in 1890-91.

The final result then of the policy which the Government of India has decided to adopt is that in the current year we have provided in all Rs. 1,058,100 (Rs. 600,000 plus Rs. 458,100) on account of the Famine Grant, that in the coming year we have provided Rs. 1,032,800 (Rs. 600,000 plus Rs. 432,800), on the same account, and that we have nevertheless a surplus of Rs. 1,809,700 in 1889-90 and of Rs. 270,400 in 1890-91; these surpluses are available for the reduction of borrowing and will in practice be used for that purpose.

The sums provided under the Grant for Famine Relief and Insurance plus the sums that go to meet the net charge on the Indian Midland and Bengal-Nagpur Railways, together with the surpluses of the current and coming years, amount to Rs. 4,171,000 in the aggregate, so that, practically, the Famine Grant has been more than restored for the years 1889-90 and 1890-91, as we have in the two years a sum of Rs. 4,171,000 available for the purposes for which the policy of the yearly grant of Rs. 1,500,000 for Famine Relief and Insurance was adopted.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Rheumatism and Gout.—These purifying and soothing remedies deserve the earnest attention of all persons liable to gout, sciatica, or other painful affections of the muscles, nerves, or joints. The Ointment should be applied after the affected parts have been patiently fomented with warm water, when the ointment should be diligently rubbed upon the adjacent skin, unless the friction causes pain. Holloway's Pills should be simultaneously taken to diminish pain, reduce inflammation, and purify the blood. This treatment abates the violence, and lessens the frequency of gout, rheumatism, and all spasmodic diseases which spring from hereditary predisposition, or from any accidental weakness of constitution. The Ointment checks the local malady, while the Pills restore vital power.

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OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CALCUTTA,  
under Act II. (B. C.) of 1888 for the year  
1890-91,*

*WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 3rd April 1890,  
at 3 P.M.*

#### BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To consider the proposed bye-laws framed under Section 442 Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, clauses (e) and (f.)

2. To confirm the following Resolution passed by the General Committee on the 15th of February with reference to the letter of the Honorary Secretaries to the Albert Victor Permanent Memorial Fund of the 7th idem, viz., "that the Commissioners warmly sympathise with the objects of the Permanent Memorial Committee, and will render all reasonable co-operation in their power as soon as the scheme is sufficiently advanced to admit of their doing so."

3. To confirm the proceedings of the Ge-

neral Committee at a Meeting held on the 15th March.

4. To confirm the proceedings of the Suburban Improvement Committee at a Meeting held on the 21st March.

5. Vital statistics for the month of February 1890.

JOHN COWIE,

*Secretary to the Corporation.*

Mar. 28, 1890.



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BETWEEN

Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,

BY

SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

Formerly Minister to the late

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tired of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good

humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assumed of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are overweighed with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree.—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes." But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as in-

structive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

C. RINGER & CO. have in hand the largest stock of Homœopathic Medicines, Medicine Cases, Medical Sundries, and Books, &c., &c., for sale at their Homœopathic Establishment, 10, Hare Street, Calcutta. Catalogue, free on application.

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The steamer THIKAK of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 1st prox. (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 29th inst.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1890.

} No. 418

## THE SAGE AND THE NYMPH.

A TALE FROM THE SANSKRIT.

[Continued from p. 146.]

"Woman, forbear," the Hermit cried,  
"Nor what thou understandest not,  
With impious vanity deride,  
Or with the soil of censure blot.  
Thou canst not, steep'd in sordid care,  
Thy daughter's aspiration share :  
Since to this world, thy feelings cling ;  
Hers soar to heaven on daring wing.  
Two souls are yours, and thus disjoin'd,  
Are never more to be combined.  
For who would gems to pebbles wed,  
Or precious gold, to priceles lead ;  
Or charnel lights from funeral pyres  
Commix with pure ethereal fires.  
Let her pursue her chosen way,  
And from the brief and clouded day  
Of fleeting life, for ever free  
Her spirit one with God shall be."

This said, he turned impatiently,  
Towards his cell, nor sought reply ;  
When to his robe, her hand the maid  
Put forth, and his departure stayed ;  
He paused to listen to her suit—  
But long with eye declined, and mute  
She bent—at last, with faltering tone,  
She timidly her wish made known.

"Most righteous Sir ! though firm the will  
To scorn this world for final bliss ;  
Too well I feel, I want the skill,  
To track a path so grave as this.  
And much I wish, some saintly guide,  
Would point my course to wander forth.  
But much I fear"—and then she sighed,  
And cast her lovely eyes to earth.

With guileless heart, and prompt believing  
Unconscious of the world's deceiving,  
Nor all exempt from saintly pride,  
Markanda said, "Behold your guide—  
Or rather, let me say, a friend.  
The same our hope, the same our end.  
And we will travel on our road  
Together to that blest abode  
With emulous zeal, till all be past,  
And Brahm reward our toils at last."

The maiden murmured soft her thanks ;  
Whilst bolder from the menial ranks

The praises of the Sage arise.  
The matron dried her tearful eyes,  
And owned his graciousness would leave  
Her bosom lighter cause to grieve,  
Entrusting to his pious prayers,  
The only object of her cares.—

By his experience directed,  
The damsels busily collected  
The leaf, the grass, the pliant cane,  
To rear a fence from sun and rain ;  
And deck with many a simple flower,  
Deep in the grove, a graceful bower,  
Where the fair Devotee might dwell  
Short distance from the Hermit's cell.  
This done—with many a fond embrace  
They leave her, and their steps retrace.

Now many a tranquil week had flown  
Since youthful Lila, left alone,  
Beneath Markanda's care had given,  
Or seem'd to give, her heart to Heaven.  
At dawn 'twas her's to tread the glade,  
And from the venerable shade  
Cull sticks and leaves, to feed the flame  
That rose to the immortal name.  
Again at noon, the sacred rite  
To tend, and once again ere night  
Descending from the western mountain,  
Enwrapp'd in shade, wood, vale, and fountain,  
And many an interval between  
She heard, attentive and serene,  
Markanda learnedly dilate  
On man and nature, time and fate.  
How destiny controuls our deeds ;  
How still from evil, ill proceeds ;  
How good from virtue : how illusion  
Beguiles mankind with deep delusion ;  
And weaves fantastic chains that bind  
The struggling and immortal mind  
In ignorance ; till knowledge burst  
The bonds, and to the source, whence first  
The spirit sprang, it wings its way,  
Never again to mix with clay.

On themes thus grave and lofty, long  
The Sage, as with inspired tongue,  
Declaim'd, and still the Maiden near,  
Delighted lent a willing ear.  
But at the last, the sooth to say,  
His pious fervour felt decay :  
New feelings o'er his bosom stole,  
And strange distractions shook his soul.  
He strove ashamed, but strove in vain,  
By meditation to restrain

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

His erring mind—his musings brought  
 His Pupil ever to his thought.  
 No peace his restless spirit knew,  
 Save when the Nymph was in his view.  
 He hailed her coming, as the light  
 Returning to his longing sight :  
 He marked her going, as the sun  
 Returning when his course is run ;  
 And counted with impatient pain,  
 The moments till she dawned again.  
 In vain he bent his studious looks  
 As wont upon the sacred books.  
 Before his eyes the page display'd,  
 No particle of sense convey'd.  
 Rebellious to his pious will,  
 One form alone pursued him still ;  
 One only image still possess'd  
 Despot all his troubled breast.  
 'Twas she—his Pupil ; she alone  
 His very being made her own,  
 And still triumphant in the strife,  
 Enchain'd him to the world and life.  
 Then came tormenting doubts and fears ;  
 His days retired, his lapsing years,  
 His sober mood, his sacred duty,  
 Were all unmeet for youth and beauty.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

WE have much pleasure in publishing the following little piece after Hood's famous song :—

### THE SONG OF THE QUILL.

Write—write—write  
 Till the brain begins to swim  
 Write—write—write  
 Till the eyes are heavy and dim !  
 Pen, and paper, and ink  
 Ink, and paper, and pen  
 Till worn upon my desk I sink  
 O the cruelty of men !

JYOTISH C. BANERJEE.

The writer, a young Bengali student, deserves credit, all the more for not wriggling himself out to any length.

It has been decided to hold the World's Fair of 1892 at Chicago, and to build an approximate Tower of Babel for the purpose. It is proposed to house the Exhibition in the highest structure the world has ever seen. There will be a central tower of steel 1,100 ft. high, [supporting a roof 3,000 ft. in diameter, carried upon cables] without a single column. The area of the main floor will cover 162 acres, which is twice that of the Paris Exhibition. The tower will be taken up several hundreds of feet above the height of M. Eiffel's.

ONE member Mr. Cartwright charged another member Mr. Rykert of the Canadian Parliament, with trafficking in his personal influence with the Government. Evidence was produced suggesting that Mr. Rykert was richer by 90,000 dollars by securing timber lands for a friend. A Committee will investigate the matter.

THE British Democracy is developing filibustering. On Sunday, March 9, the Socialists and Radicals of London held a meeting in Hyde Park to denounce the treatment of Russian political prisoners. Mr. John Burns spoke violently, declaring that if it were possible to raise an expedition to go to Russia and take the life of the Czar, he would be the first to join it.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Justice Norris, who only yesterday misdirected the law, has, we find, in place of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Trevelyan on leave, been appointed President of the Board for examination of pleaders and muktears and President of the Faculty of Law of the Calcutta University. The Board and the Faculty have proved themselves typical corporations.

Hope gives the following hopeful news, without a word of comment :—

"Babu Hem Chander Banerji, the poet Vakil, succeeds Babu Annada Charan Banerji as Senior Government Pleader of the Appellate Side of the High Court, on the retirement of the latter from the beginning of this month.

Here is Seijeant Hotham over again though in *chapkan* and turban, without the compliment of a private dinner—even a *phaldar* at Sir, Romesh's floor. (*Vide Twiss's Life of Lord Chancellor Eldon*, vol. I. p. 94, Woolrych's *Lives of Eminent Serjeants-at-Law*, vol. II., p. 646, and *Reis & Rayyet* of the 15th March 1890, p. 126.) The retiring gentleman has been so little known to the public, professionally or otherwise, these many years that we do not wonder that our contemporary gives him a wrong name.

BOTH Messrs. Handley and Leith, applicants for Mr. Marsden's place, have been provided for. The first is already officiating as Chief Magistrate, the second is Gazetted as Deputy Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs in place of Mr. Kilby granted furlough for one year, seven months and fifteen days from the 9th proximo. The poor Syud, though an Honourable man, is alone left in the lurch. He would have been satisfied with the mere title, without acting as Chief Magistrate or presuming to punish the British-born. But even this modest ambition of an experienced officer, whose assistance has been repeatedly sought in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, is not to be satisfied.

MR. C. B. Garrett, District and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs, goes on leave for two months from the 16th instant. The officiating Additional Judge Mr. C. A. Wilkins, of the District, will, during the period, act both as the principal and the Additional Judge. If he can keep clear the files of the two Courts, that will shew that the Additional is a mere incubus on the taxpayer.

MR. T. Jones, the Third Judge of the Court of Small Causes, has obtained three months' leave from 1st May next. When he is away, Mr. K. M. Chatterjee, the Fourth, will act for the Third Judge, Baboo Jodoonath Roy, from Sealda, acting in Mr. Chatterjee's place.

MR. M. Macauliffe, Divisional and Sessions Judge, 1st grade, finds the Punjab too hot for him. He changes place with Mr. F. J. G. Campbell, District and Sessions Judge, of the same grade, in the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

THE Honorary Assistant Surgeons to the Viceroy have been granted the privilege of private entrée to Government House. The private entrance to the Durbar is getting inconveniently crowded.

THE National Indian Association has drawn up a list of Indians in England. Three years ago, the number in the United Kingdom was 160. Now it is 207, exclusive of some half a score or so of Parsee and Hindoo ladies. Of the 207—63 are from Bombay, 53 from Bengal, 31 from the Punjab, 20 from the N.-W. Provinces, 13 from Madras, 10 from the Nizam's dominions, 5 from the Central Provinces, 5 from Kattywar, 4 from Burma, and 3 from Baroda. According to nationalities, 45 are Parsees, 54 Mahomedans, while more than half of the total are Hindoos.

DR. Gildemeister, the eminent Orientalist professor at the Bonn University, is dead. He was the first to publish a list of the entire field of Sanskrit Literature.

"MAHOMET," a new play by M. de Bornier, was announced for the Français. The Sultan remonstrated. He was assured that Mahomet was treated in the play with the utmost respect. His Majesty still objecting, the play has been withdrawn.

THE Lisbon City Council has been dissolved. The reasons are—the vast growth in the size and population of the capital, its importance as a seaport, and its strategic value as a defensive position, whether by sea or land, and as the centre of Portugal's communication with her colonies. The most pressing reason is stated to be that there has been of late a large increase in the municipal expenditure with the prospect of inevitable increase of rates and taxes, the inhabitants of the capital being already overburdened with imposts of sorts.

Here, in our capital, the rule seems different. The suburbs have been added, the port has been extended and the owners of residential houses and bustis have been heavily burdened with rates and their collection.

Notice was given on March 11 to the President of the Council to withdraw from office. He answered the notice by ordering out of the Chamber the Government Agent, and, on refusal, putting him out with his own hands. But, on arrival of larger numbers of Government officials, the President and his colleagues thought differently and withdrew, after embracing all the firemen and the other permanent employes of the municipality.

PRINCE Albert Victor of Wales, after a tour in India of over four months of pleasure and instruction, left this country by the mail steamer on Friday week.

THERE is scarcity in Kumaon and Garhwal. Pilgrims to Badrinath and Kedarnath had better keep out of that way.

THE survey of the Grand Chord line has been completed, and plans and estimates are under consideration by Government.

THE Chinese Amban His Excellency Sheng Tai bade adieu to the British metropolis in the East last Saturday, and left a memento of his visit in donations to several charities of the town.

IN Bombay the owners have agreed to suspend the working of the spinning-mills for eight days a month for three months and the weaving departments for four days. Lancashire wants a law enforcing four days holidays in Indian mills.

A BILL has been prepared for the reorganization of the Dutch army. It creates nine new battalions and makes military service universal and compulsory, lasting fifteen years—five in the army, five in the reserve and five in the territorial army Landwehr.

A SYDNEY paper says that no less than 89 millions of acres out of 1,885,537,120 acres of the five colonies forming the Australian continent, have been alienated from the Crown, namely, New South Wales, 42,385,244 acres; Victoria, 22,493,913; Queensland, 10,927,057; South Australia 10,780,738 and Western Australia 2,270,676 acres.

IN continuation of the news given by us on the 22nd February, we have to record that both complainant and accused in the libel case the Raja of Faridkote v. the Editor of the *Delhi Punch* took the matter up to the Punjab Chief Court, without success in either case. So the sentence of fine of Rs. 1,000 by the Magistrate against the Editor remains in tact. The Divisional Judge who has thus upheld the original sentence also rejected the Raja's application for revising the judgment of the Magistrate and enhancing the sentence. The Raja has reason to be satisfied with this termination. Much as he has been wronged by the offending journal, we do not think he cares to see the miserable penman rot in jail, to the sorrow and distress of his wife and children. We prefer to think he allowed the application to the Chief Court to be made in his behalf simply by way of preventing the disturbance of the Magisterial order. That point he has gained. We have no idea of the resources of the *Delhi Punch* man, but a mulct of Rs. 1,000 and the costs of such a litigation up to the Chief Court, would be ruinous to most vernacular journalists. We shall not be surprised to hear this Delhiwala shut up shop.

The more so, as he has not yet come to the end of his troubles. What about the Raja's son's complaint against the same paper?

FOR purposes of Act V. of 1864 and the toll limits, in supersession of Notifications Nos. 121 and 286, of 23rd March and 2nd August 1886, respectively, Tolly's Nullah is now made to extend from a line drawn across the nullah twenty-five feet west of the Hastings Bridge to its junction with Biddeaharee River at Samookpota.

THE yearly examination of candidates for the fourth grade of Accountants, Public Works Department, will be held at the Civil Engineering College, Seebpore, on the 2nd and 3rd June next.

FROM and after the 1st May 1890, the value for which a single letter or parcel can be insured during transit by post will be limited to Rs. (1,000) one thousand.

THE Hon'ble Lieutenant Sir Alexander Wilson, Kt., succeeds Thomas deceased as Captain of the Calcutta Light Horse. Such is the curt announcement in the *Gazette*. Verily, dead volunteers are treated by Government like dogs. Poor Thomas! was he such a dreadful Heathen as to be devoid of the least reputable attribute? Had he not religion enough for a Christian name?

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

BEFORE returning to England, the Queen visits Emperor William and Empress Frederick at Darmstadt. On his way home from Berlin, the Prince of Wales visited President Carnot in Paris.

THE American cyclone assumed appalling proportions. The town of Bowling Green in Kentucky is in ruins, and every building of note in the town of Metropolis dismantled. There were heavy floods in the Mississippi and the low lands are doomed. Tornadoes and torrential rains in various towns in the Western Alleghany Mountains, have caused much damage and many deaths. The Desha country, in Arkansas, is flooded to a depth of fifteen feet. Three thousand people are said to be famishing on housetops.

THE retired German Chancellor left Berlin on the 29th March. There was a grand demonstration. The route to the railway station was thronged, and the vast crowd cheered Prince Bismarck incessantly. A Guard of Honor accompanied his carriage, the streets being lined with troops. At the station, there were in attendance members of the Cabinet, other State officials and members of the Corps Diplomatique. The station too was heaped with mountains of bouquets. An ovation awaited him at Friedrichsruhe. There was a brilliant torchlight procession.

THE Labour Conference has closed at Berlin. It recommends arbitration Courts to decide all labour disputes; periodical international congresses for interchange of views and experiences towards an international labour law; limitation of labour for women and children; stoppage of work on Sundays, leaving to each State to frame laws accordingly.

THERE is a peasant rising, attended with much bloodshed, at Riazan, a province in the heart of European Russia, next to Moscow. The agitation is spreading to Poland and Finland.

ON the closing day of last month, a Nihilist—an aristocratic naval officer—deputed to kill the Czar, laid violent hands on himself. Many students have been arrested, and there is renewed rioting at Kieff and Kharkoff.

The Czar seems to have wearied of the attempts at his life and has begun to think kindly of the attempters. His Majesty and the Czarina paid a visit to the military prisons of St. Petersburg. They spoke to some of the prisoners sympathetically, enquiring into the causes of their arrest. Their Majesties liberated sixty, including Madame Tchaborikora, and reduced the sentences of others.

The meaning of all this humanity of the Lord of the Cossacks is that the Czar feels that severity has failed in procuring him safety or freedom from constant anxiety: hence the present departure.

THE Russian Budget of 1889 gives a surplus of thirteen and a half million roubles.

EMIN Pasha has at last discovered the buttery side of his bread. The chivalrous knight of philanthropy has dwindled to a place hunter. He does not, of course, return to Europe. He has taken service under Germany for thousand pounds a year, and leaves Bagamayo in a fortnight with German officers and a large caravan for Victoria Nyanza to oust British and to establish German trade.

ENGLAND has at last decided to come to the rescue of the depreciated silver and to move for bimetallicism. Mr. Samuel Smith will move, in



the House of Commons, on the 18th instant, for a conference of the chief commercial nations to consider the question of establishing the bimetallic system. Mr. Playfair too has given notice of an amendment urging that it is not desirable that England as chief creditor should enter into a conference for the formation of a bimetallic league enabling debts contracted in gold to be repayable in silver.

ON the Indian Councils Bill, passed by the Upper House, Mr. Bradlaugh will move, in the Lower, an amendment regretting that no recognition of the elective principle is made in the Bill. Mr. Maclean will oppose the elective principle as unsuited to the people of India and opposed to British interests. A prolonged debate is expected. We only hope the Bill will not be shelved or withdrawn.

LORD Harris, the new cricketing Governor of Bombay, left Aden on the 2nd instant in the Indian Marine steamer *Tinassim*.

A MILITARY balloon ascending at Berlin collapsed in the forest of Posen, killing a soldier and injuring the Captain in charge.

SIR Tanjore Madhav Row either despairs of the moderation of the Congressists or is alarmed at their demands. He has ceased to be of that body, having withdrawn his name from the Madras Standing Committee. This is another symptom of the beginning of the end. For a' that and a' that, so long as any speculators, be they the veriest Tailors of Tooley Street, can supply funds, there will no lacking or slacking of agitators and agitation, here and elsewhere, within and without Parliament, in the name of "whole India" and its "down-trodden millions."

THE heat has been unusual this year. The snow fall on the Himalayas has been scanty over a very large area. During the whole of January the snowy range north of Simla was very lightly covered. The Assistant Commissioner, Kulu, reported at the close of the month that the season so far had been the driest and mildest on record and that foot passengers could still cross the passes of from 10,000 to 11,000 feet in height. According to the Deputy Commissioner, Kohat, there was a good fall of snow in Thal on the 17th January, but it was succeeded by rain, and only the Sufed Koh and the highest ranges remained white. The prolongation of the warm period—due to absence of rain on the plains and of snow on the hills—continued in February. According to official report, the meteorology of the week ending Friday, the 28th March, has been chiefly noteworthy for the very dry weather which has prevailed over the whole province of Bengal, and consequently the high and steadily increasing temperature. The temperature has been largely in excess during both day and night. At Cuttack, Burdwan, and Darjeeling maximum temperature has been from 35° to 45° above the normal, and at all the representative stations the maximum temperature has been from 1° to 4° above. The only station where there has been defect during the day is Gya, but there the relatively highest night temperatures have been reported. The rainfall has been very scanty, four of the divisions, namely, South-West, Bengal, Behar and Chota Nagpore being entirely rainless, while in Orissa only the fall has exceeded a tenth of an inch.

The season is abnormally unhealthy in Calcutta. There were 1,194 deaths in January against 1,311 in the preceding month, giving annual rates of 33.0 and 36.3 respectively per 1,000 of the population. The monthly total exceeds all the corresponding figures of the past decade excepting 1881, 1883 and 1885, and also surpasses the decennial average by 54. There were 135 deaths from cholera against 122 in the preceding month. The number exceeds all the corresponding figures of the last 10 years excepting 1883, 1886 and 1889, and also exceeds the average of the decennium by 30. From small-pox there were 41 deaths against 6 in the preceding month. The number exceeds the decennial average by 35. During the week ending 29th March, the total number of deaths was 327 against 290 and 262 in the preceding two weeks and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 154. There were 18 deaths from cholera, against 30 and 22 in the two preceding weeks. There were 81 deaths from small-pox against 57 in the previous week.

A new distressing element is supplied by Influenza. Almost all homes and establishments have been invaded. Natives seem to have been specially marked, chief among them, schoolboys, domestic servants, runners and coolies. The attendance at the schools shows a

considerable falling off, nearly 40 per cent of the students being laid up. The epidemic has also spread to the suburbs. Dr. Mahendranath Mazumdar, the leading physician of Baranagar, informs us of the occurrence of many cases of influenza in the North Suburban Town.

THE noble example of the Maharaja of Vizianagram in offering to bear the entire cost—Rs. 50,000—of the new laboratory of Dr. Sircar's Science Association, has not been entirely lost on the local chiefs. The Maharaja of Bettiah has raised his subscription from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 10,000.

LED by Mr. Justice Mahmood, the Full Bench of the N.-W. P. High Court has held that

"according to the Benares School of Hindoo Law no adoption can be legally made by a widow without the express permission of her husband; that where she makes an adoption without such permission the doctrine of *factum valet* as understood in the Hindoo Law or in other systems of jurisprudence cannot cover the case, because it affects the very essence of the competency to take a child in adoption; that therefore such adoptions, though actually made, are wholly illegal and invalid, null and void, under the Benares School of Hindoo Law prevalent in the territories within the jurisdiction of this (N.-W. P. High) Court."

We make this quotation from an editorial note in the *Pioneer*, not having seen the judgment. That is said to extend to 45 printed pages. No wonder that, under the circumstance, the other Judges sitting with him in the case could only say "ditto to Mr. Burke."

In the absence of the judgment, it is more than ever difficult to hazard an opinion, but our Brahmanic instinct tells us that Syud Mahmood Bahadoor is right and entitled to the gratitude of all good Hindus. We are particularly glad that he has not been terrified by the bugbear of *Factum valet*. There is no such nonsense in Hindu Law in its integrity. It is a figment of European imagination nurtured on Roman Jurisprudence, having been foisted on us by British judges. It was time to emancipate the Law from this illicit connection. It is true that something like the doctrine has been set up by the Bengali jurists, but they are quite singular in this and receive no countenance from any other part of India.

THE earthen oil tract in Upper Burma is being regularly demarcated under the superintendence of Dr. Fritz Noetling of the Geological Survey. It will be parcelled out into one square mile blocks, which will be sold publicly to the highest bidder. Messrs. Finlay, Fleming & Co., the lessees of the oil wells under the king, have already secured a couple of square miles at Yenangyoung, and Sir Lepel Griffin has obtained for his company four miles. There are other plots in the market, and by the beginning of June when Dr. Noetling will have completed the demarcation, there will be many more in the field.

Dr. Noetling, who is a German scientific man brought out for the Geological Department, has not only done excellent professional service in Upper Burma, but going into the country in the troublous times following the Annexation, he has had an adventurous career. While the land was at the mercy of guerilla bands of patriots and brigands, he had not to complain of absence of incident. He was in an atmosphere of ugly rumours and surprises. Exposed to attack on all sides, he must have had many a hair-breadth escape, in a situation where he owed the preservation of life only to his dexterous arm, his fleet feet, and, last not least, his alert mind. All the romance of daring that he may have cherished in his young German under-graduate days at his German University must have been satiated. As he was sent to rusticate in the malarious jungle, presumably to purge him of his proclivity to society and chivalric devotion to woman, and is fated not to be at head-quarters with his chief again, for fear of a relapse to the old viciousness, he is decidedly lucky in this windfall of compensation. His chivalry itself might be satisfied in a country where the fair sex is not jealously guarded, as in Gangetic India and other parts of Asia, and charms all comers, from lascars up to Princes.

THE last hypnotic—the last new thing—is Chloralamide—a combination of chloral and formamide. The hypnotising dose is from 20 to 60 grains. It takes five hours to dissolve 20 grains in two ounces of water.

ANTIPYRIN is being specialised. It has been found successful in the treatment of nocturnal incontinence of urine. The *Birmingham Medical Review* reports two cases. It was tried on a child 4½ years of age. He would pass water in bed several times during the night. *Belladonna* and

the bromides did him no good. From May 20th to 27th, 1889, he was given twenty-two grains of *antipyrin*, one-half at 6 P. M. and the other half at 8. During this time, the child did not wet the bed at all. The treatment was repeated off and on for some time, and the child was ultimately cured. Another child, 8 years of age, under similar circumstances, was subjected to the same treatment and pronounced cured. The dose was half a drachm, half at 6 P. M. and the rest at 9 P. M.

CHLOROFORM has run out its hour of popularity. It has begun to be at a discount. The late Commission at Hyderabad are not calculated to regain its losing credit. Dr. Roger Williams finds that in ten years at St. Bartholomew's this drug was administered 12,368 times with ten fatal results. During an identical period, when ether still held sway, there were only three deaths out of 14,581 instances. Dr. Williams has long been aware of the greater safety of ether and believes that professional opinion is driving to the same conclusion. Mr. Woodhouse Braine, the most eminent practical expert in anaesthetics in London, has discarded chloroform in practice. He has opened an attack in the *Lancet* on the Report of the Hyderabad Commission. He disputes the Commission's conclusions that death from chloroform is always prefaced by some change or sign of danger in the patient's breathing, and that there is not a single death from chloroform recorded in which it was proved that the respiration alone was attended to throughout the inhalation. The Commission's advice is that the patient should be placed on his back. Mr. Braine's experience of 30 years, however, is that, for several reasons, it is better that the patient should lie on his side.

COFFEE—good or bad—is a destructor of microbes. Dr. Lüderitz has found from several experiments that the organisms all died in a longer or shorter period. In one series of experiments anthrax bacilli were destroyed in three hours, anthrax spores in four weeks, cholera bacilli in four hours, and the streptococcus of erysipelas in one day. Death is due not to the caffeine the coffee contains, but to the empyeumatic oils developed by roasting.

NOTWITHSTANDING the maritime progress of Europe since the discovery of the Mariner's compass and the familiarity of her nations with the sea, it is only within the last few years that the depths of the ocean have been ascertained by actual measurement. The heights to which the raging seas rise seem to be a subject of simpler inquiry. Waves being an overt manifestation, one would suppose their altitudes to the utmost have early been determined and must by this be well-known to mariners. Not so, however. The inquiry is beset with peculiar and indeed obvious difficulty. It is easy, enough to measure the height of waves in ordinary rough weather. But then the knowledge is not of much interest or importance. It is the height of the water during storm and hurricane that is more to the sailor's or seafarer's purpose, and that is not easy of ascertainment. Passengers during these convulsions are in too imminent danger to have left any disposition for scientific pursuits. And the commander and officers on board themselves are under too severe a trial how to weather through the rage of *Æolus* to have time or opportunity for adding to the sum of their knowledge. As the most formidable heights are reached far out in the open sea, it is out of the question to measure them from the shore. In olden times, since the hardy Portuguese navigator christened the southernmost promontory of the Old World the "Cape of Storms," the southernmost coast of Africa was believed to be most exposed to rough usage from wind and water and the most terrific waves. Since then, that unenviable precedence has been transferred to the Southern Pacific.

Of late years, the South Atlantic had again recovered its old prestige, through the situation of greatest disturbance was shifted from the extremity of Africa to that of America. It was found, by actual measurement, that storm waves near Cape Horn rose sometimes to the height of 40 feet—the highest rise known anywhere. Fresh light has, however, recently been thrown on the subject by the experiences of some vessels during the storms of January last in the North Atlantic. The *Caledonian* liner of 4,000 tons, belonging to the Cunard line and the Allan liner, *Sardinia*, of equal calibre, encountered waves of grander proportions and altitude. On the 17th January, the fires of both steamers were extinguished during the height of the storm by the

water pouring down the funnel. It is estimated that, from the depth to the crest, these waves must have been quite 50 feet in height.

HERE, from the "Newspaper Press Directory," are the latest statistics of journalism in the United Kingdom. There are in London 478 newspapers; in the Provinces 1,290; in Wales, 89; Scotland, 194; Ireland, 160; British Isles, 23; or a total of 2,234. The magazines, including the Quarterly Reviews, number 1,752, 430 of which are religious.

These figures are sufficiently startling. They evidence a high advancement not simply in wealth, but also in culture. Education must be common enough to create such an enormous demand. And what an extraordinary stimulus to all the various arts and interests of life must be imparted by the Press with its innumerable sentinels, watchful and informing! And yet for what good? So far as the progress of the soul is concerned, all this multiplication of letter-press is beside the purpose.

For all those trophied arts  
And triumphs that beneath thee sprang,  
Healed not a passion or a pang  
Entailed on human hearts!

The last figures are not a little remarkable in this connection. Great as are the number and energy of the oral expounders of the gospel of the several denominations, of various quality and degree, from bishops, archdeacons, canons, prebendaries, deans, and so forth, of Established Opulence, through the struggling preachers of Dissent, down to Moravian and Mormon Brothers and other non-descript spouters and ranters and canters—these are all cast into the shade by the enterprise and activity of the interpreters in black and white. The amount of brain or muscular exertion expended in the production of sermons and exhortations and explanations and mystifications and hymns and lamentations, is prodigious. Day after day, the Press "piles up the agony" of trash. For, surely, if the general character of the productions were superior, Great Britain would have long ere this been a veritable Eden of Innocence. Just imagine the proportions of the provision for making the British people righteous! Over and above the exhortations of, and confessions to, the priests, and the *mantras* delivered directly in the ears of the faithful, there are as many as four hundred and thirty periodicals in this behalf!

These figures lead one almost to despair of the destiny of our race. What hope can we indulge ourselves in when, notwithstanding all this amplitude of arrangements for protection of morals, we send forth O'Haras and Goldsboroughs?

THE cause of education in Baranagar could not have a more generous friend than it has found in Kumar Dowlut Chunder Roy. The Committee of the Baranagar Victoria School, it will be remembered, undertook to build a house for their School. A Government grant of Rs. 8,500 was sanctioned on the usual condition of the Committee paying an equal sum. The total cost was estimated at about Rs. 17,000, or thereabouts. The building has been completed and now when on the expiry of the official year, the Committee must show to Government that they have discharged the whole of their portion of the liability on pain of forfeiting the Government grant, they find that, notwithstanding all their exertions, they have only succeeded in raising subscriptions of Rs. 6,500. Thus there was a deficit of Rs. 2,000 when March was drawing to a close and the time was at hand when the Committee must settle their accounts with Government or the Government grant must lapse. It was a critical moment, and the Committee having exhausted their efforts to raise money were at a loss. In their despair they applied to Kumar Dowlut Chunder, their patron, for advice. For aid they could scarcely ask, as he had already given a handsome donation of Rs. 1,000. Kumar Dowlut Chunder at once understood the situation, and nobly paid a further sum of Rs. 2,000 to enable the Committee to fully meet their debt of honor. It is such acts of generosity that truly give our aristocracy their claim to public homage. We have no doubt the Government will take note of the liberality of this scion of one of our old Houses. His liberality in the present instance has averted an awkward *contretemps*. The Government would have found themselves in no less a disagreeable predicament than the Committee. The Kumar's gift, munificent as it is, is worth infinitely more than its money value.

ON the 27th March, the Calcutta Corporation passed its Budget for the year 1890-91, without altering the rates. Mr. William Swinhoe, an elected Commissioner for the amalgamated area, objected to the

Budget as submitted. He took initial exception on the following grounds:—

"First, the budget had been passed without proper previous intimation being given. Second, the budget was an incorrect statement of the account of receipts and expenditure, as the balances of last year were not brought forward. Third, the accounts were improper, as the working expenses at the debit balances exceeded the total year's income. Fourth, that the budget was illegal, as it was against the true intent of the law."

The Chairman explained that, under the law, the Budget as originally framed was referred to the General Committee who had considered, modified and reported upon, it for final passing by the Commissioners in meeting, and that it was now open to Mr. Swinhoe to speak to any item or items of the Budget and ask the meeting to modify it or them. Mr. Swinhoe simply protested that the Budget could not be discussed in its then shape but the Chairman ruled him out of order. Mr. Swinhoe would not take his colleagues into his confidence and threatened an appeal to Government. True to his threat, he immediately applied to the Lieutenant-Governor to supersede the Corporation under the power reserved in Sec. 38 of the Municipal Act and "to direct that the yearly expenditure to be incurred by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, so far as concerns the added area, shall be framed and regulated according to the provisions of the law." We live in easy times. Formerly, it required all the influence of a Judge of the High Court to disgrace the municipality, now an attorney of that Court feels himself competent to put in motion the dreadful section of suppression or supersession. But it is one thing to wish and another to realise. Mr. Swinhoe has no *locus standi*. His application is premature. He wants the Budget as the law requires the Commissioners—to "devote to the improvement of the area newly added to Calcutta by this (Municipal) Act not less than three lakhs of rupees annually from the receipts of the revenue funds described in sections one hundred and two, one hundred and three and one hundred and five. Provided that the instalments of interest and reserve fund payable on any capital sum expended under clauses (3), (4) and (5) of this Section (37) for the improvement of that area shall be taken as part of the three lakhs of rupees." Whether the Budget is prepared accordingly or not, it surely is too early to kick up a row with the Commissioners for having failed in any of their duties fixed by law during a year which had not yet commenced, to say nothing of the end. At any rate, Mr. Swinhoe shews scant consideration for the law or his colleagues on the Board by not allowing the Commissioners an opportunity for considering his views on the Budget itself, in either its form or details.

THE Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad, we grieve to record, has been stricken with hemiplegia. The attack came on on Wednesday. He was better next day. We hope he will be spared to Moorshedabad and Bengal. He is a rare soul of goodness whom the country can ill spare. His public spirit is exemplary. His liberality is worthy of an Indian Prince, but while it is free and ready at all emergencies, it is intelligently discriminate and without ostentation. And he is just in his prime.

OUR present issue is unusually medical. But in presence of more than one epidemic disease, we need scarcely apologise. Over and above many medical notes of a general though interesting kind culled from various sources, we offer a summary of the weather and of the health of the country. As for the Influenza, besides giving our own news, we have much pleasure in laying before the public the observations of a distinguished man of science and physician, the Honourable Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1890.

### THE VICEROY ON THE PARLIAMENTARY BILL FOR THE REFORM OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURES.

THE Viceroy's speech at the Budget debate was meant for a wider audience. It is the fashion to complain of the gulf that separates the Government and the people under such a rule as ours. The ways of bureaucracy are ridiculed as mysterious. Indeed, much of the exclusiveness of the Government of

India is inevitable from its constitution, and we are glad at the prospect there is now of a reform in that constitution calculated to remove much of its present exclusiveness. The Viceroy commended Lord Cross's Bill to the acceptance of the people of India. His Lordship thoroughly took them into his confidence, and told them what part he had taken in the preparation of that Bill. He could not disclose official information which the Home authorities have not thought it expedient to make public, but what he said was sufficient to show the groundlessness of the rumours which have been current as to his Lordship's attitude towards what he called the most important constitutional question. For this open avowal of his policy, the country cannot be sufficiently thankful to his Lordship. Indeed, those who have carefully marked his Lordship's public utterances could not have failed to observe that Lord Lansdowne has always been anxious to enlighten public opinion whenever he had an opportunity of doing so. Such opportunities are, of course, rare in the very circumstances of such high official position, but whenever the Viceroy had any, he has fully utilised them to vouchsafe information, and to correct errors.

It will be in the remembrance of the reader how this time last year, Lord Lansdowne, in his speech on the Budget, announced the policy which has since been embodied in Lord Cross's Bill. His Lordship's Government has been quite at one with that of Lord Dufferin in regard to the expediency of giving the right of interpellation to the Legislative Councils and of discussing the Budget. As to the extension of those Councils and the mode of constituting them, there would now appear to be the same unanimity. Lord Lansdowne rejoices at the proposal in Lord Cross's Bill of strengthening their constitution, while he disclaims all responsibility for the opinions which rumour has ascribed to him with respect to election. After this candid avowal, there should be no more misapprehensions on the point.

The Viceroy is evidently very earnest on this subject of constitutional reform. He was in hopes of the proposed changes being made law last year. Lord Lansdowne contemplates the prospect of having to carry out those changes with great satisfaction, and nothing will please him so much as the early passing of Lord Cross's Bill. His Lordship said that "the Secretary of State was fully prepared to introduce the measure during the Parliamentary Session of 1889. Hon'ble members are, however, aware of the difficulties which attend Imperial legislation and cannot have been surprised even if they were disappointed to find that the attempt to pass a Councils Bill during the Session of 1889 was abandoned." His Lordship is full of earnest trust that it may be law before the present Session terminates. His Lordship deprecated opposition to the Bill because it was not sufficiently comprehensive. He admitted that there might be those who would desire a scheme more ambitious and far-reaching, but, nevertheless, he advised these men to be satisfied with what they have got and not to disparage unjustly a measure

*Holloway's Pills.*—Weakening weather.—The sultry summer days strain the nerves of the feeble and decrepit, and disease may eventuate unless some restorative, such as these purifying Pills, be found to correct the disordering tendency. Holloway's medicine gives potency to the nervous system, which is the source of all vital movements, and presides over every action which maintains the growth and well-being of the body. No one can overestimate the necessity of keeping the nerves well strung, or the ease with which these Pills accomplish that end. They are the most unfailing antidotes to indigestion, irregular circulation, palpitation, sick headache, and costiveness, and have therefore attained the largest sale and highest reputation.

which, His Lordship honestly believed, "marked one of the greatest advances made for many years past in the direction of a liberal reform of our institutions."

Here is advice from the Viceroy himself, given in a manner and in terms which ought to make it prevail. But the Agitator is abroad and he cannot see his occupation gone. So the country—that is, the malcontent zone thereof—is girding up its loins for another series of sham meetings and memorials on the subject of election. Already, the cry of a "down-trodden" India has been started. Everything will be done as the wires are pulled, while the greatest actors are gone to make what mischief they can at home. They are fighting only for a shadow. It is not Election or Nomination but Stronger Councils that we really want. And when we are at last to have such Councils, to say we won't have them unless they are constituted by Election, is not only foolish but dangerous. We know what success will attend the agitation, but it may just lose us the Bill in the House of Commons. Not indeed by defeating the ministry, of which there is now little fear, but by wearying the Government by factious opposition and Irish tactics, and leading them to add the Bill to the number of victims in the Massacre of the Innocents. But what care the Orator and his manager? It will be an additional feather to their cap. And the agitator's calling is safe. In fact, the death of the Bill will be new life to the Congress.

#### THE HOLIDAY QUESTION.

We trust the Government will be firm on the holiday question. The Chamber of Commerce is determined to have the Durgapuja shorn of its hallowed associations. And the Chamber wields vast influence. The European mercantile community are large employers of native labor. A dead-set against these holidays made by men of such power must, in any case, be an embarrassing complication. The controversy has reached a critical stage, and the whole native community in Bengal is in alarm.

At its last annual meeting, the Chamber of Commerce resolved to give itself no rest until the holidays were reduced to four days. The Presidential speech was chiefly directed against the holidays. All other topics were thrown into the background in the magnitude of importance attached to this. Indeed, Sir Alexander Wilson's attitude towards the subject was alarming, and the best tact and influence of our official chiefs will be called in requisition towards a satisfactory solution of the problem.

The Chamber has advanced the point so far as to procure a re-opening of the question. Sir Stuart Bayley has told the Chamber that its demand for reduced holidays had not the support of the entire mercantile body. The Exchange Banks not only made no such demand, but opposed it. In view of this division in their own house, they could scarcely complain of the decision adopted by the Government. To this, Sir Alexander Wilson, in his speech at the Annual meeting of the Chamber, replied that there was no schism of the kind in the mercantile community, and that the Exchange Banks were at one with the Chamber in this movement. Surprise will no doubt be felt by the Government and the public at this announcement. There has been an open schism between the Exchange Banks and the Chamber of Commerce, and if there is a coalition now, it must be of recent occurrence. Apparently, the Banks have given way to the potent influence of the Cham-

ber. The question now asked is, Will the same influence conquer the Government also?

There could not be a greater disaster to the country than the abolition of these time-honored holidays. The greatest religious and social festival of the country is threatened. The holidays being gone, the thin end of the wedge will have been introduced, and the Durga Puja must prepare itself for a process of slow decay. It may live shrunk into insignificance, but it will not be the Durga Puja that is so dear to the Hindoo mind. The Chamber quotes the authority of a Hindu scholar, and argues that four days are all necessary for the ritual part of the festival. The Native Chamber of Commerce has given an effective reply to this assertion. Hindu scholars are not necessarily strong in Hindu practical theology and worship, and the European Chamber's man either does not know or has disingenuously supported his clients. We have no wish to import any element of bitterness into the controversy. We only appeal to the European community, official and non-official, to save the country from the threatened encroachment upon its grandest institution. Commerce has flourished well enough in the past, without interfering with religious usages of the people. Merchant princes have come and gone without complaining of the suspension of business during these holidays. They have not only never grudged their men these days but have themselves enjoyed them, sometimes by freely mixing in the native amusements of the season. How different are their successors! What isolation is daily becoming more and more marked between the two communities! The merchants talk of increased competition in these days, but are the old traditions and the religious feelings of the people of no weight in the scale? The question should not be allowed to be reopened. Time and again has it been considered, and the decision at last and deliberately arrived at should be final. There may be a coalition patched up between the Exchange Banks and the Chamber, but is the deep sentiment of a whole nation to count for nothing? It will be a distinct abuse of power if the Government gives in to the superior influence of the mercantile community.

The holidays, apart from their religious aspect, have a great social and moral use. Man is not such a machine as a clock or a watch. Temporary respite from work is essential for both the bodily health and the health of the mind. The tendency of these days of life at high pressure is to reduce men to the condition of machinery. The big folks have their long furloughs, their run to the hills, their sea trips, and what not. But the drudges and galley-slaves in subordinate employ must go on toiling and moiling without rest, as if they were not of the same flesh and blood. Why should not the Chamber look with composure on these holidays as respite given to enable these drudges to renew their used up energies?

#### THE INFLUENZA IN CALCUTTA.

Science has its advantages as well as its disadvantages, and singularly enough the disadvantages are very often the outcome of the advantages. Rapidity of locomotion is an advantage of modern science, but this rapid locomotion means very often rapid spread of infectious diseases. The present epidemic of Influenza is an illustration in point. There is not the least doubt that the recent rapid spread of the Influenza in Europe, and from Europe to America and India, giving it the character more of a pandemic than of a simple epidemic, is due to the rapidity of transport brought about by steam.



The disease resembles so much ordinary acute catarrhal fever that it is very difficult to say when the first case or cases occurred in Calcutta. The first telegram received of the Bombay epidemic was dated the 25th February, from which it appears that cases must have been occurring there before the middle of the month. From this I am inclined to conclude that cases must have appeared in Calcutta during the last week of February at the latest. The first case that came under my observation was in my own family and that was in the last day of the first week of March. The second case occurred a few days after. Then about a week after nearly all the other members were down with the fever almost simultaneously, the intervals between the cases being one day in some, two or three in others. The onset is apparently so sudden that the names "lightning catarrh" in English and *La Grippe* in French have been given to it. But it is not always, it is very seldom, that it is really sudden in its appearance. In not a small number of cases, if well observed, a sort of malaise, consisting of feverishness, lassitude, loss of appetite, pains, would be found to precede the violent symptoms which are the exaggeration of the preceding. So far as I can judge the disease seems to be spreading by infection; and the stage of incubation would seem to last from a few hours to at least two weeks. Some constitutions are so susceptible as to be affected in the course of an hour or two of their coming within the influence, and others so strongly resistant as altogether to repel the morbid cause, or to require its persistent action for days to succumb ultimately.

The predominant symptoms are fever and prostration. In the present epidemic the catarrhal symptoms of the nose do not seem to me to offer very characteristic phenomena. Violent headache and muscular pains (not arthritic as in Dengue) rank next to fever and prostration. Cough due to tracheal and bronchial inflammation comes next in the order of frequency. Sometimes in place of inflammation down the trachea and bronchi, there is inflammation of the throat and larynx and of their glands. In a great number of cases there is a flush of redness of the face down to the thorax. In these the nervous prostration with alarming drowsiness and delirium is very often present. In a few cases there are gastric troubles in the shape of nausea and bilious vomiting. Diarrhœa is very rare. Burning of the eyes, hands and feet, are met with in these gastric or bilious forms, and in some general burning of the body is a very distressing symptom. Some people complain as if fire was issuing from their mouths, noses, eyes, and ears. The sequelæ are, in the order of their frequency, debility, cough, loss of appetite, vertigo. Otitis media is reported to be a frequent symptom and sequela of the disease in Europe. I noticed it in only one instance, out of more than hundred that I have observed. Relapses are not frequent, but do occur from infringement of dietetic and other hygienic rules.

With regard to treatment I may observe there is hardly any necessary. I have watched the gravest cases with alarming cerebral symptoms, left them without medicine, and they have made as good recoveries as those treated with drugs. The disease generally terminates in spontaneous recovery in from three to ten days. We may require *Rhus Tox.* for the pains, *Belladonna* for the cerebral symptoms, *Chamomilla* for the bilious vomitings and burnings, *Arsenicum* for the bronchial affections. *Gelsemium* may be required when, with strong fever and drowsiness, there is absence of thirst. *Aconitum* has not been of much use unless there were restlessness and insatiable thirst. In such cases *Arsenicum* sometimes acts better than *Aconitum*.

The disease does not seem to have spared age, sex, or nationality. Male and female, old, young, children, and even infants at the breast have been attacked. I do not know how far our European brethren have suffered, but other nationalities seem fully under its influence. The percentage of population attacked is certainly over fifty. There is scarcely a house that has not had the unwelcome visitor, and in many houses almost all the members had to pay due homage to it.

Observations do not seem to have been made as to how far the lower animals have been affected by the epidemic influence. I have heard of only one instance, and that of a cat which had the chief symptoms of the influenza, namely, fever and the pains in the body. I doubt not but that if we were more observant we would find that other animals are suffering from the epidemic visitation, though certainly in a much less degree than man.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.

#### NOTES OF READING FROM NOTE-BOOKS.

Lucknow, Sunday, the 22nd February, 1893.

The bitterest want here is the want of books. The city was better provided when the country was under native Government. The Princes, as a rule, were educated men and the court and aristocracy affected letters. It was a well-appointed court and a well-furnished metropolis. The Rulers patronised not only music, song and dance, fiddlers and buffoons, talking parrots, singing nightingales, and fighting cocks, wrestlers, conjurors, palmists, astrologers and prophets, but also encouraged painters, poets, philosophers and learned men in general. No kind of liberal art or culture appealed to them in vain. Mr. Beechy was painter to the Court. A regular observatory was maintained. The Royal Library was the largest collection of Mahomedan literature of any city in India. How different is it all since the fall of Wajid Ali Shah! The British Capital of Oudh no doubt boasts a sort of public Library, but it is not only not worth mentioning in the same breath with the right royal institutions gone before, but a thing of absolute wretchedness and insignificance, a poor thing, full of "Circulating" trash to the taste of ladies and gentlemen. There is no doubt a small residue of wheat, but even that is not available to the *canaille*. The Baboo has no business to command, although he is perfectly welcome to pay. There is no depending on the institution. The rules are allowed to be broken by an unimportant speculative Honorary Secretary, who, expecting favors from the great, is anxious to avoid the least appearance of offence, and the result is that the Library presents an array of empty shelves which give rather the idea of an upholstery store than a literary institution. The fact is that the contents of the furniture---the letter-press stitched and bound in cloth or leather---move about for years together with the lords of the Commission, from Commissioners of sorts down to Deputies, Assistants, and Extra Assistants.

Found this morning among the few books of my friend Issur, a volume of the *Household Words* for 1857, and Campbell's *Rhetoric*. Read several portions of both. For the first time to-day, I perused Dickens' famous protest in *Household Words* against the article in the July number of the *Edinburgh Review* 1857 on the "Licence of Modern Novelists." Even at this distance of time, I can in some measure appreciate the sensation which the great Novelist's Defence of his Circumlocution Office in *Little Dorrit* created. The article is wickedly headed "Curious Misprint in the *Edinburgh Review*." It is as Mr. Dickens at the outset says it will be, an earnest but temperate remonstrance against the reviewer's charges, and as a defence perfectly successful. It is one of the most dignified vindications ever penned.

The other book is Dr. Campbell's *Philosophy of Rhetoric*. It is a Calcutta edition, and consequently there are numerous errors of the press, some of them very annoying, such as "vicinity" for "vivacity." It is amusing to hear a man like Campbell discoursing on Rhetoric, whose composition is not only not elegant, but absolutely defies the commonest rules of writing. He repeats only the old inconsistency between precept and example. The precept, for all that, is generally correct enough, if not always correctly argued, but the example is frightful.

Campbell's partiality for the word "hath" instead of "has" is a disagreeable peculiarity. He will never use the current word "has." It is curious a philosopher of Rhetoric did not perceive the absurdity of the

Biblical pretence. Where the style assumes a high religious tone, the use of "hath" is not only proper, but imparts dignity to the expression, but to always substitute "hath" for "has" is the sheerest of affectations.

A good exhaustive Philosophy of Rhetoric, taking cognizance of the revolution in English taste which has taken place since the rise of the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly Reviews* and *Blackwood's Magazine*,—is yet a desideratum.

It is remarkable that most of the text writers, including standard authorities themselves, break their own laws. Blair, long the Oracle of *Belles Lettres* in England and still much in request there—in India I believe his is about the only Code known—is an indifferent writer, who in the same breath commits the faults he warns his readers against.

There is an article in the old *Critical Review* about the beginning of the century, in which Blair's systematic breach of the laws he teaches is mercilessly exposed. The writer shows, by means of copious quotations from the Doctor's Lectures on Rhetoric and *Belles Lettres*, that the Lycurgus of taste could not move a step without sinning against his own Code. I may here observe in passing that the *Critical Review* is a very rare work in India. The only tolerably complete set I saw was in the Wellington Square Dutt family collection. The Metcalfe Hall Library set is imperfect, and particularly wants the volume containing Blair's exposure. Yet it is noteworthy that it is to outsiders that England is indebted for systematic treatment of her language and literature. Who are her arbiters of taste? Not her *khas* sons. There is no Academy of Immortals in England. The Royal Society was started to improve "natural knowledge" and has maintained that character generally, and the Royal Society of Literature, although it numbers some of the best men in the land and has published a body of worthy Transactions, has somehow not been well managed enough to be able to assume anything like the position of literary dictator to the nation. Individuals, therefore, take the place of organization. But they are not Englishmen who are the lawgivers in taste, at least the codifiers and text-writers. Two of the race denounced by Swift and Johnson and derided by Sydney Smith himself—two Scotchmen, in fact—have analysed for Englishmen their literature and laid down its principles. Making all necessary deductions, there are two valuable books—Campbell's *Philosophy of Rhetoric* and Kaimes's *Elements of Criticism*, of which Scotland may well be proud. What an irony of Fate that minds nurtured with the food of horses in England should, under Divine Providence, be ordained to instruct the proud South Britons in the philosophy of the refined arts of literature and the technical rules of composition in their mother-tongue! Sentiment apart, the real pity is that both Kaimes and Campbell are behind the age.

A BENGALI BOOKWORM.

## THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Observing the frequent remarks in newspapers on metallic questions, about the great, and continual loss, which both the Indian Government, and the public in general suffer, in making remittances to Europe, I—though a man of a very humble education and station—respectfully beg leave to say a few words on this important subject, humbly trusting, that this, if not entirely wrong or altogether unreasonable, will be allowed a place in your very impartial and famous journal.

2. Formerly a sovereign could be had in Calcutta at Rs. 10 to 11, the Government exchange being then 15  $\frac{1}{4}$  or 15  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{4}$ . This gold coin subsequently began to rise in value, so that it cannot now be procured at less than Rs. 14-12, owing, as is well known, to the very depreciated value of silver. This circumstance has increased the price in Indian Rupees of gold, causing the downfall of the exchange from 15  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{4}$  to 15  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{4}$  and consequently a great and ever-increasing loss. The only remedy that could possibly be adopted by Government lies, I believe, in the increase of the weight of Rupees, if it could be done, without a greater loss to the state. The loss on this head, might, it is surmised, be prevented to a great extent, by allowing a proportionate increase to be made in the copper coins—Pices for a heavier Rupee.

3. Another remedy for the existing evil might be devised, were it practicable for the Indian Government to obtain the permission of Home Government to coin shillings, which, whatever may be the intrinsic value of silver, are invariably accepted in England as twentieth parts of a £ sterling: and to forward them in kind to that country, in payment of debts, pensions, interests on Government loans, &c., fixing their value here, so that they may after bearing the freight, &c., reach England as equal to those in circulation there.

4. Unless either of the above remedies can be adopted by the Indian Government, there may, in my humble opinion, be no prospect of the loss arising from exchange, being put a stop to in future.

5. Soliciting pardon for blunders in this.

AN OBSERVER.

The 20th March, 1890.

## THE CORRESPONDENCE ON THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

A Parliamentary paper was issued on Saturday (Mar. 1.) giving extracts from the correspondence which has passed relating to the numbers and functions of the several Councils in India. It begins with an extract from a minute of Lord Dufferin's, dated Nov. 6, 1888, in which he says:—

"For my own part, I think that a yearly financial discussion in the Viceroy's Legislative Council would prove a very useful and desirable arrangement, and a very convenient preliminary to the subsequent debate which takes place on Indian finances in the House of Commons later in the year. I do not by this mean that votes should be taken in regard to the various items of the Budget, or that the heads of expenditure should be submitted in detail to the examination of the Council, but simply that an opportunity should be given for a full, free, and thorough criticism and examination of the financial policy of the Government. Some such change as this would, I believe, prove as beneficial to the Indian Administration as it would be in accordance with the wishes of the European and Native mercantile world of India. At present the Government is exposed to every kind of misapprehension and misrepresentation in regard to its figures and its statement of their results. Were the matter to be gone into thoroughly and exhaustively on the occasion I suggest by independent critics, who, however anxious to detect a blot or to prove the Government in the wrong, would be at all events masters of their subject and cognisant of the technicalities and intricacies of Indian finance, the result would be far more advantageous to the financial reputation of the Indian Government as well as more conducive to the improvement of our financial system than are the present perfunctory Indian financial debates in the House of Commons and the imperfect exposition of Indian finance in some of the English newspapers.

"The second change in the procedure of the Supreme Legislative Council which I am inclined to recommend is that, under proper restrictions to be laid down by the Viceroy, its members should be permitted to ask questions in reference to current matters of domestic as distinguished from those of imperial interest that may have attracted public attention. One of the great dangers of the present situation is the facility with which that section of the press which is bent upon holding up English rule to the hatred and contempt of the people can go on day after day attributing to the Government intentions of inaugurating some obnoxious policy, until they have worked up large sections of the community into a state of excitement and alarm; or else of inventing or exaggerating facts, upon which they subsequently comment in a most malicious manner, with the view of producing a disquieting effect upon the public mind, and infusing into it a spirit of disloyalty and discontent. Under existing circumstances the Government of India has no means of controlling or neutralising the effect of these mischievous practices. It has no adequate medium through which it can explain its policy, correct a wrong impression, or controvert a false statement, and, though up to the present time the consequences of the evils I have indicated may not have become very serious or widespread, they contain the germs of incalculable danger. Consequently it would prove as great an advantage to the Administration as it would frequently be a satisfaction to the members of the Council and the public at large, if reasonable opportunities were afforded of communicating to those interested the exact facts in regard to any questionable matter."

This is enclosed in a Despatch to the Secretary of State from the Viceroy in Council (May 25, 1889) asking the Secretary of State to consider what steps should be taken to give effect to the above. It points out that the terms of sec. 19 of the Indian Councils Act prevent the Council from entering upon any other business than that immediately connected with the work of legislation, and, by an extract from Sir C. Wood's despatch of Aug. 9, 1861, shows that this was an intention deliberately adopted by the framers of the Act. The despatch proceeds—

"We are anxious to explain in reference to this question that in our opinion the Budget should be submitted to the Legislative Coun-

cil for discussion and criticism only, and that no power should be given to make a motion regarding it, still less to withhold supplies; and we would therefore allow no motion to be made or resolution taken with regard to any Budget, except so far as it depended on legislation, in which case members would be entitled to their usual rights. We would certainly not make the financial arrangements of the Government dependent on the passing of an Appropriation Bill. The advantages to be derived from the public discussion of the Budget would, in our opinion, be found in the exposure of unpopular features, in the opportunity afforded for explanation, and in the suggestions which would be obtained for future guidance; but it would be impossible, under our system of Government, to reconstruct a Budget because it did not meet the approval of the Legislative Council, and it would be unwise to encourage divisions, which would only serve to emphasise the existence of a permanent Government majority.

"We have not excluded from our consideration the fact that an opportunity for the discussion of the Budget might be provided, either by bringing on a Budget debate in connection with any measure directly or indirectly raising financial issues, in the same way as such a debate was allowed this year in connection with the introduction of the Patwari Bill, or even by making it our practice to introduce in every session of the Council some financial measure which might afterwards be dropped, but the introduction of which would afford an occasion for a financial discussion. This expedient, which in fact approaches to an evasion of the statute, is not one to which it would in our opinion be desirable to resort. We consider, moreover, that the exercise of the right which we propose to confer upon the Legislative Council should be secured to it by law, and should not depend upon facilities which it would be in the discretion of the Government for the time being to afford or to withhold.

"In regard to the second proposed modification, it follows, from the argument which we have already advanced, that the right of interpellation could not, in our opinion, be admitted without an alteration of the law. We desire to add that, while Lord Dufferin considered that questions should be restricted to 'current matters of domestic as distinguished from those of Imperial interest,' we are of opinion that there will be an advantage in conceding a large measure of liberty in this respect. It appears to us that occasions may frequently present themselves in which it would be extremely desirable, in the interests of the Government of India, that questions should be addressed to it even upon matters which it would, *prima facie*, be necessary to enumerate among those excluded from public discussion, if any class or classes of subjects were to be so excluded.

"In connection with the matter of interpellation, we also desire to say that, having considered the safeguards under which the right, if conceded to members of the Council, should be exercised, we think that for the present it will be sufficient to provide that due notice should be given to the Secretary of the Council of any question which a member may desire to ask; and that the President, after communication with the Department of the Government concerned, should be empowered, without giving reasons, to declare that such a question must not be put. We think that the length of the notice to be given, and all other details, should be reserved to be embodied in regulations to be framed by the Governor-General in Council and capable of alteration from time to time.

"We desire, in conclusion, to express our decided opinion that, if the two changes of procedure which we have described are admitted in the case of the Legislative Council of the Government of India, it will be desirable to extend them (perhaps with some further reservations as to the Budget) to the Provincial Legislative Councils."

This despatch is followed by one from the Secretary of State, dated Aug. 1, 1889, as follows:—

"My Lord Marquess,—I have considered in Council the statement made by your Excellency in the course of remarks addressed to your Council when assembled for the purpose of making laws and regulations, on March 29 last, that it is the opinion of the Government of India—

"(a) That the opportunities accorded to the Council for passing under review the financial situation of the country should occur with regularity, and independently of the necessity of financial legislation in any particular year; and

"(b) That members of the Council ought to have, under proper safeguards, the right of addressing questions to the Government upon matters of public interest.

"I fully concur with your Government that it ought always to be possible to obtain for the public the benefits which are certainly derived from the discussions of the Budget, and which I have no doubt will be derived from the reasonable exercise by members of the Council of the right of interpellation. Subject, therefore, to any observations which your Excellency's Government may in the meantime offer for my consideration, I propose to make, at a suitable opportunity, an application to Parliament for such an extension of the powers of the Governor-General's Council (when assembled for legislative purposes), and of the Provincial Councils also, as will authorise the discussion of the Budget independently of any proposed legislation, and as will also give members the right, under

certain restrictions, of addressing questions to the Government—and I propose further to take the same opportunity of asking for powers to increase the number of additional members of the several Councils. I think the time has come when it is desirable that public opinion should be more largely and variously represented. And this may, in my opinion, be best effected by a simple extension of the existing system, such as will, by increasing the number of nominations to the Councils, extend the circle of selection, so as to secure, so far as circumstances admit, due representation of considerable sections of the community and of administrative knowledge and experience in the principal departments of the various Governments.

"I enclose, for your Excellency's consideration, twelve copies of a draft Bill which has been prepared with the object of carrying these proposals into effect, and of dealing with certain cognate subjects which have been brought under my notice by your Excellency in Council.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) CROSS."

The draft Bill was enclosed. Then follow the remarks thereon of the Viceroy in Council, contained in a Despatch, dated Dec. 24, 1889, stating that the Government of Madras approved the Bill; the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-West Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oude also accepted, suggesting a verbal amendment with the view of making it clear that the privilege of asking Governors should not be confined to the discussion of the Budget. The Bombay Government were divided, the Governor approving, with a slight amendment, while other members of the Government objected to its main provisions, and deprecated the enlargement of the Council, the discussion of the Budget, and the interpellation clause. They also suggested that the maximum of additional members should be 14 instead of 20, and urged that there should be power to nominate Native Chiefs of States under the political control of the Local Government. They also took this objection to sec. 3:—"That it would enable the Governor-General in Council in concert with the local Councils to entirely defeat the legislation of his own Council intended for all India." The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal considered the maximum number of additional members fixed by the draft Bill to be too low, and recommended extension to 30. He further desired that the nature of the restrictions to be imposed on the discussion of the Budget and upon the asking of questions, if it could not be indicated in the Bill, should at least be clearly explained in bringing it before Parliament, so that there might be no ground for misunderstanding or recrimination in the future. He gave an illustration of the inconvenience which might possibly arise from the discussion of the Provincial Budget touching upon questions of Imperial finance, which it would be difficult for the Local Government adequately to deal with, and expressed his apprehension that such a discussion might possibly lead to "a hostile resolution." He therefore suggested that an alteration in the existing system of provincial contracts should be made which could admit of dividing the annual financial statement into two parts, one of which, dealing only with the receipts and expenditure fixed by contract, should not be laid before the Council at all, while the other, dealing with those items of revenue which are entirely within the control of the Local Government, should be submitted for discussion. As regards the right of asking questions, he suggested that it should be clearly made known beforehand that the right would be confined to a single question and answer, and that matters still under discussion with superior authority, or which had recently been under such discussion, should not be the subject of interpellation save with the previous consent of the superior authority.

The Despatch of the Viceroy in Council proceeded:—"The majority of us are of opinion that there should be no increase in the number of members composing the Governor-General's Council, and that its enlargement to the extent proposed will have the effect of adding to expenditure without increasing efficiency, or satisfying the demands of those who advocate the creation of a much larger Council. As regards local Councils, we are unanimously opposed to the reduction of the minimum number of councillors below eight, as recommended by the Government of Bombay. Some of us would prefer to adopt for general application to all provinces a larger maximum than any of those provided for in the Bill, upon the understanding that it should be worked up to by degrees. We are, however, unanimously of opinion that an increase up to the numbers specified in the draft may safely be accepted.

"Referring to the second section of the Bill, we do not think it possible or desirable that rules as to the discussion of the Financial Statement or the right of interpellation, which in the nature of things must vary from time to time, should, as suggested by the Bombay Government, be embodied in the Act. It would, however, be desirable, in order to avoid misapprehension, to add to the section a proviso that it shall not be competent for any member of Council to propose any resolution, or divide the Council, in respect of any matter arising out of any financial discussion, or the answer to any question permitted by the Act or the rules made under it. Such a proviso would obviate the apprehension suggested by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal regarding the discussion of the Budget."

IN THE PRESS.  
Uniform with "Travels & Voyages in Bengal"  
**ESSAYS BY A BRAHMAN**  
IN  
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### TRAVELS & VOYAGES IN BENGAL

BETWEEN  
*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*  
BY  
**SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,**  
*Formerly Minister to the late*  
NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,  
(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)  
*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*  
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#### OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tired of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good

humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as in-

structive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1890.

No. 419

## THE SAGE AND THE NYMPH.

A TALE FROM THE SANSKRIT.

By H. H. WILSON.

[Continued from p. 258.]

Should human feelings still remain,  
Derision on his suit might wait :  
Should her high hopes the Maid retain,  
What could he meet, but scorn or hate ?

At length, despairing to restore  
The calm that long had been his guest ;  
Whilst shame his features purpled o'er,  
He told the conflicts of his breast.

" Daughter ! I long in solitude,  
Mistaken deem'd that I was wise ;  
And loved, in proud and churlish mood,  
My fellow mortals to despise.

" But I am punish'd—and 'tis just—  
I own myself as weak as they ;  
The strength in which I placed my trust  
In flight from all allurements lay :

" The charm is broken—thou hast wrought  
A change in feelings idly cherish'd.  
I blush to speak my every thought  
Of final liberation, perish'd.

" My hopes are earthly, and like all  
Of earth, I know that they are vain :  
Yet must it be—to earth I fall,  
Never to heaven to rise again.

" Thou art my heaven—from me as far,  
As that to which I late aspired :  
As unattainable, as are  
The glories former dreams inspired :

" For in thy heart, it cannot be,  
The passion such as mine should prey :  
I cannot deem thou feel'st for me,  
The love that wears my life away.

" Then leave me, Maiden—to the hearth  
Domestic, be thy steps retraced ;  
Believe me, thou wast form'd for earth,  
And human bliss to give and taste.

" For there is bliss beneath the sun :  
Too late I learn the lesson now.  
The lonely course that I have run,  
Was never meant for such as thou.

" The fitter task is thine to plight  
Thy hand and faith where love has bound thee—  
To give and to receive delight,  
A husband and thy children round thee.

" For me, I quit this once loved spot,  
To sojourn to each sacred shrine ;  
To wear away my cheerless lot,  
In penance, and in tasks divine.

" And when I feel the hour is nigh,  
That Yama speaks his dread decree ;  
I'll drag me here, at last to die,  
Beneath this fond remember'd tree,

" Where foolish phantasy I nursed,  
A sorrow I will part with never—  
Where I beheld thy graces first—  
And where I left thee—and for ever.

" And haply then, a sorrowing band,  
Of thee and thine, my leafy pyre  
May heap, and e'en that gentle hand,  
May trembling light my funeral fire.

" And thus thy tenderness shall pay,  
Some kind requital of my love :  
Release me from these bonds of clay,  
And waft me to the realms above."

He ceased, and over his features spread  
The ashy paleness of the dead ;  
And a convulsive quivering came  
Across his agitated frame :  
But soon subdued, he briefly pray'd  
His parting blessing on the Maid ;  
And turn'd, as from her to depart,  
With drooping brow, and broken heart.

But Lila cried :—" Markanda—hold !  
Is this the guidance thou hast vow'd :  
And can thy purpose, stern and cold,  
Consign me to the heartless crowd ?

" To bitter gibes, that still from men  
The change of resolution meets :  
No, never will I tread again,  
Yon busy city's thronging streets.

" Unless indeed thou guide me thither,  
And seek yon haunt of man with me ;  
Or any other realm—for whither,  
Thou goest, I will go with thee—

" But let us home—a mother's tears  
Of joy, shall hail my penance done.  
Not less her rapture, when she hears,  
That with her Daughter, comes a Son."

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE days of the expensive Indian yellow, made by some peasants in the Monghyr district who keep the secret, seem to be numbered. A Swiss chemist, M. Grœbe, has been able to produce its principal element, euxanthone.

AT an auction sale at Lyme Regis, an oak table was, after a brisk bidding, knocked down to a London antiquary for 142*l*. It formed the property of one Hanbury Miers who certified that it was owned by Cromwell. The value of the article was further enhanced by the allegation that it was upon this table that Cromwell appended his signature to the death warrant of Charles I. A bloody, infernal, butcher table which ought to be burned by the hands of the common hangman, which all respectable people ought to shun, and which can be treasured up as a relic only by *sans culottes*, caitiffs, Jacobins, Reds, Communists, Fenians, Nihilists, and Irreconcilables of every grade and nation!

THOMAS Hope, a merchant of New York, recently dead, has bequeathed the residue of his estate, valued at upwards of 400,000 dollars, to the town of Langholm, Scotland, for a hospital for the aged and the infirm. Hope was a native of Langholm, and left it when a boy seventy years ago, revisiting it only twice during this long term. He was never married.

Who will say there is nothing in a name? Hope is a famous name for acquisitiveness, and when Thomas is prefixed, the double-barrelled name is simply irresistible.

GRATTAN Geary *vs.* Symons has ended in double disgrace of the defendant. After the cross-examination of the complainant, the defendant professed to be satisfied with Mr. Geary's denial of sympathy with the Fenians and withdrew the imputation. But the Magistrate was not satisfied with the withdrawal, he took time to consider the matter, and, after a night's cogitation, fined Symons Rs. 300 with the alternative of three months' imprisonment. The Magistrate justly held that the accusation was clearly defamatory, especially for the time and place selected for it, and there was no justification and defence.

ONE Chunnu was tried for and convicted of theft by the Lucknow City Magistrate Mr. Bower, and while being sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment, the accused flung a shoe at the Magistrate, which, however, did not strike him. For this attempted offence against judicial dignity, Chunnu will, by order of the Deputy Commissioner, be further incarcerated for three years including three months' solitary confinement. What if the attempt succeeded? Nothing short of hanging and drawing and quartering would have appeased the injured susceptibilities of the British Indian bench!

THE Land Acquisition Act, which is made to play such pranks, has come under the scrutiny of the Privy Council. We read:—

"The Maharajah of Darbhanga *v.* the Chairman of the Darbhanga Municipality.—This was an appeal from a judgment of the High Court of Bengal of Jan. 24, 1888, reversing a decree of the district judge of Mozuffepore. Mr. Cowie, Q.C., and Mr. J. H. A. Branson were counsel for the appellant; Mr. Robinson, Q.C., and Mr. J. D. Mayne for the respondent. The appellant was until 1879 a minor under the care of the Court of Wards, the manager of the estate being Colonel J. Burn. Among his property was a piece of land on the banks of the river Bhagmati, in the town of Darbhanga. In 1874 a declaration was made by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal under the Land Acquisition Act X. of 1870 that a certain portion of this land was required to be taken by the Government, at the expense of the Darbhanga Municipality, for the purpose of constructing a public bathing ghat or landing place. The appellant's manager (Colonel Burn), with the permission of the Court of Wards, presented the plot of land in question to the town at the nominal compensation of one rupee. The land was taken possession of by the municipality, and a small bathing ghat was constructed upon it; but the bulk of it was used by the municipality as a market, to the great loss and detriment, as was alleged, of the appellant, who had an old and well-established market close by. In these circumstances the Maharajah brought, in 1886, the present suit to recover possession of the land. The district judge held that the guardian, Colonel Burn, had no power to give away the appellant's property, and that the transaction, though the forms of the Land Acquisition Act were used, was really a gift. He therefore held that the whole transaction was illusory and void, and he declared the Maharajah entitled to possession of the land, with costs. The High Court, on appeal, reversed that decision, holding that the proceedings were, both in substance and in form, proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act,

and all that was done by the guardian was to accept nominal compensation when he had a right to insist on substantial compensation; that the municipality were in due legal possession of the land, and were justified in using it for any purpose for which the Statute authorised its use, although not the purpose for which it was professedly taken. From this last decree the present appeal was instituted. At the close of the arguments on both sides, their lordships intimated that they would not require Mr. Cowie to reply, but that they would deliver their judgment at another sitting."

Under the Act, anything is a public purpose whenever the Government wills it. And how lightly is it employed!

IN the introductory note attached to the Index to Reports of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest (with appendix) 1886-88, commercial No. 27 (1889), it is stated that prior to the year 1886 it was the practice of the Foreign Office to publish the reports of Her Majesty's diplomatic and consular representatives abroad on trade, finance and subjects of general interest, in Blue Books at various intervals, when a sufficient number had been received to make a fair-sized volume. These Blue Books were published only during the Session of Parliament, or shortly after its close. This system, however, was open to two serious objections. In the first place, a person requiring a particular report on a specific subject found himself compelled to purchase a volume containing a quantity of extraneous matter possibly of no interest to him, and at a cost consequently in excess of the value of what he really required. A still graver objection lay in the fact that while one report might be printed and ready for publication, it had to wait till others were received in a sufficient number to make up a Blue Book. Considerable delay was thus at times occasioned, and the value of the earlier papers proportionately diminished. Lord Rosebery, when Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, readily recognising the force of these objections which were then strongly urged, took effectual steps to remedy them by ordering a separate publication of all reports both during the Session of Parliament and in the recess. This arrangement met with the unanimous approval of the public and the press, and the reports were henceforward issued at a price well within the reach of all classes.

The series thus established are divided into two categories, "Annual" and "Miscellaneous." In the former, are comprised reports on trade, finance and agriculture, which are annually required, from Her Majesty's mission and consulates abroad. In the latter, are included reports on subjects of general economic interest which are either specially called for by the Secretary of State or voluntarily submitted for publication by their authors. These series have their consecutive numbers which run on from year to year. From the summer of 1886 down to the end of 1888, 445 reports of the annual and 110 of the miscellaneous series have been issued in the separate form, and it is to the salient feature of these 555 reports that the body of the present work is designed to facilitate reference.

MR. H. Lee is Gazetted Chairman of the Commissioners of Calcutta, with effect from the date on which he may take charge from the Hon'ble Sir Henry Leland Harrison, K.T. Mr. Lee has already been acting the Chairman under direction of Sir Henry Harrison. Mr. Lee's appointment as Chairman reduces, during the continuance of the present period of election of the Corporation, the number of Commissioners by one. He was nominated by Government a member in place of a Government Commissioner Dr. O'Brien resigned. The present translation to the head of the Corporation, leaves no vacancy arising from death, resignation or disqualification which can be filled under Sec. 33 of the Municipal Act.

The Commissioners meet specially next Monday, to sanction—under Sec. 43 of the Act—the salary of the new Chairman. The Act has limited the minimum to Rs. 2,500 a month. It is left to the Commissioners to raise it to Rs. 3,000 or to grant in addition house-rent, with approval of the Local Government. The law requires, "All resolutions passed by the Commissioners under this section shall be subject to the approval of the Local Government." Is it competent to the Local Government not to approve the allowance of only Rs. 2,500 sanctioned by the Commissioners for a Chairman?

THIS has gone almost the entire round of the press:—

"Since the death of Mr. Browning, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, there has been no more favourite topic of literary discussion than who could or should succeed Lord Tennyson. Some are for Mr. Swinburne, some for Mr. William Morris, some for Mr. Alfred Austin, some for Mr.

Lewis Morris, and so forth. At last, however, a word has been said bearing indirectly on the subject by one who speaks in such matters with the authority of a future Prime Minister. This is Mr. Gladstone who discoursing on 'British Poetry of the Nineteenth Century' in the *Speaker* awards the palm to Tennyson, and then says:—"Pressing round or upon him, or walking in the same path, we have had many true poets, some of extraordinary and many of very considerable powers. Among those claiming the first of these descriptions I have mentioned Mr. Browning; and the merest justice requires me to add at least the name of Mr. Swinburne. Beyond this, it would be vain in a paper like this either further to enumerate or to classify, or to refer particularly to those legions of the middling and the bad, who constitute, as it were, the camp-followers of the genuine poetic army." Presumably, therefore, if it ever fell to Mr. Gladstone's lot to nominate a Poet Laureate, his choice would fall upon Mr. Swinburne—a choice which, in view of all the abuse Mr. Swinburne has lavished on 'Gladstone's name,' would be a characteristic instance of great name's magnanimity."

Another curiosity of criticism! Strange that the G. O. M. should show such a decided preference for the head of the Fleshly School of all others—a libertine writer whose genius is so often hid under a mass of empty sounding verbiage. Mr. Gladstone too is prone to redundancy and wordiness, still he never degenerates into mere sound and fury. But then, Mr. Swinburne, though a Pantheist in his poetry and probably an agnostic in creed, is a Greek in art. That is no doubt a strong bond of sympathy between the two. Still one would have thought that the Bard of the Life and Death of Jason would be more after the heart of the most enthusiastic student of Homer and the Heroic Age, of not only all men in the British Islands but of all statesmen of the day.

THE famous fracas at the Calcutta Fire-temple in which Badshaw—we beg his pardon, Padshah—the poor wandering Parsee—was cudgelled like a thief, for his unhappy practical jest, by the Mehtas, bids fair to give our metropolis another Zoroastrian place of worship. The present temple belongs to the family of old and amiable Mr. Manickjee Rustonjee, once of so much importance in the town. If we remember rightly, it was at the time said that the presence of the smoking Parsee and the disturbance in the sacred precincts had detracted from the purity of the place. Be that what it may, we can easily understand the disinclination of the Mehtas to join in divine service or other ceremonies at a place with unpleasant associations for them, even though assured of immunity from future molestation there. But to start a new fire-temple is no joke. It is not a question of purse only. To procure the elements of the necessary sanctity is a most arduous affair. Mr. Mehta senior, father of Mr. R. D. Mehta, at last resolved upon the attempt, and has succeeded. We give the account from the *Advocate of India* :—

"Towards the latter part of last year, Mr. Dhunjeebhoy Byramjee Mehta, a leading Parsee merchant of Calcutta, opened communications with Dr. Hoshung Jamasp Dastoor, the High Priest of the Parsees in the Deccan, requesting the learned Doctor to give him facilities for opening a new Fire Temple for his own private use at Calcutta. Under the instructions of the Dastoor a party of Mobeds, headed by Dastoor Nusserwanji Byramji Meherjiwana, left Poona for Calcutta on the 1st of December last, taking with them a small portion of the eternal holy fire, and other things necessary for the new Fire Temple. The Parsee Scriptures ordain that the sacred fire must be carried to its destination from the chief Fire Temple by priests, who, during the journey, must not touch any one who is not himself a Mobed. Nor must they touch wood, nor eat food prepared by a lay man. In the face of such strict ordinances travelling by rail was out of the question. The party, therefore, undertook to perform the journey on foot—a distance of some fifteen hundred miles. They left Poona on the 1st of December last, and, in order, to avoid passing over wooden bridges which are to be found at various stages of the journey, they were obliged to make long *détours* by the banks of rivers. They travelled without any serious difficulty until they came to the pontoon bridge which spans the Hooghly between Howrah and Calcutta. Here a difficulty arose. The bridge is made of wood. How should the pious Mobeds pass over to the other side? In their embarrassment they turned to Bombay for guidance. A telegram was sent by them to the High Priest, and that dignitary declared that it would be lawful for the priests to walk over if they first took the precaution of wearing iron soles to their shoes, and if they crossed when no other person was on the bridge at the time. The latter of these injunctions necessitated a special application to the Government of Bengal, which, after due consideration, kindly arranged that the deputation should be allowed to cross the bridge on the conditions deemed necessary by the dastours. The entire journey from Bombay to Calcutta occupied three months."

Now that the Holy Fire has come, the temple will, we believe, be soon ready. There is something truly touching in this patient steadfast faith of our Parsee brethren. Their reverence for the symbol of divinity ought to come home to us Hindus. It is Agni the Eternal—the fire brought down from Heaven by Prometheus and maintained by the Aryan Brahmins and Avestic Priests from a time when both Parsees and Hindus were one people in Central Asia.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Czar had been suffering from nervousness and fever. His Majesty has had a relapse and is again suffering severely from influenza. To add to the distress, a number of explosives were detected at Gatchina, where it was intended to pass the Easter.

The agitation in Finland is spreading. The Universities have been closed. The students have mobbed the Prefect of Police. At Riazan, they have flogged the District Chief, Mordinoff, and stoned the police. The student excesses are coupled with the announcement that the Education Minister has resigned. The Czar has abandoned the idea of going to Copenhagen, but may visit his Polish estate in summer.

In Russian Asia, there seems a tendency to shift the centre of policy from Tashikend to Samarcand. The Governor of the new Trans-Caspian Province has orders to establish direct international relations with independent Asiatic States, including Afghanistan. General Kuropatkin succeeds General Komaroff as Commandant of Russian troops in the Trans-Caspian district. The Bear is coming.

Meanwhile, as some compensation, the English have stolen a march on the Russian in Persia, and have obtained the tobacco monopoly.

EMPEROR William has made a fresh start in Army Reform. A decree allows sons of middle class families to attain to officers' ranks and increases the pay of the Army officers. It sternly discounts the growing luxury and extravagance of officers. The officers have taken the mandate to heart and some of them have applied for permission to retire.

They are raising a fund for a national monument in Berlin for the retired Chancellor Prince Bismarck.

The German Reichstag has been summoned. It meets on May 6.

Emin Pasha wavers and Germany declares that she has no intention to acquire any new territory in Africa. She meant only to extend her influence in her recognized sphere through Emin. He may yet return to Europe and cancel his engagement with Germany. Mr. Stanley expresses astonishment at German pretensions.

SERIOUS rioting is reported from Vienna among workmen on strike in the suburbs. The men attacked the spirit shops and set fire to the spirits. They committed other ravages and plundered the shops of the Jews. A force of cavalry and infantry at last restored order. There were forty arrests.

THE Carlists in Spain are in a bad way. On their leader Marquis Cerralbo reaching Valencia on the 10th, the mob attacked with stones his carriage, and then his hotel, whose windows were smashed. Next, they burned the Carlist Club and made a similar attempt on the Jesuit convent, but just then the troops arrived. The populace have, however, barricaded the streets and a development of the situation may be expected.

AN immediate French blockade of the Dahomey coast has been ordered.

The Duke of Orleans is to be released shortly. Such seems to be the verdict of the French Cabinet. The Duke would not, either himself or through friends, apply for his release, for he preferred a French prison which was French soil to freedom in a non-French territory.

THE Committee of the Landowners' Convention at Dublin have unanimously condemned the Land Bill as most injurious in its present form to the landowners, and as unlikely to benefit the best class of tenants.

There is great indignation in consequence of General William Jones being buried on the 10th in the ordinary way, Lord Wolseley having unaccountably withdrawn his first order for accorded military honors.

Lord and Lady Salisbury going to the Casino at Monte Carlo without tickets from the Consul, were refused admission. There was a great commotion in consequence, the officials were called up, and tickets were offered with many apologies, but declined. The offended dignity of the Prime Ministry of England was not to be so easily satisfied, specially when the offence is given by a Hell under the protection of an infinitesimal power.



According to Stanley, who has reached Naples, the Aruwimi forest in Africa is full of India rubber trees.

The Carnarvon election has been carried by Mr. George, Liberal, by a majority of 18.

A Gainsborough, valued over a lac (£10,000), belonging to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, has been lost by fire at Waddesdon Manor.

Sir Louis Jackson, retired Judge of the Bengal High Court, is dead.

Sir Arthur Havelock, the new Governor elect of Ceylon, was banqueted by the Ceylon Association in London, Lord Knutsford, Lord Chelmsford, Sir John Coode, Sir James Longden and others being present.

China has agreed with England to open up the port of Chungking, on the Upper Yangtse, to foreign commerce.

Richard and Davies who murdered their father at Crewe were both sentenced to death. The elder youth Davies has been executed, but the younger, who is believed to have taken a greater share in the patricide, has been respited and ordered penal servitude for life.

THE Uncovenanted agitation is gaining strength. The Home Government has agreed to a Committee of Enquiry. The Secretary of State for India is willing that witnesses from India be allowed special leave and their expenses. The agitators in England signalized their success by a dinner at the Hôtel Métropole.

ON the authority of Germany's greatest living historian, Heinrich von Sybel, in his newly published work, *Vanity Fair* relates what it calls an amusing story of Field-Marshal von Wrangel and Prince Bismarck:—

"In 1864, during the war against Denmark, Wrangel was at the head of operations. There was some fear that the Western Powers might object to the German troops entering Jutland; in consequence of which a telegram was sent to the Field-Marshal, bidding him advance no further, who thereupon wined back to the Emperor William that 'these diplomatists, who spoil the most successful operations, deserved the gallows.' Bismarck took care to ignore Wrangel's presence whenever he met him on later occasions, which could not fail to annoy him. One day, however, they met at dinner, having both been invited to the King's table. It was a peculiarity of Wrangel that he always called everybody 'du,' or 'thou'; and, turning to Bismarck, who was seated next to him, he said: 'My son, canst thou not forget?' 'No,' was the curt reply. After a short pause, Wrangel began again, 'My son, canst thou not forgive?' 'With all my heart,' answered Bismarck, and the two remained friends till Wrangel's death."

Some people have queer ideas of the amusing. We are dull enough to regard that as rather an instructive anecdote. It is characteristic of the men and creditable to both. Old Wrangel appears the better man because the more humble and determined to make up. Bismarck is more human, because so proud. He would have been a fiend not to forgive. Although haughty, to be sure, he is sound at core.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Army and Navy Gazette* says that the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute has acquired, from his son, the original pencil and water-colour drawings of William Westall, A.R.A., landscape painter to the expedition of discovery and survey of the coasts of Australia, commanded by Captain Flinders of the *Investigator*, in the years 1801-3. Although the collection consists of not more than 107 drawings, some of them are only rough sketches. There are, however, many completed water-colour paintings, comprising views of various places on the south-east and north coasts from King George's Sound to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and drawings of the natives and the flora and fauna of the country, as well as a few sketches of South African scenery.

He then tells what he characterises an amusing story told with regard to one of the pictures:—

"The artist had spread a large canvas on the rocks at King George's Sound to dry, when a couple of middies belonging to the *Investigator* came up. Wishing to play a practical joke on the painter, they drove a flock of sheep over his canvas, thus spoiling it. One of these middies afterwards became famous as Sir John Franklin, the Arctic navigator."

Amusing, again! Fiddlesticks! It is true North-European wit, not understood of the South. Even lower animals are sometimes conscious of having done wrong or caused loss. Here your gentlemen sailors are quite innocent of any mischief-making to speak of. Their exuberant humour broke forth in practical joking! Verily, they jested themselves down to Vandals and asses. This Flinders approved himself a true descendant of the unlovely and unloved Vikings and obtuse Northmen adventurers. As for poor Franklin, he almost deserved his fate—over-powered possibly by some practical humourists of the Eskimo race. The most surprising part of the whole thing is that, after all

the progress of near a century, an Englishman should relate the act of barbarism as an innocent example of the spirit of the gentlemen of the British Navy, with the sanction of so high-classed a journal like the *Army and Navy Gazette*, conducted as it is by a veteran man of letters whose own humanity towards the Indians is still gratefully remembered, who indeed at a critical time had the courage to expose the "fun" of his countrymen in India at the expense of the poor natives, and, in consequence, brought upon himself no end of obloquy.

WE read—

"The King of Siam formerly had a real Amazonian guard of 400 members. This guard consisted of the most beautiful and the strongest young women in his kingdom. Every recruit had to be at least thirteen years old and of almost perfect physical development. After serving twelve years she was retired to the reserve corps. An active guards-woman was a personal life-guard of his Siamese Majesty. A reserve guardswoman, however, had merely the duty of watching the royal palaces and the Crown estates. Every recruit, before she was admitted to the Amazonian guard, took the oath of chastity, for the King of Siam allowed only women of the strictest virtue in his personal military service. The Amazonian corps wore most elaborate uniforms. A fine white gold-embroidered woollen skirt hung down to the knees. Over this each wore a light coat of mail. The arms were bare. The head was covered with a golden helmet."

"Generally, however, the Amazons carried muskets. The corps consisted of four companies of 100 Amazons each, commanded by female captains."

This is a far more respectable corps than the King of Dahomey's Invincibles, of pure savagery bred.

DISCIPLINE was well maintained, however these formidable vestals were a well-behaved set. On an average, there was one case for punishment per year. But they were sensitive and apt to take fire. After all, they were only women and, of course, quarrelsome. They had learnt the use of weapons more dangerous than tongues or hands, fingers and nails. Hence there were frequent duels.

"Duels were frequent among the Amazons. Before a duel could be fought the permission to fight it had to be obtained from the Commander-in-Chief. Swords were usually chosen as the weapons, and the meeting took place in the presence of the whole company to which the challenger belonged. An Amazon who fell in a duel was buried with extraordinary pomp, and the priest in his funeral oration usually recommended her to a high place in heaven in consideration of her bravery on the field of honour. The victorious duellist was congratulated by her comrades. She was obliged, however, to retire from her company for two months, which she passed in fasting and praying. Then she was reinstated with high honours in the active service."

This discovery has some anthropological value. After all, whether in Asia or in Africa, this degradation of the sex is a survival of primitive barbarism. The Mongolian races of the hills on the East of India Proper and in Ultragangetic India, many of whom still depend upon female labour, are the natural soil for such an institution as female warriors and dashing guardswomen.

IN this age of rank doubt, disbelief and destruction of every worshipful object, when the scriptures of every race are at a discount, and the arithmetic of Moses and Vyasa is scrutinised with the eye of a professional auditor, what hope is there for less venerable objects—lesser idols! What havoc has been made with our dearest possessions! One after one, we have been compelled to give up to the critical Herod for massacre all our lares and penates. First, we were deprived of our dear wolf and her foster twins, the immortal founders of Rome—immortal in despite of all the Niebuhrs and Lewises. Then the people's historian Shakespeare was poohpoohed. Then the Patriot Tell and his orange was demolished. Nor was quarter extended to the famous Newtonian orange. The process of Iconoclasm continued, and every year has swelled the hecatomb.

Another dainty little possession of ours is just now under attack and may as well be reckoned *hors de combat*, though not a few valiant knights have stepped forward to the rescue. Not the least touching incident in the ruthless war of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, was that which has since been enshrined in the memory with the name of "Highland Jessie." It is a story of a Scotch soldier's wife, one of the besieged at the Lucknow Residency, whose keen instinct for her national music, when nobody else in that hour of anxiety, turmoil, and hard work, as well as noise, within and without, of besiegers and besieged, discerned that anything was in the air, first caught from afar the faint but to her unmistakable strains of bagpiping, and announced to the desponding garrison the invaluable news that relief was certain, for the Highlanders were approaching. That incident was soon enough

sung in verse and set to music, and became one of the fond beliefs of the British. But it was no more true than the countless stories of unheard-of atrocity which were sent to England to inflame the good people at Home and led to the counter-atrocities which stained the British triumph.

The subject has come up for discussion in the Home press, and notwithstanding the advocacy of Mr. Archibald Forbes, the story has been thoroughly discredited. The woman is said to have been the wife of a soldier of the 78th Highlanders. How could she have been in the Residency and heard the band of the same relieving Highlanders? And then Havelock had to fight every inch of ground from a great way off Lucknow, and in the city the fighting was too desperate, the small relieving column being hemmed in by a multitudinous enemy, to allow of the luxury of music.

Besides the writers in the British press, a gentleman from Rajputana gives in the *Statesman* of yesterday conclusive evidence, as follows :—

"SIR,—I see a great deal lately in your papers about Jessie and the Bagpipes at the Relief of Lucknow. I will just tell you what several of the garrison (relatives and intimate friends who belonged to that glorious band) told me. When the song first came out, owing to recent circumstances, it took wonderfully; every body was singing it. I was a firm believer in the truth of the incident, till some of the above mentioned members of the garrison burst out laughing when I spoke admiringly of the incident and song. They said there was no Jessie among the 32nd in the garrison, and if there had been, no sound of the bagpipes could reach her, owing to the noise, and confusion all round. Havelock's little force did not march to Lucknow with bagpipes playing and drums beating, but every foot of ground they had to contest hard; for the nearer they came, the fight was severer, and Jessie, if there was such a lass, could have heard no music amid the roaring of the guns and the shouts of the enemy. I am sorry the incident is not true, for the song and air set to it are very pretty, and quite suited to the occasion for which they were composed.

AJMERE."

That ought to end the controversy. We assume the letter to be authenticated, as its contents bear on them evident marks of authenticity. The writer should now permit the editor to publish his name.

THE weather in Calcutta continues unseasonable. There is heat, but dust-storms are nowhere. There is no rain, and the east wind makes body and soul ache.

THE Influenza still rules. There is no sign of abatement, on the contrary, three deaths are reported in Calcutta, and two in Simla.

LORD Harris is come and has been received and sworn as Governor of Bombay. Lord Reay returns home to-day. He will be always gratefully remembered in India for the Herculean labor of cleansing the Bombay Administration of its Crawford and Crawfordism.

THE retiring Mr. F. B. Peacock, C.S., has had all the honors that sycophancy and personal friendship could procure. There was an evening entertainment at the Town Hall on Thursday. As a Native demonstration, it was a dead failure, the dozen composing the Entertainment Committee, without head or tail, representing Native Bengal. But what more could be expected of a hole and corner business got up between a Jugdanand and an ex-convict banker. The relations of this latter worthy with the officials are so well-known that those of the latter who attended simply compromised themselves. Next night, at the same place, his Service brethren complimented Mr. Peacock with, and over, a dinner. Sir Stewart Bayley, as one of the Service, was present on both the occasions. But a toast even in the Town Hall could not lighten the heavy heart brooding over the Chief Commissionership that was never offered. The dear "governor" at home—how unlike the father and the son—will, we dare say, be able to procure the returned Prodigal a cheap knighthood.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1890.

### SIR DAVID BARBOUR'S BUDGET.

THERE never was a better opportunity for affording some relief from taxation than the present. Sir David Barbour's Budget for 1890-91 is as satisfactory as possible. There has been a marked improvement in the Revenue under all the principal heads. The chief improvement has taken place under Opium.

In last year's Budget, the selling price of the Bengal drug was taken at Rs. 1,070 a chest, while the actual price obtained has been Rs. 1,136. This has brought an increase of about 29 lacs of rupees in Opium Revenue, while, owing to a short crop, there has been a saving of expenditure of more than 70 lacs of rupees. Altogether, the improvement under Opium comes to nearly a crore. It is true Sir David Barbour does not count upon the continuance of a good selling price, and speaks of the improvement obtained in the estimates, both of revenue and expenditure, as of a character not likely to be maintained. Nevertheless, the difference between his forecasts and the actuals is sufficient to give point to the argument of those who say that good times have come when the people should be given some relief from the burdens of taxation. The difference looks like a big discrepancy calling for fuller explanation than what has been offered. It has at any rate not passed without comment. The *Civil and Military Gazette* speaks of it in the strongest terms :—

"It is a great misfortune that there is no 'opposition' financial authority in India—such as the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer at Home—to expose the injustice of a system which by the simple device of under-estimating the probable revenue of the year leads the public and the press generally to acquiesce year after year in taxation which would otherwise assuredly be called into question. The income tax and the enhanced salt tax, are imposts which press unduly upon the poorer sections subject to them respectively. Many of our readers feel the first; and for the second it is enough to state that the consumption of salt is still less than it was in the year before the imposition of the enhanced duty; whereas the use of salt as a necessary of life ought to accurately reflect the natural increase of population. We hold, therefore, that no system of finance is praiseworthy which Budgets for a surplus without even discussing the advisability of removing or lowering these obnoxious imposts."

There is great force in our Lahore contemporary's contention. As to the charge of underestimating the probable revenue of a year, it involves, indeed, a serious reflection upon the Government, but the fact that Budget forecasts are systematically found to be considerably discrepant from the actuals that occur, lends great colour to the charge. The single discrepancy under Opium to which we have referred and which the public come to know of for the first time from the Finance Minister's late Budget statement, is sufficient to support such undoubtedly harsh criticisms.

But this is not all. The Budget statement furnishes other corroborative matter. The improvement has not been confined to Opium alone. Sir David Barbour says himself that "there has been a very satisfactory increase of revenue" under Land Revenue, Salt, Excise, Stamps, Provincial Rates, Customs, Assessed Taxes, Forests, Registration, and Tributes from Native States. And what is this very satisfactory increase of revenue equivalent to? Does it not mean that Sir David Barbour's last year's Estimates have been all very considerably exceeded under all the Principal Heads of Revenue? If there was no intentional underestimation, it was something about as bad. The effect in either case is the same, so far as the taxpayer is concerned. Wilful or accidental, the revenue was shown at a low pitch enough to discourage hopes of reduced taxation.

The Lahore journal has at any rate made an useful contribution to the discussion of the Budget. It is perfectly right, as it says that the character of the discussion would be far more practical and effective if there were an "opposition" financial authority in India such as the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer at Home. Indeed, as it is, the discussion is a farce. To deal with a labyrinth of figures such as the Budget is to any purpose—figures all settled behind one's back, and which one is expected to criticise

without any due preparation, is wellnigh an impossibility. It is thus that we find that the tone of the remarks of Hon'ble members, even when a few of them muster courage to call in question any of the financial measures of the year, or to suggest some alterations like the giving up of any source of revenue, is rather apologetic and supplicatory than possessed of the strength which comes from thorough knowledge and mastery of a financial expert.

We have for the last two years read hopeful signs in the Viceroy's Budget speeches with regard to the discontinuance of the Income-tax. But we must confess to a growing sense of misgiving on the point. Lord Lansdowne speaks with characteristic straightforwardness, but if in view of such an unusually prosperous Budget as the present, his Lordship has not been able to grant relief to, at all events, the lowest classes of the payers of this hateful impost, the case for its utter abolition must be hopeless indeed. The restoration of the Famine Grant is considered by his Lordship's Government as an object of prior importance. Both the Finance Minister and the Viceroy vindicate this course in the most earnest terms of approval, and it is not for us to traverse the views of such responsible men. But there have been so many changes of the Government policy with regard to this subject, that we do not know that the urgency of the revival of the Grant outweighed the benefit that would have been the direct and immediate effect of a revision of the Income Tax. A Famine Grant is essentially of the nature of a Reserve Fund, and as was ably argued by Raja Durga Charan Law, it were as well that the name were changed. It is to all intents and purposes a Reserve Fund, and if it were called by that name, it would remove a world of misapprehension and difficulty. Taking it then in the light of a reserve fund, is it too much to say that the Government should have shown better regard for the circumstances of their subject people by postponing the revival of this fund till after the oppressions incidental to some of their sources of revenue were mitigated? We regret Raja Durga Charan Law, who last year had made a strong appeal for the repeal of the Income Tax, has so thoroughly changed his views since as to say that "it is too early yet to speak of any remission of taxation. There will be time enough next year to think of it, if the position of affairs continue to be prosperous." If a year of such substantial surplus is not time fit for remission, such remission could only come in the Greek Kalends. The year is not only a prosperous year in itself, but it contains good promise for the future. We need not go beyond Sir David Barbour's speech for proof of this. The Finance Member says:—"The large improvement in Revenue which is shown under the Principal Heads of Civil Revenue (excluding Opium) is of a permanent nature or, in other words, we can safely reckon on obtaining the same increase in future years. If there is any falling off under some heads, it will be balanced by increase under other heads." After this, and going so far as the Raja did in his correct exposition of the Famine Grant, to stop short of the legitimate conclusion must be a source of real regret to the people. If it is not time to speak of reduction of taxation, we do not know what that time is.

The secret of the Government of India's preference for the Famine Relief Fund is not far to seek. It is now indeed an open secret. The Government on the spot only echo with loudness the whisper of the Home authorities, and these act under pressure from

the unspeakable Bradlaugh. There is great virtue in a Parliamentary mouthpiece.

#### PUNJAB LITERATURE.

A RATHER nondescript pamphlet has reached us from the Land of the Five Waters under the name of the *Punjab Magazine* for January 1890. It is No. 26, but we never saw it before and can only judge from what we see. It has a second little, namely, "The organ of the Punjab Association." Were it not for these last two circumstances, one might well doubt the periodicity of the publication. For it is certainly not a work of the ordinary magazine class or calibre. It is true there is the *Indian Magazine* in London of the National Indian Association in Aid of Social Progress in India, of which the *Punjab Magazine* is an offshoot, as the Punjab Association is but a daughter---indeed an acknowledged branch---of the London society. But the example of good Miss Manning is scarcely safe authority for departing from the time-honored traditions of the English language and British society. Besides, an *Indian Magazine* on English soil stands on an exceptional footing. It is unmistakable---it cannot deceive; certainly people would look into it before having anything to do with it. The true analogy between the two cases would have been if, instead of "Indian," the Society in question had called their work the "English Magazine" or the "London Monthly." Indeed, the designations of both the Punjab society and its organ are misnomers. The "Punjab Association" taken by itself betokens a serious business combination, even a political organization. The full style which we come across at the head of the Rules given as the last article of the magazine, namely, "The Punjab Association in Aid of Social Progress and Education in India," trailing as it is, no doubt modifies the impression. But what an unhappy choice is that! what a long, straggling, unwieldy affair! It is condemned by the very authors fighting shy of it and practically restricting themselves to the handy abbreviation. Our complaint is that a loose, unconsolidated fraternity of dilettante philanthropists had no business, at the very dawn of Civilization on the Frontier, to appropriate to themselves a name which should, in modesty as well as justice, have been reserved for serious workers for the amelioration of the political institutions and administrative machinery of the country. For themselves, they might well have been content with a word of three or at most four syllables, instead of aspiring to the dignity of the most full-mouthed and high-sounding polysyllable in the connection known to the not overcopious English tongue. Then, whatever name they fancied for themselves, they might at least, in giving a name to their organ, have spared the interests of literature. Would it not have served their purpose tolerably as well had they called it simply the "Journal" of their Society? If their ambition would not be satisfied with anything short of the highest, the word "Transactions" was still open to them. That would have gratified all the aspirations of the Lions, young and old, of the Punjab, without trenching either on the dignity or the convenience of letters. As it is, the name compromises important interests, without well lending itself to their ends. As the word is understood, a magazine is not the proper appellation for the organ of a committee of educationists and reformers. Although respectably got up---well printed on good paper---the *fasciculus* before us is not a magazine proper. It has not even the common business attributes of one. Though numbered and dated, there is no intimation anywhere of its regular periodicity. We know not whether it is a monthly, a quarterly, or a half yearly publication. This number is dated January 1890; we received it towards the end of the first quarter---on the 20th March. There is no knowing when the next issue will come out. Its connection with the society whose organ it professes to be, seems an artificial, forced connection---at best of the slightest. Beyond the single circumstance of the Rules of the society appearing in it, there is no other---not the slightest sign of association with the Punjab Association.

Of the 55 pages of this number, 6 are taken up with the Rules of

the Association and another 6 with social and educational notes of the flimsiest newspaper character. The remainder is consumed between the opening paper and a brief article of five pages---as a sort of longboat at the end of the flagship---introduced apparently to keep up appearance, and avoid the reproach of a single-article magazine. Such a strained mode of satisfying public expectation cannot serve the purpose, because it never deceives. The conductors might perhaps have given their chief article of 37 pages by instalments in two issues, though it is usually hazardous to break the continuity of an essay, and nobody who can help submits to such treatment of the brats of his brain. The Notes are probably indispensable to reconcile to the taxation involved the unlearned supporters of the movement, to whom the Greek Drama is worse than Greek---absolute gibberish. At any rate, the Rules might have been circulated as a fly sheet and their space utilised for some interesting reading. It is almost an imposition on the readers to fill up a magazine with the Rules of an institution or such other "shop."

The minor article is a review of the *Life of Dr. Anandbai Joshee* by Mrs. Caroline Healey Dall, published at Boston. We have not seen this work and we confess to a prejudice against the author. She is the widow of our late useful and amiable townsman, the Rev. C. H. A. Dall. She can scarcely be an amiable creature: she certainly never struck us a good wife. Mr. Dall revived the American Unitarian Mission in Calcutta when it had been forgotten for an age after the final retirement of the philanthropic scholar, William Adam, who was one of the leading pioneers of Indian improvement. He found it more than uphill work---a desperate adventure. But Mr. Dall with his American energy and persistence and his Asiatic self-sacrifice, succeeded as far as was possible with his scanty means. He got up a subscription here, got together a small congregation with whom he held regular divine service, made friends of the people, attended their meetings, delivered lectures, issued tracts, started a temperance movement, preached Unitarianism, and even "annexed" Ram Mohun Roy, until he was himself annexed by the greater Keshub Chunder Sen, as Ram Mohun Roy himself had "annexed" his own predecessor the ingenious William Adam. Meanwhile, his society in Boston withdrew their grant, while his handful of a congregation was dispersed by death or departure or sickness or individual losses. Any other man would have bowed to the inevitable. Not so Mr. Dall. He worked for gain, going to the length of learning stenography for the purpose. He reported for the press and opened a class for teaching short-hand, and not only supported himself but maintained his several institutions. Then he went to England and to America, much like a showman, to exhibit a couple of reformed Unitarian Indians, and created some interest in his work in Great Britain and the United States. Thus he was enabled to keep up a number of useful benevolent institutions, principally schools for boys and girls, not the least remarkable of which was a genuine ragged school for the reclamation of the little street Arabs of the City of Palaces. During all the thirty odd years of the husband's noble exile, the Christian wife did not once give him the solace of her company on the voyage, nor cared to join him in this country. She enjoyed her remittances and the single blessedness of a "grass-widow" at home, though we dare say she indited decent responses to his affectionate despatches. When at last the goodman---in both senses---went to his last home, the widow, we need hardly say, did not bury herself alive in grief, as a Christian *Sutter*, with her husband's relics. She, however,---now of something more than a "grass-widow"---for the first time conceived it time enough and becoming to see the scene of his earthly labours. But she came down like the Assyrian in Byron's Hebrew Melodies, to seize his money and goods, which seizure she effected with a thoroughness that starved the institutions of her late husband into nothingness and extinguished his work. We regard it a piece of impertinence in such a woman to set herself up for biographer of any true Hindu woman like Anand Bai. The reviewer, we must say, has, out of

scanty materials, given a touching account of the good and intrepid Mahratta girl.

The *piece de resistance*---the centre of attraction---is Dr. W. H. Rattigan's paper of 37 pages on "The Greek Tragic Poets as Moral Teachers." It was originally a Lecture delivered to the students of the Lahore Government College. We are glad to find the leading members of European society in the Punjab take such a lively interest in the elevation of the people. The times have long since passed away in Bengal when a man of Dr. Rattigan's position, whose fortune was made and fame established, would think of coming down, prepared "with toil of sprite," to amuse and instruct a lot of blackboys and young men. Besides the condescension, the act involved pains-taking. The subject was a learned one requiring cautious handling in the interest of one's reputation. DeQuincy long since exploded the classical pretensions of educated British society, and on the Continent the acquirements of English University men only raise a smile. The truth is that, though Latin and Greek from the staple of Liberal Education, the study, that of Greek in special, is not kept up, until the despised "crib" is in request as with the unlearned to whom the learned tongues are ever the "unknown tongues." With the British exiles in India---torn from academic surroundings, influences and associations, condemned to work among and for aliens who never heard of Homer or Troy, whose Greece is almost confounded with Arabia, whose Alexander the Greek is a myth of the Persian imagination, and whose Rome is the Ottoman Stamboul, and retiring for recreation to a local European society which does not recall the studies of college---matters are even worse. Few such would care to go to the risk of appearing before the public to hold forth at any length on a classical theme. For, truth to say, even with the help of translations and expositions and histories now abounding, the undertaking is not without hazard, unless a man is equipped with genuine first-hand acquaintance with his subject. Armed with this knowledge, Dr. Rattigan has had no such fear. He is not only a scholar but shows uncommon familiarity with the leading productions of the Tragic Muse of old Greece. Yet his essay could not have been prepared without considerable work. The popular treatment of learned topics demands considerable consideration and special tact. Those only who have done it know what it is to bring recondite matters down to the level of ordinary comprehension. It is scarcely less difficult to make the ideas of Greek poets interesting to Hindu, Mussulman and Sikh youth than to bring philosophy from the clouds. Think, then, of the tedious process of determining the passages in the original suitable to the purpose in hand and then selecting from among several versions in different translators the most accurate as well as most forcible, and sometimes going to the length of translating himself. The mere drudgery of copying has not been small. Of course, it was, much of it, a labour of love, in more senses than one. So far as it implies a loving kindness for them, the students of Lahore ought to be grateful to their instructor. And now that the Lecture is available to the world, the Indian public may well reciprocate that honorable sentiment, if only *pour encourager les autres*.

There was, besides, a literary hazard of a more serious kind than any individual compromise in the attempt. We refer to the danger, by weak or inadequate treatment, of prejudicing the audience against the ancient foreign authors dealt with. That was by no means an imaginary fear. It is one of the hardest things in literature to recommend to any purpose any writings to those who are unacquainted with their language. It is specially difficult by translation to induce true, that is, cordial appreciation. The difficulty is intensified to the verge of impracticability where you have to cause an admiring acceptance of a literature whose spirit and methods and the mechanism of its tongue are so foreign to those of your audience's literature and tongue as well as to those of your own literature and particularly your own language, in which your



exposition is conveyed—just the case with Dr. Rattigan and his hearers at Lahore. To our mind, there is—there *can* be—no translation of literature as literature. Accordingly, such a task as Dr. Rattigan took in hand was eminently risky on the side indicated. It is specially vain by means of a hissing, partially monosyllabic language like the English, to give an adequate idea of the grand instrument of thought employed by the ancient Greeks—even to suggest anything like the impression of the pomp of the grandest Tragedy in the world. Of course, Dr. Rattigan could not achieve the impossible. He has done the utmost with his linguistic medium. It was in the nature of things scarcely open to do more. He might easily have done less, without perhaps much obloquy.

It would have been a cruelty to the Lahore youth, and might have done incalculable harm to the cause of education and letters in Northern India, if the Lecture had given a mean idea of Greek literature. That danger the Lecturer managed to escape. His paper is calculated to produce a tolerably high impression of his subject-matter, as far as the case admits of. He showed judgment in utterly discarding prose as medium for reproducing the thoughts of his originals. Prose, always a weak vehicle for conveying the sentiment of Poesy, is an impertinence in respect of such masterpieces of literature as the tragedies of Æschylus, Sophocles and Euripides.

The nature of the literature whose ethics he took to familiarise his Indian hearers with, is fairly indicated by the continual use he makes, often no doubt involuntarily, of the term “sublime” or “sublimity.” The oft-recurring grandeur of Æschylus leaves his expositor no choice but over and over again to stumble on that single expression. No other Greek, not Homer excepted, makes such a demand.

After what we have said, it goes without saying that the paper is an able performance. It is a well-written scholarly contribution to the literature of the subject in the English language. In diction usually terse and occasionally noble, he not only takes up the study of the Greek tragedies from a new point of view, with here and there a brief reference to Eastern literatures, but also gives a striking rapid view of the three acknowledged masters of the serious Greek Drama, in their relations to one another, and to their respective times, fixing their proper place in the history of their national literature and altogether in the Greek evolution. There is some discriminate criticism too interspersed, as the defence of Euripides’ *Iphigenia*. It was bold to enter the lists against Aristotle on a question of human nature among the Greeks, but the knight comes from the fray with flying colours. After all, on such a question a Poet is the greater authority than the Philosopher, even though he is the greatest of all philosophers.

English literature is singularly barren on the subject, though doubtless much has been done within the present generation to remove the reproach. The Indian student who has no access to essays scattered in the different periodicals and Transactions, will gain a clearer idea of the chief plays of the Greek Tragic Theatre from this Lahore popular Lecture than from, say, either Dr. Major’s *Guide* or Mr. Darley’s work on the Grecian Drama. Dr. Rattigan naturally has derived more assistance from Continental sources than British. It would be easy to pick holes in his presentation of a recondite subject. In a popular discourse delivered to Asiatic youth, he necessarily passes over many facts, some of which might be used against himself. But on the whole, he shows a deeper insight into the subject and gives more of rational criticism than most of the old translators and commentators. Lastly, he has earned the thanks of us all by collecting all the choice moral sentiments of the best Greek poetry. In this too he has shown sound sense. It would not have done, for instance, to familiarise the young Asiatic with Euripides the misogynist. The ethics culled by him are unexceptionable, and some of the thoughts of the old Greeks are of peculiar interest to the Indian youth of the period.

#### CELEBRATION OF THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAHNEMANN’S BIRTHDAY.

On Thursday, the 10th April, at 8 P. M., a meeting of the Hahnemann Anniversary Society, in commemoration of 135th Anniversary of the Birthday of Hahnemann, was held at the Albert Hall, College Square.

The President, the Hon’ble Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on taking the chair, before proceeding to the business proper of the meeting, begged to place before it a Resolution which he was confident would be carried unanimously. Gentlemen will remember, he said, that at the last anniversary meeting he had the sad duty to announce the serious illness of Babu Rajinder Dutt, who was one of their Vice-Presidents, how mournfully that illness terminated, and how it has deprived them, all Calcutta, and Homœopathy of a friend whose like it will not be their lot to meet here on earth again. It was therefore out of simple gratitude that he begged to propose

“That this meeting expresses its deepest sorrow at the death of Baboo Rajinder Dutt who, though not the very first practitioner of Homœopathy in India, was the very first through whose zealous and powerful advocacy, untiring philanthropic exertions, and brilliant cures, Homœopathy gained a stable footing in Calcutta and thence spread throughout the country. By his death Calcutta has lost a most kind-hearted healer of sickness and a public benefactor, Bengal a worthy son, and Homœopathy a staunch and enthusiastic advocate and a most successful practitioner.”

The proposition was seconded by Baboo Ramakshay Chatterjee, and carried unanimously.

The proceedings of the last meeting were then read and confirmed.

Then at the call of the President, Babu Grish Chunder Dutt read a paper on the Life of Hahnemann, and on the Reform, destructive and constructive, which he effected in Medicine. A vote of thanks to the writer of the paper having been duly proposed, seconded and carried, the President brought the proceedings to a close by remarking that in future years these anniversaries of Hahnemann’s birthday should be celebrated not by simply dwelling on the generalities of his doctrine, for already all that could and need be said about the ignorance and opposition of the dominant profession, about the unscientific character of Old Medicine, and about the scientific character of the New System, has been exhausted. These anniversaries should be celebrated by doing something by way of continuation of the work begun by the great Master, and he (Dr. Sircar) could not think that they could do better than bring to these anniversary meetings at least one new proving and one re-proving. Their country was a rich store-house of remedial agents, and if they only followed in the path pointed out by Hahnemann they could add immensely to the *Materia Medica Pura*. Those who practised Homœopathy must have become convinced that for a large majority of diseases they have not got the appropriate remedy, and that the drugs already in their possession require to be more thoroughly proved than they have been, in the light of modern advanced knowledge of the structures and functions of animal organisms. There was necessity therefore not only of provings of new drugs, but of re-provings of the old ones. He therefore hoped that they shall be able to inaugurate this new era for Homœopathy in India at the next anniversary.

#### THE DOORGA POOJA HOLIDAYS

Calcutta 4th November, 1889.

From—Pundit Mohesh Chunder Nyaratna.

To—The Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, No. 884-89, I enclose herewith, in a tabular form, a list of Hindu holidays for the year 1890. I may add that in drawing up the list I have consulted the learned professors of the Sanskrit College. The Hindu holidays are mostly festivals connected with religion in which worship or ceremonies with a religious sanction are indissolubly associated with festivities. It sometimes happens that a day of worship with or without festivity, is followed by a day of festivity with no worship, but with only certain observances with a religious sanction. A few of the holidays are days of fasting followed by no festivity. In my list I have included no day in which there is no worship,

with or without festivity, or ceremony with religious sanction, with or without festivity.

*A List of Hindu holidays for the year 1890.*

Holiday.	Month and dates.	Days of the week.	REMARKS.
Saraswati Puja	25th & 26th January.	Saturday & Sunday.	This is a festival observed by all Hindus except those belonging to the lowest castes.
Siva Ratri ...	17th & 18th February	Monday & Tuesday.	The first day is a day of fast. The fast is kept by only a few.
Dol Jatra or Holi.	5th and 6th March.	.....	There are two days of worship on this occasion. This is a very popular festival with Hindustanees, but not so with Bengalees.
Basanti Puja	26th to 30th March.	.....	These are festivals observed by only a few people.
Annapurna Puja.	28th March	.....	
Ram Navami	29th March	.....	
Chaitra Sankranti.	12th April	Saturday ...	This is a holiday observed by all Hindus of good caste.
Dasahara ...	29th May...	Thursday...	This is a bathing festival and is universally observed. The time of the day for bathing is every year not the same. It may be any hour of the day.
Snan Jatra ...	3rd June...	Thursday...	This is not a general festival.
Rautha Jatra	19th June...	Thursday...	Not an important festival.
Punor Jatra...	27th June...	Friday ...	Ditto.
Janmashtami	7th and 8th August.	Thursday & Friday.	An important holiday.
Mahalaya ...	13th Oct...	Monday ...	A day for offerings to the manes of ancestors, observed by all orthodox Hindus of good caste.
Durga Puja ...	19th to 23rd October.	Sunday to Thursday	A most important festival.
Lakshmi Puja	27th to 28th October.	Monday & Tuesday.	A moderately popular festival.
Kali Puja ...	11th & 12th Nov.	Tuesday & Wednesday.	An important festival.
Bhratri Dwitya	14th Nov.	Friday.	At this festival sisters entertain brothers. A general and most important festival, though the worship connected therewith has now for the most part been dispensed with. Ceremonies with a religious sanction are, however, observed.
Kartick Puja	14th & 15th Nov.	Friday and Saturday.	A moderately popular festival.
Jagat Dhatri Puja.	20th & 21st Nov.	Thursday & Friday.	An important festival.
Ras ...	25th & 26th Nov.	Tuesday & Wednesday.	A festival observed by a few, 25th according to Saktas, and 26th according to Vaishnavas.

14th November 1889.

From—Pundit M. C. Nayratna.

To—The Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, No. 914-89. I beg to say that the Doorga Puja in 1890 will really commence on the 19th October. On this day the worship is to consist of Bodhana and Amantrana, *i. e.*, of rites for awakening the Devi from her sleep,

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Some occupations tend to the development of certain diseases, and those who toil as miners are peculiarly liable to rheumatism, lumbago, and other allied complaints. In the gold-fields and copper mines Holloway's remedies have been largely patronized by the workers to their very great advantage, and they can be confidently recommended as invaluable remedies for inward congestions, spasms and cramps in the bowels, and all those conditions of the lungs and liver to which those who work underground or in impure atmospheres are so peculiarly liable. For cuts, bruises, sprains and stiffened joints, the action of Holloway's Ointment is eminently healing and soothing, and a supply should always be at hand in case of need.

for the season being one for sleep to the gods and goddesses according to Hindu belief, and for invitation to her. This ceremony, like that of awakening and Inviting, is performed by the priest in the morning of the 20th October and continues to the 22nd. On the 23rd there is to be Bisarjana, *i. e.*, the parting ceremony with the Devi. This ceremony, like that of awakening and inviting, is performed by the priest in the morning. There is, however, the ceremony of throwing the idol into rivers or tanks in the afternoon, with attendant processions, and the exchange of greetings among relatives and friends in the evening. The strictly worship days for others besides priests in 1890 will thus be the 20th, the 21st and 22nd October. The strictly worship day in the Lukhi Pooja will be the 27th October.

In conclusion, I think it proper to observe that among the people the festivities, &c., attendant on Poojas are matters of greater interest than the Poojas (strictly religious worship) themselves. From the same point of view I consider that the day following the day of worship on the occasion of Kali Pooja, instead of Pooja day itself, should be holiday when only a day's holiday is given on this occasion. The Pooja takes place at night and the attendant festivities and processions take place for the most part the following day. The enclosure if your letter is returned herewith.

### THE NEW GERMAN CHANCELLOR.

In a telegram, dated March 19, the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* sends the following account of Prince Bismarck's successor:—

Both yesterday and to-day General von Caprivi had special interviews with the Emperor, and his appointment as partial successor to the offices now held by Prince Bismarck will probably be published to-morrow simultaneously with the announcement of the present Chancellor's complete retirement from affairs. I say "partial successor" because General von Caprivi will only succeed to the two-fold function of Minister-President of the Prussian Cabinet and Chancellor of the German Empire, leaving the post of Prussian Minister for Foreign Affairs to some one else. But his non-acceptance of the latter office has little intrinsic importance, seeing that the Prussian Minister for Foreign Affairs proper has only to deal with the relations of the Monarchy to the other Federal States of the Empire, while the relations of the Empire to all non-German countries will remain in the hands of the new Chancellor.

General George von Caprivi de Caprera de Montecucculi, to give him his full title, is now in his 59th year, having been born at Berlin on February 24, 1831. His father, descended from an illustrious Italian stock, was a high legal functionary in the service of the Prussian State. Entering a general regiment in his 18th year, he won rapid promotion and served with distinction in the campaigns of 1864 and 1866. In 1870 he acted as Chief of the Staff to the 10th Corps, of which he is now the commander, and reaped fresh laurels in all the battles on the Loire. Swiftly ascending the other steps of the military ladder, he was appointed in 1883 to the command of the 30th Division at Metz; and next year, passing at a single bound from the army to the navy, he succeeded to Herr von Stosch, on the latter's retirement from the head of the Admiralty.

In a short time naval men by profession were amazed at the mastery of their art and the perception of their interests which were displayed by a mere lands-man and soldier like von Caprivi, and his administration conclusively proved at least that there was a man with a rare power of adapting himself to new modes and lines of activity, a faculty which will render less strange and less dangerous his impending transition from soldiering to diplomacy and statesmanship. Soon after the present Emperor's accession, on the death of Count Monts, he reorganised the navy; the command of the Imperial fleet being vested in Admiral von Der Goltz, while something like a ministry of marine was created under Rear-Admiral von Heusner; and it was on this occasion that General von Caprivi, sharing in the redistribution of military commands, returned to his first love, and was rewarded for his loyalty thereto, no less than for his naval services, with the 10th or Hanoverian Army Corps, which is one of the finest in the whole army.

During the manœuvres of last autumn, when the Hanoverians and Westphalians met in mimic warfare, with smokeless powder and other innovations on their trial, the Emperor had opportunity enough anew to study the character of General von Caprivi, and this general's character and ability to serve him in a political capacity must have fairly convinced his Majesty, otherwise he would never have asked him to assume the enormous burden of responsibility which Prince Bismarck has now laid down. It was not without grave scruples and self-distrust that General von Caprivi listened to the flattering proposals of the Emperor; but his Majesty, as it is said, finally decided to have a soldier for his new Chancellor, thinking, as he does, with Frederick the Great, that a general must be the surest conductor of a foreign policy, as knowing best how far he can go with the army behind him.

But, though a soldier of the first order, General von Caprivi, in the opinion of all who know him, is very much more than a soldier; and if personal appearance is to count for anything, he must be a

man of great force of character and will, combining in a high degree the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*, blending sagacity with patience, resolution with good humour, and German thoroughness with Southern fire. The new German Chancellor looks a typical Teuton of the hugest and most impressive type. He might very well pass for a brother, or even a double, of Prince Bismarck himself the personal likeness between the two men being most remarkable. In point, indeed, of stature and breadth of shoulders General von Caprivi even has the advantage of the man he is going to succeed, but otherwise he is characterised by the same massive jaw, heavy gray moustache and bushy eyebrows, thick neck, solid square head, shrewd, penetrating glance, and general air of blood and iron, tempered with the polished suavity of a 19th century statesman.

A difference in the character of the two men might by some be discerned in their walk, for, while Prince Bismarck treads sharply and heavily, like a trooper, the gait of General von Caprivi has something in it of deliberation and leisurely elegance, while not lacking either in *verve* or emphasis. He is a good enough speaker but a brief one, and when at the head of the Admiralty he never tailed, from his place on the Federal Council bench in the Reichstag, to put his case clearly and well. Indeed, it may be said that it was his tenure of office at the Admiralty which enabled him to become acquainted with the internal machinery of the Imperial Government to a degree which will render his novitiate as Chancellor comparatively easy.

Such, then, is a hasty sketch of the career and character of the man on whom the Emperor is about to place the now discarded mantle of Prince Bismarck.

### THE RAMNAD PARTITION SUIT. IN THE SUB-COURT (EAST) OF MADURA.

ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 5 OF 1890.

Srimat Heraniya Garbayagi Ravikula Muthuvizia Regunada Rajah Dinakarasaamy *alias* Ramasaamy Setupati ... .. Plaintiff.

*versus*

Srimat Heraniya Garbayagi Ravikula Muthuvizia Regunada Rajah Bhaskarasaamy *alias* Annasaamy Setupati ... .. Defendant.

The plaintiff is the younger and the defendant is the elder of the two and only sons of the late Muthuramalinga Setupati, Zemindar of Ramnad, who died on the 21st February 1873.

2. The plaintiff and defendant are and always have been members of an undivided Hindu family governed by the *mitakshara*.

3. The plaintiff's father was himself undivided from his sons.

4. At the time of their father's death the defendant was a minor, 5 years old, being born on the 3rd November 1868, and the plaintiff, a minor, 2 years old, being born on the 26th of April 1871.

5. The Court of Wards wrongfully took possession of all the estate, moveable and immoveable of the late Zemindar Muthuramalinga Setupati, upon his death and wrongfully continued possession thereof until the 3rd November 1889, on which date the defendant attained majority. On the 4th November 1889, the defendant was wrongfully given by, and wrongfully received from, the said Court of Wards all the estate, moveable and immoveable, of the late Zemindar with the accretions thereto.

6. The said property consisted and still consists

(a) Of an extensive landed estate which pay an annual peishkush to the Government of about Rs. 324,444-3-10 and the net annual revenue of which the plaintiff estimates to be about Rs. 500,000.

(b) Of moveable property of the value of Rs. 70,000 or thereabouts.

(c) Of a further sum of Rs. 330,000 or thereabouts representing the savings by the Court of Wards during its possession and management of the Zemindari which sum was handed over by the Court to, and was received by, the defendant on the 4th November 1889.

(d) Of various devasthanams, chuttrums, choultries and other charitable institutions with their respective endowments, over the incomes of which the plaintiff's family has the right to exercise a hereditary control.

7. In all such property, being joint estate, the plaintiff is entitled to a one-half share under the Hindu Law.

8. The Court of Wards took and kept wrongful possession of the persons of the defendant and the plaintiff from and after the date of their father's death, and the plaintiff was not released from such wrongful control until the said 3rd day of November 1889.

9. The plaintiff attained majority on the 6th of April 1889.

10. In November 1889 the plaintiff made demand upon the defendant for a division of the said estate of their father. Such demand the defendant unlawfully refused and referred the plaintiff to a suit.

11. The cause of action arose on such last recited refusal.

12. The plaintiff appends hereto a true and correct genealogical tree of the joint family.

13. The plaintiff prays

(a) For a declaration that he and the defendant are members of an undivided Hindu family subject to the law of partition.

(b) For a decree giving him one-half of the entire estate of his deceased father and as the said estate stood when the Court of Wards wrongfully handed it over to the defendant.

(c) For interest thereon at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from date of plaint to date of decree, and further interest thereon at 6 per cent. per annum from date of decree till payment.

(d) For mesne profits from the 4th November 1889 with interest thereon at 12 per cent. from date of plaint to date of decree and further interest thereon at 6 per cent. from date of decree till payment.

(e) For an injunction restraining the defendant from alienating, wasting or in any way encumbering his deceased father's property moveable and immoveable.

(f) For the appointment of a receiver *pendente lite*.

(g) For the costs of the suit.

(h) For any other relief which it may seem fit to the Court under the circumstances of the case to accord.

The plaintiff in this suit on solemn affirmation states as follows:—

1. The plaintiff is the younger and the defendant is the elder son of the late Zemindar of Ramnad, Muthuramalinga Setupati.

2. The plaintiff and defendant are undivided members of a joint Hindu family governed by the *mitakshara*, and the plaintiff is entitled to a one-half share in the entirety of the property of the said family.

3. On the 4th day of November 1889 the defendant took wrongful possession from the Court of Wards of the entire joint estate moveable and immoveable, and wrongfully continues at this moment in possession thereof.

4. The plaintiff in November 1889 demanded of the defendant, and the defendant refused the plaintiff, a partition of the said estate.

5. The plaintiff has filed the suit No. 5 of 1890 in this honorable Court for a one-half share of the said estate.

6. Since the date of his aforesaid wrongful possession the defendant has wrongfully received from the Court of Wards, and spent within the space of one month of the receipt thereof, the sum of Rs. 3,30,000 or thereabouts, the said sum being the accumulations of 16 years' management by the said Court and constituting a portion of the moveable property of which the plaintiff claims a one-half share.

7. Of the expenditure of such sum of Rs. 3,30,000 the defendant has not furnished, and refuses to furnish, any account to Plaintiff.

8. The plaintiff has received no portion thereof, and no portion of such expenditure was for purposes binding on the plaintiff's interest in the estate.

9. In addition to such last-named expenditure plaintiff is informed, and believes the same to be true, that the defendant has borrowed 3 lacs or thereabouts from one Ana Luna Ana Rooma Ramasami Chetti of Devakotta and Mr. Ranganada Tawker, jeweller and merchant, Madras, for purposes not binding on his share. The plaintiff has received no portion thereof.

10. The defendant has further granted to said Ramasami Chetty the lease of all the villages in Eravusari division for 50 years at an annual rent of Rs. 3,200 whereas the income of the villages in the said division is at least Rs. 10,000 annually, and the said villages paid a rent to plaintiff's father and the Court of Wards of Rs. 6,700 a year. Such alienation is unlawful and prejudicial to plaintiff's interests in the estate.

11. The defendant has also granted a lease of a village called Sheloogay in another division to the said Ramasami Chetty by the same document and for the consideration of Rs. 400 by way of rent. The said village of Sheloogay produces an annual income of Rs. 1,000.

12. In the same document, and for the consideration of Rs. 435-2-0 the defendant has included another village named Sithanoor in the division of Selugai. The annual income of said village is about Rs. 1,000.

13. The defendant is supporting an enormous establishment at a great pecuniary cost and has embarked upon a course of reckless expenditure.

14. The aforesaid alienations of the defendant are in derogation of plaintiff's right to a one-half share in the estate. They create burthen upon the said estate which the defendant is not entitled in law to create.

15. The plaintiff submits that the defendant has been and is guilty of acts of waste and extravagance which jeopardize the property in dispute.

16. For the preservation, better custody, and management of the property, moveable and immoveable in dispute, the plaintiff prays that this Court may be pleased, subject to the approval of the District Court, to order the appointment of a receiver pending the determination of the plaintiff's right, unless which is done plaintiff has good grounds for the apprehension that the estate will be very seriously impaired both in value and extent and plaintiff's share therein be very seriously diminished.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tired of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good

humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract].—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as in-

structive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1890.

No. 420

## THE SAGE AND THE NYMPH.

A TALE FROM THE SANSKRIT.

BY H. H. WILSON.

[Continued from p. 169.]

Scarcely believing what he heard,  
Breathless, Markanda caught each word,  
That fell from Lila's tongue—then flew,  
And to his heart the Maiden drew ;  
And on her willing lips express'd,  
The voiceless feelings of his breast.  
Then hand in hand they sought the town,  
With sacred rite their love to crown.

Approaching to the populous track,  
Whoever passed them, turned him back,  
To marvel, what the Seer had led  
To town, and so accompanied.  
Thus as they tranquil move along,  
Around them draws a curious throng,  
Who gazing, pointing, whispering, pressing,  
Each to the other oft expressing,  
In sign or speech, his wonderment,  
And gathering numbers as they went,  
Fast swarm'd, like clustering bees, around  
The Sage abash'd, who wish'd the ground  
Would ope, and seasonably swallow,  
The rabble who his footsteps follow.

At last the Maid and Sage attain,  
The portal of a stately fane,  
With bastion vast, and turret high,  
And banners fluttering to the sky.  
Before the gate a guard appears,  
With maces arm'd, and shields and spears,  
Who bar, in stern and sturdy mood,  
The access of the multitude ;  
But courteous yield the gentle pair  
A ready leave to enter there.

They pass, and brisk the Damsel treads  
Where each broad court successive spreads ;  
Where column'd porch, and long arcade,  
Diffuse at noon profoundest shade ;  
And in the midst, the fountains play  
That scatter freshness on the day.  
Above, from gilded jalousie,  
Was many a bright and laughing eye,  
Darting its sparkling looks between  
The openings of the glittering screen.  
At length they come, where green and bright,  
A garden opens to the sight,  
And cheerily their way pursue  
Through many a sheltering avenue,

Where fall, in bland and frequent shower,  
From overhanging branch and bower,  
The blossoms, which the zephyrs bear  
Abroad in perfume through the air.

And beauteous nymphs are roaming round,  
The guardians of the smiling ground :  
And as they careless seem to range,  
Expressive looks they interchange  
With Lila ;—but though questions sly  
Lurk in each broad and beaming eye,  
They ask her not what brings her here,  
With such unwont attendant near :  
Her errand needless 'twere to tell,  
Their glances shew they know it well ;  
And why she brings a willing prize,  
The Stranger, to their paradise :  
And one fair maid, their path who cross'd,  
A wreath to Lila playful toss'd,  
Who in like frolic humour cast  
The garland o'er the Sage—as fast  
To hold him with a flowery band,  
A captive in her gentle hand.  
Meek as a lamb to slaughter sped,  
The wilder'd Hermit bow'd his head,  
And silent follow'd, where she led.

Nor far their route extends, for now  
Where many an intertwining bough,  
With foliage dark, and clustering high,  
Inweaves a verdant canopy,  
A train of regal port and state,  
Appears their nigh approach to wait.

One man alone, whose garb and mien,  
Display'd the marks of kingly pride,  
Was seated ; and who seem'd his queen,  
Sat on a throne the prince beside.—  
Around them stood a beauteous troop  
Of dames and nymphs—a brighter group  
Within Pátála's golden walls  
And jewell'd porches, never trod ;  
Nor smil'd amidst the gorgeous halls  
Of Swarga's king—of gods the god.

Here Lila stopped, and homage paid  
With heighten'd charms, and smiling said :—  
“ My lord, my lady, see 'tis done ;  
My prize is here ; my wager won.”  
They bowed approval—from the crowd  
Then burst the laugh, and plaudits loud ;  
And then the Sage too late perceived  
His wisdom fool'd—his hopes deceived.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

A MOSQUE in Paris—is the latest development of toleration—or shall we say indifferentism?—in Christendom. Subscriptions are being raised for the purpose in Algeria, and the French Government will add a handsome contribution. How is Europe changed since Peter the Hermit led her out to war against Islam, in behalf of the integrity of the scene of the birth, mission, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

ORATOR Surendra Nath Banerjee has arrived in England and opened the campaign for the conquest of that country. Last Monday, there was a public meeting at Clerkenwell. Sir William Wedderburn introduced the Baboo, and the Baboo, in the language of the telegram, pleaded for the extension of the social and political privileges of the Natives of India, and said that Legislative Councils were shams, the members being the nominees of the Government. They were all, all shams, the only eternal verities being demagogic oratory and agitation. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji too was present and, without sharing the nonsense of the Orator, put in a word recommending the Congress to the meeting. They passed resolutions supporting the Congress programme for elective Indian Councils. There was another meeting on the 16th at Northampton, where Mr. Bradlaugh was the chief speaker, and related his Indian experiences of a week on the Arabian Sea coast. He and Sir William Wedderburn and Baboo Banerjee all spoke of the aims and objects of the Congress, and a resolution was carried.

LISTS of persons liable to serve on Common and Special Juries in the High Court, for the year ensuing from 1st May 1890, have been circulated as appendix to last week's *Calcutta Gazette*. The total number in the first is 1831 and that in the second 319.

LORD Reay, before he laid down the reins of the Bombay Government, was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. A tardy acknowledgment of the merits and services of one of the best rulers of India. His successor, more fortunate, commences with a triumph—the elevation of Lady Harris to the Order of the Imperial Crown of India.

BAHUS Ramessur Persad Narain Singh of Maksudpore and Baijnath Singh of Gya have contributed, through Government, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 12,000, respectively, towards the Gya Branch of the Lady Dufferin Fund. They have, of course, earned "an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's appreciation of their public spirit and liberality."

THE Narail Victoria College has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Arts up to the B.A. standard.

THE Hon'ble Syed Ameer Hossein, C.I.E., has ceased to be of the Native Lunatic Asylum at Dillenda, the Hon'ble Mahomed Furrukh Shah succeeding him as a visitor of that institution.

MR. R. C. Dutt, Magistrate and Collector, has been posted to Burdwan, his place in Mymensingh being temporarily filled by the Statutory Joint Mr. Baroda Churn Mittra of Jamalpore in the same district. We read that the Zemindars entertained Mr. Dutt out of the District. This appreciation is very satisfactory and creditable to both sides. Mr. Mittra is a young gentleman of splendid parts, and we are glad to see him making impression on his superiors.

A GOOD story of examination at Cambridge in England:—

"A certain professor of some subject connected with medicine, who is also one of the examiners for medical degrees, happens to be a man of exceedingly cadaverous appearance. During the examination the students have to proceed to Addenbrooke's Hospital, and there, in the presence of the examiners, find out the patient's ailments. No part of the examination is more dreaded than this, because diagnosis is naturally a weak point with every medical student. Now a certain student went to the Hospital during his degree examination, and in the passage met the cadaverous professor, whom he had not seen before. 'My good man,' said he in a hurried whisper, 'just tell me what's the matter with you, and here's a sovereign for you.' Fancy the student's feelings when he afterwards met the Professor in the examination room!"

IT was under direct divine command that Keshub Chunder Sen married, against the plain injunction of the Brahmo marriage law, his daughter Suniti to the Maharaja of Coah Behar. When the outcry was raised that resulted in a schism in the Church, Keshub assured his followers that he had consulted God and that He had ordered him to agree to the marriage. Mr. Alfred S. Dyer, of the *Bombay Guardian*, has been equally fortunate, though for a different purpose. At a meeting for United Prayer in Shanghai, he said he had an assurance from God that within two years the importation of Indian opium into China will be stopped.

THE most successful student at the last Final Examination of the Rurki Civil Engineering College, is a East-Bengali—Bepin Behary Chatterjee. He stands first in every subject and carries off every prize, such as, the Council of India prize of Rs. 1,000, Thomason's Rs. 250, the Cantley Gold Medel for Mathematics, and prizes for the best engineering design.

OUR staid contemporary, the *Englishman*, believes in *badinage*. The following is an example:—

"Harendra Nath Dutt, M.A., is the author of the works on Vedanta philosophy with the wonderful prospectus, of which something was said lately. He writes to us complaining, as we understand, that he should be held responsible for the farrago of nonsense heralding his books. It is suggested, but not clearly stated, that the prospectus was written by 'the manager, an humble personage.' But, at the same time, Harendra evidently admires the prospectus, in which he says he can see nothing to laugh at. Let us recall one of its gems:—'Hurled from its high pinnacle by the cyclic changes of matter, our dearly beloved mother-land' has become 'a field for successive strifes,' and has 'turned from the paths of pristine innocence, purity and knowledge.' Doubtless a field that has been hurled from a pinnacle by cyclic changes is capable of many eccentricities, but it is appalling to be told by the gentleman who disclaims the authorship of this passage that it is an unimpeachable specimen of classic style. 'With regard to the style, I beg to submit that it is the ordinary impassioned style of Jean Paul and De Quincey. It is not the gift of the Director of Public Instruction, but of these eminent writers.' Shades of John Paul Frederick Richter and his exquisite expositor! 'Ordinary impassioned' style! This is what comes of adopting a system of flashy lectures and flimsy text-books in a foreign country. Really the 'eminent writers' are highly honoured, and the University has reason to be proud of Harendra, 'M.A.' alike for his erudition and his modesty."

It is no wonder that Baboo Harendra should object to be laughed at (especially when he sees nothing to laugh at in the fact of an M.A. of the Calcutta University comparing such a "farrago of nonsense" as his manager, whoever he may be, lately indulged in at his expense, to the "ordinary impassioned style of Jean Paul and De Quincey") for the fact remains that, it is bad form for H. E. (Ali Baba's) Bengali Baboo to laugh at any ordinary human absurdity, much less at a "field hurled from a pinnacle!" a C.I.E. or even an M.A. of the Calcutta University. Though, if the truth must be written, a C.I.E. is generally speaking a funnier fellow than a *Fellow* of the Calcutta University.

But this *en passant*. Probably the advertisement in question was drawn up in all seriousness for extensive circulation in the Madras Presidency. That unfortunate Presidency continues a source of wonder to all right-thinking and really capable Bengali writers, who are at a discount in the South in proportion to their influence at home, whilst it is the never-failing milch-cow for all sorts and conditions of patriots who can make themselves notorious only through the employment of language which our contemporary rightly calls a "farrago of nonsense." Verily, Hanuman was a native of Southern India and his descendants evidently still people the benighted Presidency.

THE Legislative Session in Ceylon was wound up with the following parody between an Honourable Member and His Excellency the Governor President:—

"The hon. member said:—'In connection with the motion for adjournment might I be permitted to say that in the meantime this punkah should be removed? At the present time this punkah is no use, and it would be better if two were put up, so that we might derive some benefit from them.' In answer to this, the Governor said: 'For my own part I have no objection to that being done. This one I find sufficient to carry all the sound out of the room; and if we have two, I think you will have to provide us with ear trumpets. I shall be glad to get rid of the punkah, for I hate to see the thing swinging over my head.'"

That's an honest John Bull who has kept himself honourably free From luxury's contagion, weak and vile!

His horror of the everlasting swinging of the huge flapper, backwards and forwards, reminds us of a country-mouse who, on a visit to town,

was overpowered by a drop too much and was provided with a bed. But the poor fellow could not get a wink of peace in consequence of a clock, probably of Brummagem American manufacture—which, with its tick-tick-unceasing, proved another murderer of sleep like Macbeth. So, at last, losing all patience, he brought up a stool and got up on it and punished the machinery into silence and then, becoming conscious of what he had done, fled in shame and dismay at dead of night!

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THE Ramnad Partition suit has had a hearing on the 22nd March in the Sub-Court, Madura East. Messrs. Norton, Desikachari and Basyachari represented the Plaintiff and the Hon. V. Basyam Iyengar, Rai Bahadur S. Subramania Iyer, Rao Bahadur R. Ramasubhaya and Mr. M. S. Narayanasami Iyer appeared for the defendant. The following issues were agreed to:—

"(1) Whether the Zemindari in suit is partible or impartible? (2) Whether the late Zemindar left a will, and if so what is its effect and whether it is binding on Plaintiff? (3) Whether Siruthettu and other lands were sold for arrears of Peishcush and purchased for the Defendant and if so whether Plaintiff is entitled to a share therein, even if the Zemindari were held impartible? (4) Whether the personal property, savings, &c., are divisible or indivisible? and (5) To what decree is Plaintiff entitled?"

There was also the inevitable application for appointment of a Receiver. It was argued at length by Mr. Norton and the Hon. V. Basyam Iyengar. In the end, on the latter proposing to offer Defendant's half-share in the Zemindari as security and to deposit Rs. 60,000 for mesne profits up to the end of this year and also one lac of Rupees, being half the savings of the charitable endowments attached to the Zemindari, Mr. Norton agreed. An order was accordingly passed by the Court directing the Defendant to secure his half share for two lacs of Rupees and to deposit in Court Rs. 160,000 within a month.

..

THE Influenza has not yet been taken notice of by our Bards, and we are afraid he is lashing us all the more for our want of proper respect for him, and will not shift his camp without obtaining his due honours. What is Webb about? We don't know if Aliph Cheen is in the land. Captain Hearsey has driven Kipling away to Europe. Ram Sharma to the rescue! A sonnet in season may save a heroï-comic epic in the end.

Meanwhile, we allow our juvenile friend to sing—

#### THE INFLUENZA.

A CATCH.

Why so pale and wan, sons of Ind?  
Prithee, why so pale?  
Dread'st thou the Influenza fiend?  
And before him quail?  
Prithee, why so pale?

Why so lank and lean, Age and Youth?  
Prithee, why so lean?  
For tears too deep thy "woful ruth"  
Surely is, I ween.  
Prithee, why so lean?

Fly, fly for life; swift as the roe,  
Tears cannot melt him;  
If of himself he will not go,  
Nothing can make him:  
The devil take him.

JYOTISH C. BANERJEA.

We have received from one of the unsavoury slums of unpoetical Wellesley Square a couple of stanzas "To the Bengali year 1297." They have not only no thought to recommend it, but no metre to pass muster.

*Holloway's Pills.*—With darkening days and changing temperatures the digestion becomes impaired, the liver disordered, and the mind despondent, unless the cause of the irregularity be expelled from the blood and body by such an alternative as these Pills. They directly attack the source of the evil, thrust out all impurities from the circulation, restore the distempered organs to their natural state, and correct all defective or contaminated secretions. Such an easy means of instituting health, strength, and cheerfulness should be applied by all whose stomachs are weak, whose minds are much harassed, or whose brains are overworked. Holloway's is essentially a blood tempering medicine, whereby its influence reaches the remotest fibre of the frame and effects a universal good.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT re-assembled on the 14th after the Easter recess.

The Opposition are girding up for a campaign. Mr. Parnell has given notice of a motion for rejection of Mr. Balfour's Irish Land Bill. As for foreign affairs, poor Portugal has recovered from her patriotic paroxysm, and Germany, notwithstanding the retirement of Bismarck, is as agreeable as ever. Sir James Fergusson assured the House that Portugal would suspend all action in the Shiré region and that he was not aware of any fresh expedition in that quarter. Regarding Emin Pasha's expedition to the Albert Nyassa, Sir James said that it would be strictly confined to German spheres without any prejudice to British interests. The boundary line was fully recognized by Germany and no two Powers ever co-operated more loyally. Replying to an Egyptian question, he said that the prosperity of that country had greatly increased. The occupation, indeed, was an inconvenient duty but had not disturbed relations between England and other Powers. He could say with pride that England had fulfilled her duty in a manner honourable to the country and nation, and he gave the oft-repeated answer that there was no desire to abandon her mission till the object has been attained. Arabi Pasha must pine away in exile with his associates. Their return is not considered advisable. Where was it ever, in similar circumstances?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has already performed wonders, and now he threatens to take the wind out of the sails of the G. O. M. On the 17th instant, Mr. Goschen introduced a highly satisfactory Budget. It is an all-round remission of taxation—a liberality of concession which has been construed by the Gladstonian Liberals as indicating approaching dissolution. The Budget shews a surplus of £3,221,000, of which £1,800,000 is credited to increased consumption of alcohol. The estimated surplus for the next year is given at £3,549,000. £300,000 is set down for new barrack accommodation and £100,000 for equipment of the volunteer Force. Credit is taken for reduction of the National Debt by eight millions, or twenty, three millions in three years. The beer tax is reduced by three pence per barrel. The duty on currants is brought down to five shillings per hundred-weight. Postage to India and the Colonies is reduced to two-pence half penny. We may now look forward to a lesser postage on our mail letters. The duty on gold and silver plate is altogether abolished, but the Hall-marking is retained, India being allowed a special Hall-mark by the local Assay Offices of the standard of rupee fineness. Tea also comes in for a share in the remission of taxation. While in Calcutta, occupiers of their own houses have been driven to madness, Mr. Goschen makes a point of largely lowering the house duty. The tea duty is decreased by two-pence in the pound. The only rise is in the duty on spirits—by six pence per gallon.

Five thousand dock labourers have struck work at Birkenhead.

Though regretting the impending changes in the Army and Navy, the Duke of Cambridge has no intention—as he said at the Lord Mayor's Easter Banquet—of resigning the Chief Command.

Mr. Gladstone is confined to bed, suffering from a cold.

There were renewed disturbances among the strikers in Vienna. Troops were summoned and several arrests made. Strike riots are now a feature in the manufacturing centres in Austria.

The new German Chancellor has announced a new departure. He of course sticks to the peace policy of Prince Bismarck, but has proposed a change in the constitution of the Prussian Cabinet. He gives the ministers full liberty. He releases them from leading strings. They will no longer be the servants of the Chancellor but will form a consultative assembly, meeting on equal terms and sharing a common responsibility.

The Committee of the American Congress has reported on the Silver Bill raising the minimum purchases by the Treasury to four-and-a-half million dollars monthly.

Surgeon Parke is of opinion that Emin is suffering from an incurable cataract which is sure to end within twelve months in blindness. The Pasha has given reasons for his preference for German marks. He resents the observations concerning himself in Stanley's speeches and is sorry that he could obtain no employment under the British East African Company.



Youth, beauty and gold have not availed a Russian girl in her endeavour to obtain a copy of the new Russian mobilization scheme. For the attempt, she has been cast into prison.

The Afmeer of Bokhara the Noble will be present at St. Petersburg in the autumn at the installation of his son as a Court page. What a destiny for the heir of the king of the theologians of Central Asia!

The Marquis Tseng is dead at Peking. A serious loss to China. One of the most distinguished representatives of Young China, educated in Western languages which he spoke with fluency and wrote with force, this Mandarin of high degree—Marquis as Europe conveniently called him—was a deep diplomatist and a sturdy patriot. He will be long remembered in the world out of China by his contributions to the European Press. A good life of him ought to prove interesting and would have, besides, a professional value in the relations of the Western Powers with the ultra Eastern nations. Will no body attempt it? We mean no catch-penny trash, but a genuine book founded on the journals, memoranda and despatches of the deceased statesman.

Mr. Childers has expressed to a press interviewer his high opinion of the resources of India and the capacity of the Natives. Perhaps our people owe their certificate to the influence of a gentleman of the same ilk who holds office in the Ordnance department in India.

A GREAT English artist died last month at the ripe old age of eighty. Mr. John R. Herbert first tried his hand at portraiture and then passed to romantic history. Elected in 1846 to the Royal Academy of which he had in his earlier years been a student, he was in 1848 invited to decorate the Robing Room and subsequently the principal Committee Room of the Upper Chamber in the new Houses of Parliament, with frescoes of Old Testament scenes. In the latter, he painted his famous Moses descending from the Mount with the Tables of the Law, and the fresco known as "Illustrations of Justice on Earth, and its Developments in Law and Judgment." This last work was so satisfactory that, besides the stipulated price, he received from the appreciation of Parliament a handsome reward. His fame travelled to the Continent, and France, so jealous of British genius, at last elected him in 1869 a foreign member of her Academy of the Fine Arts.

WE see in the official *Gazette* that the mighty arm of the Land Acquisition Act X of 1870—which is competent to annex whole shires—has been invoked to acquire, at the expense of the Hooghly Municipality, half a cottah of land—about one hundred and twentieth fraction of an acre—for a well in the village of Bhoothkhana—literally "Devil's Home"—in the fiscal circle of Arsha, in the Hooghly District. This is opening a battery to demolish a mosquito. Is the devil of a Zemindar—or whoever may be the owner—such a stiff customer or such a veritable screw that he cannot be induced to part amicably, for love or money, with a slice of his Pandemonium?

This is a confession of extraordinary want of influence and tact in the local authorities, Municipal, District, and Divisional. But the Secretariat is not a little to blame for consenting forthwith to compromise the dignity and the very popularity of Government, instead of soundly rating the Commissioner and the Magistrate for their incompetence, and requiring them to do their duty—a duty, by the way, of no great difficulty to any officer worth his salt. Apart from the serious aspect of the matter, how ridiculous is it all! Here we have the very *reductio ad absurdum* of government. Dickens, in his description of the Great Circumlocution Office, has left a scathing satire on the disorganization and mismanagement during the Crimean War, to which so many thousands of British soldiers were sacrificed in the camp. Had the great artist lived to this day, he would have found in India materials for a companion picture of—the Official Microscopic Society. If the motto of the London Office is *Not to do it*, that of this Society of Calcutta is *To overdo it*, always omitting the necessary and important to concentrate all energies on the unnecessary and the trivial. Here would have met his eyes the spectacle of dignitaries in Church and State, while maintaining their haughty isolation and their national scorn for other nations, ready to amuse themselves with paper schemes of conversion or reformation of the people, and delighting to honour not only respectable hobby horsemen but also sharp operators—Secretaries of imaginary institutions, Moderators of improvised missions, *et hoc genus omne*—who may be prepared to humour them in their amiable game of cheap philanthropy. He would have seen officers, instead of patiently working the existing rules, continually fretting that the rules were

not better. Here they are the most ambitious law reformers who have no loyalty for law at all. There are magistrates who, leaving their proper work to subordinates, distinguish themselves by sitting on clerks.

THE District Judge of Kurnool referred the following question for the opinion of the Madras High Court:—

"Can a judgment creditor, by the procedure prescribed in Section 272 of the Civil Procedure Code, attach, while in the hands of the Postal authorities, covers containing notes sent to the address of the judgment debtor, by a third party?"

Mr. Justice Shephard has answered the reference thus:—

"The question forming the subject of the reference arises in consequence of a claim to have released from attachment certain letters containing currency notes, on the ground that the right and title of the judgment debtors had ceased before the attachment took place. The letters which are addressed to the judgment debtors, were attached in the hands of the Post Master in the manner indicated by Section 272 of the Civil Procedure Code. A day before the attachment took place, the claimants, being the persons who had sent the letters, had applied to the Post Master General through the Post Master to have the letters returned. The question is, whether, in the circumstances stated by the District Munsif, the letters with their contents were on the 6th April liable to attachment as being the property of the judgment debtors and whether they were held by the Post Master in trust for them or in their behalf. I am of opinion that both questions must be answered in the affirmative. The notes were sent by the claimants to the judgment debtors on account of purchases of indigo made or to be made by the latter on behalf of the former. In the hands of the judgment debtor, the notes would clearly have been part of their general property and subject to attachment by their creditors. The question is whether the ownership in the notes was vested in the judgment debtors or liable to be divested at the date of attachment. According to English law it seems clear that the Post Office holds every letter that is once posted, as agent of the addressee, and that, therefore, where delivery of a thing is requisite to pass the property, it is generally sufficient to deliver it for transmission by the Post Office. Cote Law Reports, ch. 2 page 32. I find nothing in the Act XIV. of 1866 to indicate a different state of law in this country. On the contrary, the illustrations to Secs. 4 and 5 of the Contract Act are in accordance with English Law. I think that the provision in the Act reserving to the Post Master General the liberty of returning the letter to the sender, which is in effect a proviso to the declaration that the sender shall not be entitled to have his letter returned, cannot possibly be construed in the manner suggested by the Vakils for the claimants. Construed as giving any absolute right to the sender the proviso would be inconsistent with the former part of the section. When once the letter has been posted, the property in it becomes vested in the addressee and the sender has no power of reclaiming it without the addressee's consent. The doctrine of stoppage *in transitu* can have no application, because the parties do not stand in the relation of vendor and purchaser. In my judgment the question referred by the District Munsif must be answered in favour of the judgment debtors."

The Judge seems to hold that the sender not only loses all control over the letter as soon as it is consigned to the post box, but also ceases to have any right in the letter. With its posting, the letter at once becomes the property of the addressee, and in transit, the Post office holds it in trust for the addressee. This view is opposed to ordinary understanding. One would think the property in a letter remains in the sender till it is delivered to the addressee. The liability of the sender for the money enclosed is not discharged before the delivery of the letter with its enclosure to the person entitled to that money. Under the ruling of the Madras High Court, it may be argued that, in case of loss during transit, the addressee must not look to the sender for fresh payment. He must seek from the Post office the satisfaction of his claim against his debtor the sender. Will a remittance of money order for revenue in proper time and due form, under the rules recently sanctioned, save an estate, if the order is lost during transit and the revenue is not deposited in the treasury by that lapse? The Post Office or Government, however, under the law quoted in the judgment, is not "responsible for any loss, or damage which may occur in respect of any thing entrusted to the post-office for conveyance." Who then will bear the loss?

THE other day we read the following case in Syud Ameer Hossein's Court:—

"Solendro Krishna Ghose, a student in the F.A. class, Presidency College, residing in Grey-street, charged a young Hindoo named Taruck Krishna, with causing him grievous hurt by biting off half of his left ear. A number of witnesses were called to speak to the above fact, but on his worship enquiring of inspector Surbauundo Roy, who was in charge of the case, as to where the exhibit (the torn-off portion of the ear) was, he replied that as soon as it dropped from the mouth of the accused, a crow picked it up and flew away with it. The magistrate wittily suggested the prosecution of the crow for destroying evidence. The inspector said he could find no trace of the bird. The facts connected with this case, as was opened by Baboo J. K. Bose, who appeared for the complainant, were that the accused had given some information to the complainant's guardian reflecting on his moral charac-

ter. This coming to the knowledge of the complainant, he became greatly incensed and meeting the accused on the street last Wednesday, questioned him as to the truth of the information. Defendant flatly denied having given any information, whereupon the complainant asked and even pressed him to accompany him to his guardian's house, but as he refused, main force was tried to compel him to do so. Defendant, in order to extricate himself from the complainant's grasp, bit off his ear. He was, on conviction, sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment."

By Day and Night but this is wondrous strange! Cannibalism surely is a queer development of vegetarian Hinduism under the teaching and influence of Muscular Christianity! Hindu lads have their quarrels, like the juveniles of other races; like them, too, they have even their little wars and negotiations and treaties after the manner of greater Powers. But their wars mostly are simply figurative—mere sound and fury signifying ill will perhaps, but nothing more serious. As a rule, our boys do not go in for fighting in earnest, and they have a wholesome dread of drawing blood. Our people are not yet learned in the art of kissing, and the naughtiest feat of our scapegraces is a bite on the cheek, but the attack never causes a wound. Surely, the manners of the school and the college cannot have completely changed since we were in the *status pupillari*. What process, then, has of late been in operation at the Presidency College, to lead to such bellicose Babooing, or produce such a bloody Babooing as Master Tarak Krishna Bahadoor?

The Police managed to change the tragedy into a farce. Mr. Lambert should promote this precious Roy for his prompt and unhesitating explanation of the missing piece of human cartilage. We hope it was not utilised in the station cook-room.

To scholars and mathematicians in especial, it will be news indeed that Euclid is still in the flesh and may be seen by mortal eyes. Nay, the Alexandrian geometer has been so far reduced as to be had—if not for the asking, at least for money. Euclid has his price—that is all. Count Potoki, an Austrian noble lately in Calcutta, is the lucky purchaser of the grand old Oriental for the stiff sum of £700 equal to about Rs. 10,000. He will take him with himself over to his native land—not, however, to teach his own sons, nor to fill the chair of mathematics at the great Imperial University, but to—increase and multiply! Surely, the degradation of poor Euclid is complete, when he is put to such base use as breeding, and given no better quarters for the purpose than the stable.

In fact, Euclid turns out to be a—horse!

THE follies of fashion are endless. They are specially rife in its favorite branch of the Turf. Not the least of the vanities of it is in its nomenclature—in the nomenclature of its beasts, in especial. Horses have in all ages received from the favor of its riders the most sounding appellatives. Alexander had his Bucephalus. The Prophet of Islam had his Barak—a name since appropriated to a famous English quadruped—Eclipse. There is meaning and propriety in that name. But what shall we say of giving horses and dogs the greatest names in history—Alexander the Great, Cæsar, Hannibal, Scipio, Marlborough, Napoleon, and so forth? Still there is some analogy here. We see no fun but fatuity rather in a poor animal by the name of an illustrious mathematician or philosopher or bard. It is simply a mark of barbarism to name a horse Euclid or Socrates or Homer or Vyasa or Manu. But Europe goes farther, and does not scruple to call a horse the Pope. It is more than impertinence—it is blasphemy.

WE are amused to see the *Army and Navy Gazette* puzzled by the name of the latest Anglo-Indian humorist. First our London contemporary writes "Rudyard Kipling"—the inverted commas the *Gazette's* own—and then if he ventures on "Mr. Rudyard Kipling"—here the quotation marks are our own—adds apologetically, "We are in a phase of quaint names, Rider Haggard, &c." The editor, who besides a weighty presence, is peculiarly lucky in the possession of the grandest possible double-barrelled English name, may well wonder at the vagaries of British nomenclature. But Rider Haggard need not be a pseudonym. At any rate, there was in Bengal, some years back, a gentleman of the surname who retired from the office of Magistrate of Serampore and took an active part in England in the controversy on the Ilbert Bill. The literary Qui Hye—the *Gazette* ought to know the

word—is Rudyard Kipling and no mistake. He is, we believe, a son of the Principal of the Lahore School of Art.

MR. E. W. Hamilton, of the Treasury, has published a most interesting and factful pamphlet on the history of Mr. Goschen's conversion and redemption operations and how they have been carried out, going into their leading incidents and results. The arduousness of the undertaking taxed all the patience and judgment of the department. The difficulty of identifying the holders of stock was enormous and almost insuperable. For instance, the name of Smith\* recurred in the books of the Public Debt no less than 5,429 times, that of Brown 2,478 times, and that of Jones 2,190 times, while there were found to be 1,043 Smiths, of whom 524 were John Smiths and 519 William Smiths. Under the circumstances, it seems incredible that not only no mistakes were committed, but no delays occurred. Scarcely a complaint against the Bank was preferred.

A VAST number of notices amounting to 68,800 had to be posted. Of these, 12,700 were returned through the Post Office, either for defect in addressing or in consequence of death of the addressees. These enormous business operations afforded a good opportunity for the display of national character or individual idiosyncrasies. Thus:—

"Some persons were ready to sign any form that was presented to them; others would sign nothing. Not a few rushed at the offers to be paid off in advance and then did not take the trouble to claim their money for months afterwards. Many were reminded by the notices that they were the owners of stock which they had been too careless to claim for many years; while others were made aware for the first time that they had money in the funds, in some instances the stock in question amounting to as much as £1,000 with many back dividends accrued."

We hope Indian officials will take a note of these facts. When even a people so intelligent, so careful of their interests, so businesslike, so wedded to punctuality, fail in their most important private concerns, how much more at fault must be the notoriously listless careless Indians! We do not preach thoughtlessness, sloth, indifference, unpunctuality, or waste. On the contrary, we rejoice at, and are thankful for, the moral effect of our connection with Europeans—the salutary change which British education and administration caused in our people. We only plead for mercy for national failings of a venial kind. Our rulers are righteous over-much. They delight to act up to a standard of perfection which is not only above the people, but which is not to be found anywhere. The wisdom of Shakespeare again asserts itself—

One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.

Here is official and statistical proof that Britons are no better than Baboos. From the easy persuasion that they are infinitely better, what ills has not India suffered! Little knowledge of India + less of Europe has been the bane of the administration. The people have been passed through impossible drills at the point of the bayonet. Such operations as of late the English Treasury have quietly effected, without any notable hitch, would, in India, under the combined heedlessness and harshness of our officials, have caused incalculable loss, heart-burning, and despair to thousands.

THE Influenza has been specially hard upon the Press. It has had all the effect of a gag in many quarters. Journalism depends for its life on its periodicity, and the Influenza has interfered with its regularity. The *Kathiawar Times* is stopped until such time as the epidemic allows. Nearer home, our contemporary *Hope* is laid up with its whole establishment. Last week, there was a delay of some days in the issue. The conductors were evidently struggling bravely with the disease, but the enemy has got the better of them, and this week they confess themselves beaten. Instead of the always lively, cheery *Hope*, we have received a brief bulletin from the office, beginning with this unwelcome announcement, to wit—

"The Editor of *Hope* having been taken seriously ill with bronchitis threatening to turn into pneumonia, and all our staff being invalided by the influenza, the undersigned has found it impossible to issue *Hope* of the 16th instant."

The language of the Manager who signs this Notice is, we are glad, full of hope, and he promises to bring out the paper by next Thursday

morning. We devoutly say *Amen!* Our journalism, though prolific enough in number, is sadly weak in quality, and we can ill spare such a model paper for the million. We may mention that the Manager offers all the compensation possible under the accident—one week's extra matter to readers and one week's advertising free to advertisers.

The condition of the Editor makes us truly anxious. We know too well to our cost what that condition is, having scarcely yet thoroughly recovered from it and its not uncommon development. From bronchitis to pneumonia is but one step. And Oh how imperceptibly easy!

*Facilis descensus Averni:*

*Sed revocare gradum superasque evadere ad auras,  
Hoc opus, hic labor est.*

Before you are prepared to yield that your every-day cold is a nasty thing without a name in honest vernacular, you discover to your consternation that the main pipes of your breathing apparatus are red and sore and ready to give way! Then, if you are fortunate enough to escape with life, you do so on conditions which most people find irksome in the extreme—under a discipline which taxes the patience and obedience to the utmost.

The weather, however, is in his favour, and we pray and trust that there is no real cause for alarm. There is stuff in the man. He is one of our wisest, bravest teachers.

THE Calcutta Corporation has been cast in Rs. 100 fine, for keeping a trenching ground on the Diamond Harbour road to the annoyance of the neighbourhood. It is a legacy of the Suburban Corporation now amalgamated. The whole question of a trenching ground for disposal of the nightsoil of a municipality requires a solution. It is no easy matter—that is if the solution is to be more wholesome than the subject, in its full reality. Prizes ought to be offered to tempt the ingenious to lash their wits for a satisfactory devise. The question is not local but imperial, and Government ought to move in the matter.

HERR Hoper, of the Dresden Institute, a short hand-writer, has calculated the rapidity of speaking at the Reichstag. He thinks that it might be interesting to know that Herr Rickert speaks at the rate of 153 words a minute, Count Bismarck 144, Frhr. von Stumm 148, Dr. Bamberger 129, Herr Singer 121 and Dr. Busing 112. It would be more to the point to know who speaks to the best purpose.

HAJEE Abdool Latiff Baledina, a Bombay merchant, charged with forging bills of exchange for Rs. 50,000 and cheating by impersonation, has been sentenced by Mr. Justice Bayley to ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

MR. J. A. H. Louis sued the Calcutta University for Rs. 500, claiming that sum as his proper fee as French examiner in the Entrance and First Arts Examinations for 1889. The University admitted only Rs. 180-2-11 or 12 annas and 1 Re. per each paper examined, the University rate, and tendered the amount in Court. The Small Cause Court Judge Mr. MacEwen held that Mr. Louis had not shewn that he was entitled to a higher rate or fee, on the contrary, Sir Alfred Croft and Messrs. Pedler and Tawney, all University men, for the defence, had deposed to the fairness and reasonableness of the rates, and the Judge accordingly decreed the suit without costs for the amount already paid in.

SIR Henry Harrison has made over charge to Mr. H. Lee. The Commissioners have recorded the following appreciation of the knight's services to them and the town.

"That before the Hon'ble Sir Henry Harrison leaves the Chairmanship of the Corporation of Calcutta, the Commissioners desire to place on record their high appreciation of the services rendered by him to the Corporation of Calcutta during his incumbency. They could not but admire his genial disposition and courteous manners, which, added to his uncommon ability and persuasive eloquence, have in no small degree secured the success attained by him in the discharge of his onerous duties."

Sir Henry presided at the meeting when this resolution was moved and carried. The motion was not contested. One of the Suburban Commissioners opposed it, but only three other Commissioners were found to support him. So far so good. The failure was emphasised by the indiscreet friend. Indeed, Baboo Norendra Nath Sen here introduced by way of an interlude a one act farce. He, the supporter of a forlorn hope, without knowing where he stood, demanded a poll. Though a professional limb—of the nether side—of the law, he showed his ignorance of the Municipality's Act. For, the full number under the law—five—was wanting and the poll was not taken. Such a compliment was Sir Henry's due and he has obtained it. His ability is unquestionable. During the nine long years that he presided over the affairs of the municipality, several improvements have been introduced and effected in the town—the native quarter specially has been better ventilated and enlightened. Much of the reproach of Calcutta as an unhealthy city has been removed. That may be due to the progress of time, still the head of the municipality must have some share of the distinction, whether he himself was instrumental or not in originating the reforms. The late Chairman, undoubtedly brought eloquence into the deliberation of the Board and introduced and allowed a freedom in the debate which satisfied all parties if it sometimes degenerated into rude personalities. He would have made a model Chairman if he could muster half the physical energy of Sir Stuart Hogg. The town would have prospered more quickly and presented a much healthier appearance. Unfortunately, he generally allowed the Heads of Departments to take care of themselves and would not allow the Commissioners to find fault with them. He knew how to deal with the Commissioners or to win them over. He early won their confidence and got them to vote for his house allowance. True, once he landed the Corporation on a rock but he also, with rare pluck and a droitness, got it out of it safe.

MR. Justice Prinsep, as the senior Civilian Judge of the High Court, performed the last rites that remained to be done in India on the death of Sir Louis Jackson in England. Addressing the Advocate-General, he expressed, in half a dozen sentences, the regret of himself and the Court for the demise of one who could exact dignity and gave some dignity to the Court. To prove the deceased Judge's superiority as it were, the living Justice stumbled on the very first sentence. If left to himself, he would have closed the Court for the day. Here we have an inkling of what to expect under the government of Civil Service in the highest court.

MANY as have been the remarkable events and extraordinary political and social changes, in our times, such as the downfall of dynasties and nations and rise of peoples, the abolition of serfdom, the emancipation of slaves, the most startling surprise was reserved by the lone Empire of an archipelago of the Pacific Ocean off the Coast of Asia. The people of that country, in nowise ethnically or otherwise different from their insular or continental neighbours, have outheroded Herod. The most Eastern community of the Farthest East has taken the shine out of the very Western Stars of the West. Japan has gone ahead of goahead America. To say she has proceeded at a rattling pace is nothing: she has run a steeple-chase—nay, taken leaps and bounds across seas and over the heads of cloud-capped mountains—without risk to her neck, without as yet a simple fracture or visible contusion. The slow effects of centuries of institutions and ages of human progression, she has achieved in a trice. Without social preparation, her reformers have ordered a stupendous revolution. And, as yet, all have gone merrily as a marriage bell. History has been thoroughly discredited; the human mind, as it was understood in other parts of the world, has been shamed. At last, faint signs of difficulty seem to loom ahead. The insulted genius of Political Economy threatens to raise the standard of revolt. The giant triumphant over all obstacles is being baffled by an apparently insignificant foe—Dirty Pelf. The Laws of Money will brook no interference.

The writer of an article in the *Japan Gazette* significantly headed "The Coming Crash," observes that it does not require a very far-seeing person to discern that unless something is done to relieve the scarcity of capital in Japan, a commercial and industrial crisis is not far off. Many circumstances have led to this state of affairs, the chief

being the "limitless" floating of new companies. The total of the nominal capital of the Japanese joint stock companies amounts to as much as 300,000,000 dols., while a little over 100,000,000 dols. of capital is in circulation in the country. Of course, calls on shares cannot be met. Nor are the Japanese satisfied with the abnormal spirit of enterprise and speculation so suddenly evoked at home; they have diverted their limited capital for investment abroad. There is now a call for stringent laws for governing the floating of companies, and it is urged that the National Bank and other institutions should be authorised to aid the companies already established, if a great crash was to be avoided. But laws cannot multiply money. Considering that the share capital required is three times the amount of money in circulation, not even the most cordial compliance with the wildest suggestions of these financial publicists will help Japan out of the situation. The hankering after the capital of other countries shown by some Japanese, is more to the purpose. It is urged that Government should raise money in Europe and America and allow transactions in Japanese bonds in the markets of the West.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1890.

### TERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT RAID ON THE SALTPETRE MANUFACTURE.

THE appeal to the Viceroy, of the Saltpetre-washers of Calcutta, has for the present been disposed of to the satisfaction of both the parties. Mr. J. E. O'Connor, the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, had from the beginning actively interested himself in bringing about a good understanding by taking the petitioners into confidence and explaining to them without reserve the intentions of Government. The washers have taken out licenses in the form A, none of them having expressed any desire to become manufacturers of edible salt. The Register heads that they had at first been required to fill up for the *eclat* of a great department and which were quite unmeaning as applied to the saltpetre industry carried on at Calcutta and its suburbs, have been withdrawn. In their stead, the Assistant Commissioner of N. I. Salt Revenue, Mr. Ashton, has supplied a much simpler form which, it is believed, the washers will not find very difficult to fill up. The language of many of the heads in this form is not very clear, and in one instance it is directly opposed to a commercial technicality. The Government officials in this country however exercise very large powers. If they do not command the sea by an order in the Gazette, they can compel those placed under them to call a spade a cucumber. Our legislative Acts teem with definitions of words whose connotations as accepted by the world are widely different from those which the legislature associates with them. While settling the Register heads in consultation with the representatives of the washers and in the presence of the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Mr. Ashton repeatedly assured the gentlemen that the form was *not* intended to be a trap. The assurance was scarcely needed, for a trap it cannot well be however plaguy its look may be and however subservient to purposes of *eclat*. The entries under "additions to stock" and "reductions of stock" both with regard to the crude and the washed article, will afford *no* check on the quantity of refuse that may be registered. The washers contended that when those entries would not really afford any kind of check on the refuse shewn, the slightest

harm would not ensue if the entries under crude saltpetre and washed saltpetre were not insisted upon. Unanswerable as this contention is, Mr. Ashton, true to himself as an official and believing that the very foundations of Britain's grand empire in the East rested on official infallibility or the reputation of such infallibility, wished to get rid of it by the somewhat stale reply that it was the Government (a grandiloquent form of expression implying his own august self) and not the washers that were the judges of the question. In other words, according to Mr. Ashton, the Government might enact a law requiring any class of its subjects to cut three capers at every seventh step before taking the eighth while walking the Queen's highway, without the persons burdened with the obligation being able to point out, however respectfully, that while constantly exposing themselves to the public gaze in such undignified attitude, the Government would derive no advantage by subjecting them to such an obligation. Mr. Ashton's ideas again of moderation and etiquette in official correspondence seem to be susceptible of considerable improvement. Having despatched to one of the washers a tentative Register form devised by himself, he wrote to say that he was willing to consider any suggestion that might be made to him about any change in the heads for obviating any inconvenience that might result from its use. The party addressed heartily thanked Mr. Ashton for his kindness and courtesy and respectfully informed him that he had referred the form to the committee specially organised for corresponding with the Government on the entire question. Such a reference to the committee was too much for Mr. Ashton's powers of endurance. It was a sheer insult to him; a piece of impertinence that called for rigorous measures. An ukase was at once issued, peremptorily commanding the person that the Register should be forthwith brought into use without a word more of explanation. The washers were all the more surprised at this sudden change of attitude on Mr. Ashton's part, specially as they had experienced nothing but the utmost courtesy and consideration at his hands in every other respect.

All, however, is well that ends well. But for the interference of Mr. J. E. O'Connor and the exertions made by the washers themselves, the subordinate Salt Officers would have, by their zeal, killed the Saltpetre industry in Calcutta by this time. The policy is certainly questionable of interfering in this way with such an useful industry upon which the Government itself has to depend for the supply of its own gunpowder. Such an interference, to the annoyance of those engaged in it, for the small advantage of regulating the sale or disposal of a few thousand maunds *un-edible* saline refuse, argues extreme shortsightedness. The very position that England has won in the polity of nations, has in no small measure been due to her supplies of Indian saltpetre. The brilliant campaigns of William III. and the still more glorious achievements of Marlborough on the continental fields of Europe, were directly attributable to the loyalty of the East India Company in supplying the Crown with Indian saltpetre at cost price. History has recorded that towards the latter part of the seventeenth century, "all Europe would hardly produce in a year saltpetre enough for the siege of one town fortified on the principles of Vauban. But for the supplies from India, the English Government would be unable to equip a fleet without digging up the cellars of London in order to collect the nitrous



particles from the walls." The curious reader may consult the brilliant pages of Macaulay's history of the period of William III. for further information on the subject.

#### THE MAHOMEDAN LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

THE vitality and intellectual activity of a community can be well judged by the quantity of its publications. They correctly and clearly shew the various stages of progress in thought and expression and in the arts of refinement which it has reached, at the same time that they display its shortcomings. They are the best evidence of its moral, material, and intellectual condition, and unmistakably point out the direction towards which it is advancing, either by slow or rapid marches. They throw ample light upon the state of its education one way or the other, and afford materials for the just conception of its educational deficiencies.

The Reports of the Bengal Librarian and the elaborate lists of publications and books which are published in the *Calcutta Gazette* from time to time, deserve more careful attention than what they generally receive from the people concerned, and should be regularly studied by those who take interest in the education of their co-religionists. The report for 1888 is a very sad commentary on the education and literary taste of the Mahomedans of this province, and forcibly presents even to the casual observer a deplorable picture of educational backwardness and literary inactivity. It shews what their place is now as authors and publishers in their own vernaculars as well as in English, and how fast they are forgetting the Persian and Arabic languages without knowing which a Mahomedan cannot be properly called a perfectly educated man. To come to a sufficiently correct conclusion as to the number and merits of the works compiled in the three above languages, I have considered the Lists of books from 1877 upto September 1889, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* and read most of the books which concern us particularly, and the result is most discouraging from every point of view. The contrast between the works in these languages and other vernaculars is extremely disappointing and proves that literary life and intellectual vitality is extinct in the Mahomedans of Bengal. The following figures I take from the report of 1888.

No. of Publications.	Language.
1,190.	Bengalee.
311.	English.
125.	Hindee.
90.	Urya.
31.	Urdu.

I think the proportion of Urdu, Persian and Arabic books to other publications in the vernaculars is nearly the same for 1877 and 1889 as for the year above-named, namely, 1 to 40, or in some respects even worse. These lists shew that the books in other vernaculars, in which the Bengali language of course takes the first place, are generally on useful and scientific subjects. In most cases the sources of their materials and matters are English. Where they are not translations or compilations from, they are imitations of, English authors. In few cases, we come across original works. The subjects dealt with in these, the style in which most of them are written and the names, designations, &c. of the authors and compilers, make it clear that most of them are English-knowing men of the present generation, a large number being either graduates or undergraduates. These facts tend to prove that the work of regeneration of the vernacular languages in the present generation is chiefly in the hands of men who have received an English education, of some kind.

Persian and Arabic works not really falling under the category of vernaculars and their number being quite insignificant, I would

not deal with them at great length. I must, however, say that the few books which are in these lists are mostly on religious and miscellaneous subjects, and their literary merit is far below par and they are not of much value for any useful purposes. Some religious books are now written in the form of pamphlets on theological controversies by the Wahabis or their antagonists and tend to excite religious and sectarian disputes by irritating the minds of those classes. Some Persian books are for the use of schoolboys who acquire an imperfect and useless knowledge of Persian in our schools. In the List for the quarter ending 30th September 1877, I find two Persian, 3 Urdu and 3 Anglo-Urdu books. In that for the quarter ending 30th September 1889, the number is about 16.

Among all the Urdu books in the above Lists, there is scarcely one useful book, not reckoning translations of medical works, &c., which is worth perusal or which shews either the power of writing that language decently and correctly or a proper conception or arrangement of the subject. They are the most conclusive evidence of the intellectual incapacity and educational deficiencies of their authors who have deplorably mistaken their vocation and wasted their time and energy upon things which are productive of little good—morally, mentally or financially. They are, most of them, either meant for distribution gratis or doomed to the ravages of the white ants. These books are generally written more for the sake of getting a name as an author or compiler and satisfying ambition which is not at all laudable, than for any other earthly use. In the List for 1888, I find only one book on Geography, but the author is a missionary gentleman whose name shews that he is not a native. The other works are mostly poems and ordinary third-rate translations, worthless in every way.

Now, the question is, Who are the authors of these precious productions? Excepting some professional persons, who have translated some English books or compiled some grammar or school primer, nearly all of them are obscure men who are not quite fit to write an intelligent article on any useful subject, not to speak of books.

Poetry—of a sort—is the great resource of the frivolous part of Mahomedan society. The half educated Mahomedan Reis too goes in for it. To write verses is considered an accomplishment and brings importance and honor. There are those who, without possessing any capacity or literary merit, want to become authors by the assistance of more competent men; these are liberally paid and employed to improve or compose the poems of their patrons. Others, again, rush to print without any previous knowledge, merely to make money by publishing worthless books.

I have now briefly explained the merits of these works and the qualifications of their authors and compilers. The Mahomedan graduate or undergraduate, however, is nowhere either as compiler, translator, or author. This absence from the important literary field is ominous. With hundreds of Bengalee graduates, undergraduates, professors and masters who have revolutionized their once obscure and poor language to the great glory of their nation and country and enriched it with the literary treasures of Western science and literature, there is not the slightest symptoms of Mahomedan activity.

There are, of course, books and books in Bengalee as well. There are dozens of Hindu authors and compilers who have simply mistaken their profession or who are not qualified for their self-imposed task. At the same time it cannot be denied that there is a very large number of useful books in Bengalee which are replete with the reflection of Western literature and science. Why then is there such a dearth of books and authors in Bengali among the Mahomedans? Why are they so much neglecting their own languages? Why are they far behind their Bengalee brethren in this respect? The answer is very clear. With some honorable exceptions, there is scarcely a Mahomedan graduate who can write on any ordinary subject in any of the languages which we so much prize and which are still generally taught as second languages in

all the Government schools and colleges and in which again special instruction is given in the three Government Medressas. These young men have little or no taste or love for their own special literature or language, and after acquiring a dangerous little knowledge of English, fight shy of their own language and literature.

Let them compare the number of Urdu books in the above Lists with those in Urya, Assamese and Hindee, and blush. Even the much abused and wretched Masulmani Bengalee is making appreciable progress and such names as are given below adorn the list of authors of books.

Sharratullah Sarkar.  
Bukhashali Khundkar.  
Ghuribullah Saheb.  
Sadullah Sarkar.

These authors are evidently the fruits of the Primary Education. So the once illiterate masses are turning out authors of books which command a large sale.

Who are the best Bengalee novelists, dramatists, and poets? They are the best fruits of the University. They have turned their knowledge of English to the best account and have established their reputation as authors and poets, &c. Leaving aside original contributions there are scarcely any translations of any useful scientific or other works by Mahomedan graduates or undergraduates worth naming. I think the total number of such translations is not more than a dozen.

It is a good sign that books are being written in Mussalmani Bengalee, but it is a bad sign for the respectable classes of the Mahomedans. It shows that the lowest fringe of the middle classes is benefiting by the spread of education, to the ultimate confusion of the idling better classes.

Our graduates and undergraduates are the dumb spectators of this literary revolution which is going on for years in Bengal around them, without once for a moment realizing their own responsibility. Look at the large number of Bengali newspapers and periodicals that are edited and published in Bengal by Bengalis. In the whole of Bengal proper, I believe we have only two miserably conducted Urdu newspapers and two in Behar, while there are hundreds of Urdu newspapers and periodicals in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, the last of which was only a few years back one of the most backward Provinces in education. The Punjabis are not up to this time considered intellectually superior to Bengal Mahomedans, but they are men of strong resolution and steady habits and have a keen sense of shame in them. They have begun to realize that no nation in the world can be considered properly educated or civilized who know not properly their own vernacular and possess not their men of literature and science.

The Mahomedans of Bengal ought to open their eyes to the absolute necessity of acquiring a useful and practical knowledge of their own languages, specially Persian and Urdu, and possessing a taste for their own literature. Just now I can only dream of the happy time when we shall see in the Bengal Provinces Mahomedan graduates in charge of well-conducted Urdu newspapers and distinguishing themselves as authors and compilers of useful, entertaining and improving books in their own languages.

A MAHOMEDAN.

9th April, 1890.

### THE DANGERS OF STATE RAILWAY TRAVELLING.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—On the 15th of March after paying my humble respects to you I took the night passenger train that runs from Calcutta to Goalundo. At Naihaty the train as usual stopped for a few minutes. During that brief interval a coolie with a passenger came to the compartment next to my own and called upon the sleeping occupants of it to get up in rather coarse terms. Far from the use of coarse terms there was no need for calling upon them to get up as there was ample room for a single passenger to sit down or for that matter to lie down even. A passenger replied to the coolie

in contemptuous terms and this the coolie retorted by calling him *sala* and threatening to pull him down from the carriage by his ears. Receiving a box or two from two gentlemen in answer to the insult, the coolie brought a native officer to see justice done to him. Hearing the statements of one or two disinterested passengers, the native officer dismissed the coolie or rather the coolies, for a few others had in the mean time joined him, by telling them not to quarrel with their betters. He also advised the Baboos not to embroil themselves in quarrel with mean people and compromise their honor. This did not satisfy the coolies, however. They used vulgar and abusive language and in return received a few strokes from the thick end of a stick. By the coolies a Saheb officer was led into the compartment next to the one occupied by the real parties and there two innocent persons were pointed out as having thrashed a policeman for wakening them up from sleep to make room for a passenger or in the discharge of his duties. They denied the charge. The Saheb gave the word for arrest saying "you shall answer the charge before the Barrackpore Magistrate and I tell you if you delay in coming down you shall have to pay for the detention of the train." One of them answered "Sir, I have no stick to beat with." On search no stick was found in the compartment. The Saheb then came down to the platform but only to return soon after to the same compartment while two coolies entered the other compartment, that in which the persons really concerned were, and brought out the stick from under a bag and pointed out two other innocent persons in the compartment in which the Saheb stood. A whole host of men cried themselves hoarse alleging the innocence of these men and the provocation given to the passengers, but the Saheb was not minded to hear them. He took their tickets which he handed over to the guard giving him instructions to take the men out at Goalundo and identify them to the Police Inspector who was to take down their names and addresses for prosecution. They, however, got down at some intermediate station leaving the Railway authorities, high and low, to chuckle to the stretch of their stupidity over their tickets. Although the tickets were from Calcutta to Narainganj, they preferred being mulcted and enduring the miseries of dropping at obscure stations, to standing a prosecution.

TRUTH.

10th April.

### THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

Your correspondent "An Observer" has attempted two solutions of the important silver question. I do not understand him. One solution is "the increase of the weight of rupees." So according to his own showing the ten heavy coins must come up in weight to the fourteen and threefourths, of light ones. The difficulty remains all the same. I do not see how if the quantity of silver to be paid remains the same or nearly the same—no matter what the number of coins may be—matters will improve. His second solution "to obtain the permission of the Home Government to coin shillings"..... "and to forward them in kind to that country (England) in payment of debts, &c...." overlooks the fact, important above all others things, that in payment of debts over 40s. silver is not a legal tender in England. The only remedy as shown by many eminent men lies, perhaps, in equalising the demand to the supply, which can be effected by (1) double standard in India and elsewhere; (2) increasing the volume of Indian internal trade.

B. C. DAS.

Tipperah, April 10.

### MONGHYR.

Jamalpore, April 7.

The influenza has assumed an epidemic form both at this station and Monghyr. It has attacked both the native and European quarters of the station. In the audit office alone here, out of 300 Baboos, &c., some 120 are laid up with this disease. In the Locomotive Workshops, both European and native workmen have been victimized in large numbers. Of the former 40 and of the latter about 900 and in the Locomotive offices about 35 Baboos are down with it. The people call it the brother of Dengue fever which prevailed a few years back. The symptoms are more or less alike, specially as regards the pain in the body.

The people here had anticipated to pass their time in somewhat gay and mirthful or in pleasurable mood the three days of the Barwaree Poojah which comes off during Easter holidays, when dancing, keertun and opera parties from Patna and Calcutta keep the station alive. But the epidemic stood in the way, causing many persons to be sorely disappointed. The deity worshipped was Raj Rajeshari, and the Puja went off with great *clat* as usual. This is the 3rd year of celebration. The Monghyr Barwaree has unavoidably been postponed owing to the prevalence of the disease.

There was a river accident the other day. The E. I. Railway Co.'s steamer "Bradford Leslie" whilst plying between Monihari Ghat and Sahebgunge all of a sudden got aground at the former ghat, fortunately no injury was done to any of the passengers.

THE RAMNAD PARTITION SUIT.  
IN THE SUB-COURT (EAST) OF MADURA.

ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 5 OF 1890.

Srimat Heraniya Garbayagi Ravikula Muthuvizia Re-  
gunada Rajah Dinakarassamy *alias* Ramasamy Se-  
tupati ... .. Plaintiff.  
*VERSUS*  
Srimat Heraniya Garbayagi Ravikula Muthuvizia Re-  
gunada Rajah Bhashkarassamy *alias* Annasawmy Se-  
tupati ... .. Defendant.

(From p. 178.)

The plaintiff in this suit on solemn affirmation states as follows :—

1. That in addition to, and in support and continuation of his affidavit for the appointment of a Receiver in this suit filed as of record on the 3rd day of February 1890, he begs leave to file this further affidavit, which he prays may be received and read as part of his aforesaid former affidavit.

2. That plaintiff has been informed, and believes the same to be true, that the defendant herein owes :

(a) The sum of Rs. 2,40,000 (two lacs forty thousand) or thereabouts, to one T. Runganatha Tawker, a Jeweller and Merchant residing at Sowkarpet, Black Town, Madras, who holds the said defendant's promissory notes for the said sum which represents debts incurred by the said defendant since he attained his majority ;

(b) The sum of Rs. 1,75,000 (one lac seventy-five thousand) to one Ana Lana Ana Roona Ramasawmy Chetty of Devacottah, who holds the defendant's promissory note or notes for the same.

3. That the two debts recited in the last paragraph, which aggregate Rs. 4,00,000, are the details, so far as plaintiff can ascertain, of the debts referred to in paragraph 9 of his former affidavit as amounting to "3 lacs or thereabouts."

4. That in addition to the debts recited in paragraph 2 of this affidavit, the plaintiff is informed and believes the same to be true, that the defendant is indebted in the sum of Rs. 30,000 (thirty thousand) or thereabouts, to the firm of Moses & Co., Tailors, Mount Road, Madras, for clothes.

5. That the defendant is now building a bathing *ghat* on the banks of the river Vigai in Madura, close to the Dufferin Bridge, at a cost of Rs. 15,000 (fifteen thousand) or thereabouts, the foundation stone of which has already been laid with great pomp and ceremony in the presence of the Collector of Madura, Mr. E. Turner, C.S.

6. That the defendant, it has been publicly stated in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 13th day of February 1890, has promised the sum of Rs. 4,000 (four thousand) for a building to be erected at Madura for a public library and reading room.

7. That the season for the current fusli 1299 has been and still is, owing to failure of rains, most unfavourable, thereby considerably reducing the revenue of the Ramnad estate ; that the plaintiff has reason to anticipate that the revenue for the current year in consequence of failure of crops will produce only 5 lacs or thereabouts, in lieu of 7 lacs or thereabouts, which will be insufficient, after the payment of the Government dues amounting to Rs. 3,54,444-3-10, or thereabouts, to meet and cover the expenses of the establishment now entertained by the defendant.

8. That so far as the plaintiff can ascertain the defendant's said establishment necessitates a monthly expenditure of about Rs. 19,110.

9. That in addition to this monthly expenditure of Rs. 19,110 which means an annual expenditure of Rs. 2,29,320, the defendant incurs an annual expenditure of Rs. 29,000. The two items aggregating a total estimated expenditure per annum of Rs. 2,58,320.

10. The defendant further entertains an establishment costing not less than Rs. 3,000 or thereabouts per mensem for the management of the several Devasthanams, Chuttrams and other charitable institutions of which the plaintiff and defendant are joint Trustees.

11. That, apart from the roughness of the estimates above given, the plaintiff has made no provision for such necessities as dress, travelling, legal expenses, amusements, medicine, books, stationery, gifts, costs of irrigation, and other permanent works which involve a very heavy annual outlay of about Rs. 1,50,000 (one lac fifty thousand.)

12. That in view of the above recited facts the retention by the defendant of the joint family estate without any check or control upon his gross and profligate extravagance must plunge the said estate into serious debt and gravely imperil and embarrass the right of the plaintiff to an unencumbered one-half share therein.

The Defendant in this suit states as follows :

1. The Muthuramalinga Setupaty, father of Plaintiff and Defendant herein, was at the time of his death possessed of certain personal properties and the Zemindary of Ramnad with its appurtenances specified in Schedule A. to the plaint and Devasthanams and Chuttrams and other charitable institutions specified in Schedule D. to the plaint with their respective endowments.

2. That the said Zemindary of Ramnad is an ancient principality which was a Raj till about the beginning of the present century.

3. That the said Zemindary with all its appurtenances inclusive of Devasthanams, Chuttrams and other charitable institutions has all along descended to a single heir and been held and enjoyed by such heir as an impartible estate which devolved, as a general rule, according to the rule and custom of primogeniture governing the descent of ancient estates that are impartible either by reason of their having been kingdoms, or in the nature of a raj or principality or by custom.

4. That Defendant denies the broad and unqualified statement made in para 2 of the plaint that the law of Mitakshara governs the family of Plaintiff and Defendant and states that the incident of partibility attaching, under the Mitakshara law, to the property of an undivided Hindu family is inapplicable to the said Zemindary and its appurtenances inclusive of Devasthanams, Chuttrams, &c.

5. That on the death of the said Muthuramalinga Setupaty, the said Zemindary of Ramnad with its appurtenances, inclusive of Devasthanams, Chuttrams, &c., devolved upon the Defendant to the exclusion of his younger brother the Plaintiff according to the aforesaid rule and custom of impartibility and primogeniture and in accordance with the last Will and Testament left by the said Muthuramalinga Setupaty dated 26th April 1868.

6. That by reason of Defendant's minority when the said Muthuramalinga Setupaty died, the Court of Wards in 1873 assumed charge of the estate under the provisions of Madras Regulation V. of 1804.

7. That at the time of the death of the said Muthuramalinga Setupaty who was deeply involved in debt, the peshcush due to Government on account of the Zemindary was considerably in arrears amounting to 5 lacs of Rupees and that for the realization of the said arrears of peshcush all the personal properties as well as all Pannai Kolkriem Seruthettu properties, the palace at Ramnad, Bungalows, houses, buildings, topes, &c. left by the said Muthuramalinga Setupaty deceased were sold in 1874 under the provisions of Madras Act II of 1864.

8. That at the said revenue sales certain real properties described in Schedule No. I hereunto annexed and certain personal properties being items Nos. 2, 3, 6, 22, 27 and part of 25 in Schedule B to the plaint were purchased for the defendant by the Court of Wards out of the current income of the Zemindary ; that items Nos. 13, 16 and 20 were purchased by the Court of Wards out of the incomes of the Zemindary for the defendant and Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 and part of 18 were similarly purchased by them on the occasion of his marriage in 1888 ; that item No. 17 was presented to him on the same occasion by some of his tenants ; that items Nos. 12 and 22---9 and 21 were presented to the defendant by his mother, sister and step-mother respectively ; that items Nos. 1, 10, 11, 15, 19, 23, 24 and parts of 18 and 25 were purchased for the defendant by his mother or himself in or about 1889 ; and that item No. 28 was purchased by defendant's mother and presented to temples.

9. That on his attaining the age of majority on the 3rd November 1889, the Court of Wards placed him in possession of the Zemindary with its appurtenances inclusive of devasthanams, chuttrams and other charitable institutions, the properties purchased as aforesaid by the Court of Wards for the Defendant, the cash balance referred to in schedule C to the plaint and the Devasthanam fund referred to in plaint schedule D which includes Government promissory notes of the value of one lac of rupees that yet remain to be endorsed in favor of the defendant and handed over to him.

10. That the estates of which partition is sought for by the plaintiff consist of the impartible Zemindary of Ramnad with its appurtenances inclusive of devasthanams, chuttrams and other charitable institutions with their endowments, personal and real properties purchased as aforesaid by or for the Defendant out of the Zemindary incomes which accrued subsequent to the death of the said Muthuramalinga Setupaty the savings out of such income and personal properties presented to him as aforesaid and that Plaintiff is therefore not entitled to any portion of the properties sued for.

11. That Schedule A contains a description only of the Zemindary but gives no description either by name, boundaries or otherwise of the appurtenant properties claimed under the heads of Siruthettu, &c., and that the Plaintiff should be required to furnish particulars of the properties claimed by him under the said heads so as to enable the Defendant to state more particularly if necessary his defence in respect thereof.

12. That the valuation of certain items of properties comprised in Schedule B to the plaint as therein given is excessive and erroneous.

13. That the Plaintiff has wrongly described himself in the plaint by assuming the title of Srimat, &c., &c. preceding his name and the title of Setupaty following his name which titles appertain only to the Zemindar for the time being of Ramnad and that plaintiff's proper description is Dinakarassami *alias* Ramasami Tevar.

14. That the plaintiff is not entitled to any of the reliefs sought for and the defendant therefore prays plaintiff's suit may be dismissed with costs.

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the true belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

Mr. S. Mookerjee, who will be readily recognised as the editor of that able little paper the *Reis and Rayyet*, dedicates his travels in Bengal to a wide circle of readers—those who know India and are unable to love her; those who love her, and do not know her; those who neither know nor love; those who being tired of India, take to travelling; foreigners who want to know, and Englishmen. The author himself is not the least tired of India, though he is a traveller by profession, we might almost say, and though he puts limits upon journeys, never caring to get very far away from Calcutta. It is not mileage, however, which makes the traveller. It is the power to observe sympathetically what is going on at each stage of a journey, and to keep his spirit about the minor inconveniences which necessarily occur by road, river, or rail. This Mr. Mookerjee does. He never loses his good

humour under any set of circumstances, and what is better, he conveys a full sense of it to his pages. The reader may take a choice of journeys through Eastern Bengal to Tipperah, or to the heart of Bengal Proper, and will in each case be fully rewarded by the fruits of Mr. Mookerjee's wanderings. Perhaps the English reader will be mainly struck by the excellent English style of the writer. The author is not ashamed of his nationality; he rejoices in being a Bengali, but at the same time he indulges in prose which has no alien trace in it. It is not the English of an educated German or Frenchman; it is the nervous Saxon of a subject of the Empress of India. Mr. Mookerjee had special advantages in some of his journeys, especially to Independent Tipperah, whither he was called to an important official position. He was thus assured of many attentions, though, in forming accurate impressions of a country it is doubtful whether it is not better to be untrammelled with connections which frighten away the simple folk and impose reticence on them as a duty. From the notes of his journey through East Bengal, and to show how genial is his outlook, we take the following:—[Extract.]

From Dacca he went further East, and his experiences on the Megna are of a most enlivening description. He saw many visions of beauty, and Mr. Mookerjee is no niggard when he is describing something he has enjoyed seeing. Here is a sketch on his way up the river:—[Extract.]

But it is not physical beauty alone which detains our author's eye:—[Extract.]

The same symptoms of material progress he notes among the boatmen on his course.—[Extract.]

Some portion of the volume has already been contributed to the *Statesman*, and will be familiar to our readers. The following description of natural effects is not known to them. We doubt whether Mr. Ruskin, or Mr. Black would accept it as a final account of the sun's rising and setting:—[Extract.]—*The Statesman*, October 7, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious; he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "She had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as in-

structive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1890.

No. 421

## THE SAGE AND THE NYMPH.

A TALE FROM THE SANSKRIT.

By H. H. WILSON.

[Concluded from p. 181.]

The prince, who saw their mirth had brought  
• Conviction to his sober'd thought ;  
And pitying, mark'd the pangs that stole,  
• Sharp o'er his self-accusing soul ;  
The laughter still'd, and strove to heal,  
The agony he seem'd to feel—

“ Grave Sir—these giddy girls have dared  
Your saintly quiet to molest,  
• Nor sanctity and wisdom spared  
To gratify an idle jest.

“ Of fleeting youth and beauty proud,  
They deemed that not a heart secure,  
• Should brave their power ; and boastful vowed,  
To spread for thee the fatal lure.

“ This nymph,—the fairest of the train,  
The foster-sister of our queen,—  
Engaged her freedom, she'd enchain  
Thy heart, and has successful been.

“ Yet blush not if thy strength were frail,  
Against the god that rules us all :  
• When Káma's flower-tipped shafts assail,  
• The gods, not man alone, must fall.

“ I need not tell thee how his dart  
The great Creator's self could tame ;  
How Rudra's fierce relentless heart  
Was taught to feel Love's scorching flame

“ Then let not what in sport was done,  
Thy mind composed to anger move :  
Forgive this silly Girl, and own  
That Wisdom's self must bow to Love.”

“ Prince, thou hast said,” the Sage replied,  
“ Nor fear that I resentment cherish ;  
'Tis just, that man's mistaken pride  
By female levity should perish.

“ I own my error, and forgive  
The fair disturber of my peace :  
And hence with humbled thoughts shall live,  
Till all the world's vain cares shall cease.

“ Peace be with all—and might I leave  
These nymphs one wish ere I depart ?  
They will not hold it sport to grieve,  
Again, a fond and faithful heart.”

He meekly bowed, and forth had gone,  
But in brief whisper to the queen  
Had Lila bent ; and in low tone,  
Speech passed the royal pair between.

Then thus the Prince :—“ A moment stay,  
Ere thou re-seek thy lonely cell ;  
And if thou couldst be tempted, say,  
Once more amongst mankind to dwell.

“ Thy councils I would glad retain,  
To aid me in the toils of state ;  
And the first honours of my reign,  
Upon thy future days shall wait.

“ And if within thy bosom swelling,  
No spark of indignation stir ;  
The guide that in thy saintly dwelling  
Thou wast to Lila—be to her.

“ A dangerous pastime she pursues,  
Who sports with love :—and Lila now  
The freedom that she won must lose,  
And to her captive captive bow.

“ I scarce dare venture to believe,  
My suit thy grave resolve may bend :  
Yet be prevail'd on ; and receive,  
A Wife in her—in me a Friend.”—

Markanda, doubting fresh device  
His passions might again entice,  
Stood silent—and mistrustful eye  
On Lila and the prince, he threw  
Alternate—till the Damsel nigh  
With timid step, and blushing, drew ;  
Then closely to his bosom prest—  
Conceal'd her blushes on his breast,  
And all his doubts and fears for ever charm'd to rest.

Thus Wisdom learnt the power of Love to prove ;  
And thus from Wisdom, Beauty learnt to love.

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## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

AFTER the termination of the present fair season, the homeward mail will leave Bombay on Fridays during the monsoon and on Saturdays during the fair season. Accordingly, the overland mail will continue to leave Bombay on Fridays up to the 19th September 1890. The latest safe day of posting at Calcutta is Tuesday.

A DURWAN in the employ of the Administrator-General accompanied a bailiff of the Small Cause Court to serve a summons on one Slack, sued for rent of a house he had taken from the Administrator-General. Dr. Chew, Mr. Slack's son-in-law, shied two shoes at the Durwan, and the man's discomfiture was completed by the Durwans of the house beating him out of the premises. On complaint to the officiating Chief Magistrate (Mr. A. P. Handley) and evidence being taken, the father has been acquitted of the charge of abetment, but the dutiful son-in-law, for zeal beyond the law, has been fined Rs. 25 and the two assaulting Durwans Rs. 10 each.

A MEMBER of the pensioned Royalty of Mysore glorying in the proud name of Sultan Mohammed Soleiman Bukht, is labouring for rather a protracted period under a cloud. He is charged with theft and criminal breach of trust and criminal misappropriation of a trifling sum—Rs. 194-12-8, amount of a pension bill which he is said to have made over in payment of a loan and of which bill he afterwards obtained the benefit by force and fraud. The money-lender (Kali Charan Palit) had once before applied to Mr. Marsden and been refused. He was not to be so easily done out of his pound of flesh or whatever else there was to get. So he engaged great lawyers and moved the High Court, which, after taking the Magistrate's explanation, instructed him to take evidence and ascertain whether there was any case. Accordingly, Palit, irrepressible like his namesake of the bar, again appeared at the Magistracy, before Mr. Marsden's new *locum tenens*. After some evidence, Mr. Handley adjourned the case.

ON Thursday, before the Hon'ble Syud Ameer Hossein, one Kalikristo Shaoa returned to the charge against his worthy friends Gooyee Ram, Hurrish Mullick and Amrita Mitter, for having, under false pretences and when he was drunk, got him to execute an agreement to sell his share of the family estate without knowing the contents of the document or even understanding its nature. He was referred to the civil courts, the accused being discharged. They will doubtless in future take care not to trust even the drinking Shaoa—a bacchanal of the publican tribe.

RAJA Govind Rao Doliar, son-in-law of the Holkar, has been belaboured within an inch of his life by two worthy menials of his, Doorga and Bishnath, for refusing to pay their wages when demanded. The matter is in the hands of the Police.

THE *Statesman's* Banda correspondent, writing on the 17th April, says that influenza is making rapid progress throughout the country with fever, cough, headache and pain in the body for symptoms. Meanwhile, the city is in a ferment from the progress of civilization under British auspices. Thus:—

"Lallu Mahajun, who has lately built a new house very close to the public road, got a culvert built over the Government drain passing below the house in the same way as has been done by other men in the same quarter. When Lallu Mahajun's house was completed, the police, at the instigation of the municipal officers *challened* him for building a culvert, drains and privy. The Mahajun was fined by the Bench Rs. 75 (Rs. 50 for building the culvert, and Rs. 25 for building the drain and the privy), and was ordered to remove them all within 24 hours, otherwise he would be fined Rs. 2 a day. The matter was referred to the magistrate, but to no purpose, and the Mahajun paid a further sum of Rs. 64 (the fine at Rs. 2 a day). After all Lallu Mahajun had to pay a fine of Rs. 139 *in toto* and as a further fine he had to demolish the culvert and to close the drain. A similar case is now pending. The platform built before the temple of Mahabirji near Maheshri Devi, and which was completed in January last, has now lately been ordered by the Bench to be dismantled. Bairagi Buldeo Das, living in the temple, has absconded for fear of paying the fine ordered by the municipality. I fear it may meet the fate of the Durbhunga temple."

We hope Government will keep a watch over these proceedings betimes.

THE nuisance of washermen wearing their employers' clothes and even hiring them out, is so great that we turn with relief to the strict watch kept over them in China—at least in the Treaty Ports. Quite a dozen of them were lately arrested at Shanghai and brought before the Magistrate, one half of them being master washermen. These made a tolerably good defence. They said that this misdiversion of their customers' articles took place without their knowledge. As for what their servants did when they took the clothes to wash, they could not be held responsible, as they could not possibly control their men at such a time. The remaining six had not a leg to stand on, having been seized and produced in court in the clothes of gentlemen, and any amount of these. But though they were decked in their best, they were scarcely genteelly dressed and would not pass muster at the club. One fellow had been going about and was caught in as many as six suits of underclothing. They were all convicted of course, but the court was discriminate in punishment. The masters were sentenced to a fine of 10 dollars each, while the *employes* were condemned to wear the halter or wooden collar called *canque* for five days.

SIR Henry Harrison, although he has ceased to be the Chairman, does not cease his connection with the Calcutta Corporation. He will be on the board as the representative of the Port Commissioners. Will he still represent the Calcutta Corporation on the Port Trust? We believe his last election to the Port Trust was on the distinct understanding that he would resign his place as soon as he ceased to be the Chairman of the Municipality.

THE Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation has been granted and Gazetted six weeks' privilege leave. The Secretary Mr. Cowie, as on former occasions, during the period will do both the duties, the assessment appeals being heard by the Chairman. The Commissioners do not seem disposed that any one from among themselves be entrusted with the duties of the Vice. The late Chairman had proposed, on a pay of Rs. 700, one of the active Suburban Commissioners who never misses a meeting and knew all the ins and outs of the suburban working and takes as much interest in the urban, but there was a howl raised against the proposition. The choice of the new Chairman fell on another country mouse, who, whatever his capacity, thinks himself competent to command the Channel Fleet. He had offered his gratuitous services for the good of the town. His fellow labourers, however, declined them without thanks.

MR. D. J. Zemin's term of office having expired, the Calcutta Trades' Association has elected Mr. A. H. Wallis—a Past Master,—to represent the Association on the Port Trust.

NEW Rules have been notified, under clauses (j) and (g) of section 138 of Act III. (B.C.) of 1885, with respect to public schools over which District Boards exercise control of various kinds.

WE read in the week's *Calcutta Gazette* that "the District Engineer for the time being of the Brahmini district of the Bengal-Nagpore Railway is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class to be exercised in the railway lands within the eastern part of the Gangpore State." In other words, the District Engineer is made supreme within his own jurisdiction, he is to be both prosecutor and judge for breach of rules and orders made by himself.

THE Public Works cess in Bengal in all the districts to which the Cess Act (IX. B.C. of 1880) has been extended, for the year 1890-91 has been fixed at one-half of an anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and on the annual net profits from mines, quarries, tramways, railways, and other immoveable property (excepting such as may have been exempted under section 2 of the Act) ascertained respectively as in the Act prescribed.

HURRY MOHAN THAKOOR, of Bhagulpore, who lately was made a Rai Bahadoor, died on the 18th April.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

MYMENSING was on the 15th instant visited by a tornado. It formed itself in the Brahmapootra river close to the Sub-divisional Bungalow at Jamalpore, and extended to the town and the neighbouring villages of Nisindi, Garparah, Shabajpore, Koidola, Shengua, Tulsipore and Eannagar, taking in life and property in its course. There is distress. No official report has yet been published, and the extent of help required is not known. It will be satisfaction to know that the visitation has purified the district and made it healthy amid surrounding influenza.

HEAVY defalcations to the tune of 7 lacs have been detected in the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. For the moment, the chief native cashier has been fixed upon as the guilty party, but there seems no disposition to bring him to justice.

THE Bengal Chamber of Commerce has at last scored a victory over the Bengal Government. Undismayed by repeated repulses, it stuck to its proposal for reducing the Durga Puja holidays to four days. It at last secured the co-operation of the Political Pandit, who with the authority of the Principal of the Sanskrit College gave it as his opinion that the strictly religious days were only four in number. Armed with this opinion, the Chamber returned to the attack and has succeeded. The Bengal Government, which hitherto stood firm as a rock, now thinks that it is a scandal to civilization to close the public offices for twelve consecutive days, and has accordingly recommended to the Government of India that only four of the twelve days of the Durga Puja holidays be Gazetted under the Negotiable Instruments Act, leaving the remaining eight to the mercy of the Executive, to allow them or not as it may suit their fancy. To the world at large, the holidays will be for four days only. That means the extinction of the long holiday and with it of the Durga Puja itself in Bengal. The Bengal Government has attempted a serious step, and we hope the Supreme Government will find its way to avoid such a blow in the tenderest part of a loyal people who first gave Britain empire in the East.

FREDERICK GAINSFORD, B.A., Deputy Sheriff of Madras and a reporter on the staff of the *Madras Mail*, a candidate for the January B. L. Examination of the Madras University, has been declared ineligible for any of the future examinations of that University. He has been found guilty of having fraudulently obtained early information of the contents of the question papers before they were issued to the candidates and having obtained the said information for the purpose of enabling him fraudulently to pass the said examination.

IN Calcutta, two of the examination papers—Sanskrit poetry and the second half of the English prose—in the last F. A. Examination have been cancelled wholesale, on suspicion of early disclosure for the benefit of the candidates. No particular individual or candidate has been spotted. The Senate has decided that, instead of holding fresh examinations, the marks in the Sanskrit prose paper be doubled, and the passing marks reduced from 25 to 20 per cent., and the marks in the first half of the English prose paper be doubled. On the day of the examination, a series of questions on various subjects appeared in the *Sanjibani* newspaper as having been recommended to be set as questions by Professors. Some of the questions bore resemblance to the questions set. The examination was held, but a Committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. C. H. Tawney, Sir Alfred Croft and Mr. A. M. Bose, were appointed to enquire into the matter. They have only partially reported, recommending the cancellation of the two papers.

When will the schoolmasters who rule in the University and are able to appoint themselves and their professional brethren examiners, be brought to shame and surrender of their unhallowed privilege? It is no doubt a profitable privilege, enabling them to put money in their purses and earn a cheap reputation in their calling. But it is a preposterous privilege, which is discrediting University honours and sapping the foundations of Liberal education in this country. Scandals

will never cease so long as the teachers themselves are the public examiners of their own boys.

THE progress of converting refuse to value is making great strides in our day. They are trying to utilise the *ganja* plant for rope fibre after the extraction of the *ganja*. The Sub-divisional officer of Nowgong has been in communication with the Agricultural Department and the Agri-Horticultural Society on the subject, but as yet to little purpose. The experiments show that the plants are enervated under encouragement to give out the drug and simply exhausted after yielding it. The fibre of used-up *cannabis Indica*—popularly called Hemp—becomes weak and woody and snaps easily. It is urged in extenuation that the curing so to say of the fibre was to blame. Perhaps—it occurs to us—the extraction too was not perfect. These causes may account for the failure. At any rate, the matter is worth a retrial.

It is implied in these experiments that good Hemp plants in their integrity, unsubjected to special culture for the production of the drug, would yield proper fibre for good rope-making. There ought to be explicit statement on the subject, or special experiments to test the point. Will the Agricultural Department conduct them? And if the experiments succeed, will the Publican Government allow the culture for the purpose of the harmless industry of extracting rope fibre? Besides, it seems to be already established that the fibre of the refuse plant—that is the fibre of Hemp drained of the drug—is useful for paper-making. What prevents Government allowing such use?

LOCAL self-government has at last, in Benares at least, discovered its man—the local patriot who will slave for the people as his only and sufficient resource against *ennui*. Baboo Gobind Das offered himself, and has been thankfully accepted, as Honorary Assistant Secretary to the Holy but supremely dirty Municipality. The Secretary, Mr. Baumann, has gone to Europe on ten months' leave, and, although Mr. Tresham, the former Secretary who after a brilliant service had resigned some years ago, is back, he is not quite a Hercules and confessedly required assistance. For this, while fully alive to its necessity, the Augean stable-keepers could ill afford to pay. The Gordian knot of difficulty has been cut clean in the most handsome way by the public spirit of Baboo Govind Das. May Kal Bhairab help him, and Lord Bisweswarji bless him for aye!

HERE is a characteristic case from up-country :—

"Munna, a servant of the joint-magistrate at Kirwi, went to the railway station at Kirwi to receive his master who was coming back to headquarters from tour. When all retired to their respective dwellings, Munna was in the station. When asked for a ticket by the ticket-collector, he (Munna) did not say who he was, and began to abuse the Baboo. Munna went to the joint-magistrate's bungalow and complained. The joint-magistrate the next morning sent for the station master and afterwards the ticket-collector who denied the charge. Munna stepped forward and gave the Baboo a slap. The Baboo began to weep bitterly; a great sensation was created in the office. The joint-magistrate observing this said 'Baboo, you were saying that you did not beat him, look now' (pointing to the man's body) 'you have beaten him.' The joint-magistrate then fined his servant Rs. 10, and ordered him to bring another suit against the Baboo. The case has been brought against the Baboo but it has been transferred to the tehsildar."

All three, Saheb, Saheb's servant, and Railway Baboo are typical—most of all the weeping willow of a railway officer. Notwithstanding his readiness to melt, we dare say his Babooship attended all the Congress demonstrations in that part of the country and has come to believe that Baboos are better rulers than "Britishers."

THE Senhati (opposite to Khoolna) correspondent of the *Statesman* writes on the 18th instant :—

"A most diabolical murder was committed here the day before yesterday. The name of the deceased was Kailas Chandra Karimakar. He was a man of dangerous character—immoral, profligate, and addicted to excessive drinking. While in a drunken state he used to enter forcibly into the houses of his neighbours at night for immoral purposes. That his death was brought about by his own misbehaviour cannot be doubted, but the murderer, who is still undetected, has to be discovered and punished."

And why? What a confusion of ideas and conflict of feelings the writer labours under! In the same breath he in the same person vindicates the homicide and denounces and proscribes the murderer. The man who has despatched that wretch Karimakar is evidently an honourable soul, who has, with rare courage and determination, rid his native town of a pest. That Law is to be pitied which reserves such salt of our Indian earth for the felon's doom. Well, whatever an alien law may do, surely we of the country ought to keep our heads and not



play into its hands by raising a hue and cry against men who are morally innocent, though they may be technically guilty.

DR. Lunn, of the Wesleyan Mission, who had been less than a year a missionary in India and had on return attacked the present mission system and exposed the missionaries as a body steeped in luxury, has now turned his attention to religious abuses at Home. He does not care to be very choice in his company, having joined the redoubtable W. T. Stead, of *Pall Mall Gazette* and Modern Babylon notoriety, in a crusade against the prominent men and preachers of the Faith in England. Mr. Stead's energy is unbounded. The new *Review of Reviews* on which he is now engaged certainly does not suffice for its exercise. For, it is said, he has already made arrangements for a weekly article or letter from him to appear on the same date in various papers and places in Great Britain. This is to be the vehicle of the attack on the different sects and their chiefs in which Dr. Lunn will assist him.

Mr. Stead, whose element is hot water from which, though scalding others, he not unfrequently suffers himself, on his return from the Continent, stated, in conjunction with Mr. Newnes, who is the chief proprietor, the sensational *Review of Reviews*. He has already quarrelled with that gentleman, over an article of his against the *Times*, which was so violent and contained such awful and indiscriminate charges against the unfortunate leading journal that Mr. Newnes, with a due sense of his responsibility, cut and considerably toned it down.

We have never been near to Europe and have no idea of its inner life. For one thing, we do not know what sort of *syces* they have in that part of the world. The differences between men are endless. Different circumstances impose different manners and habits. Besides, there is no accounting for the peculiarity of national taste. Among us Hindus, strange as it may sound, the employments of cooking and driving were held in the highest esteem, and the most honourable and distinguished men were selected for them. Even at this day the sacerdotal caste has the monopoly of the profession. Brahmans are the only *Batourchees* of the Hindus. We do not know what are the qualifications expected in *syces* in Europe, but they seem to be a much superior class to the miserable counterparts we are acquainted with in this country. Are they drawn from good families reduced in circumstances whose members resort to this mode of satisfying their hereditary love of horses and making profitable matches? At any rate, they must be charming fellows. They must certainly be the luckiest dogs, judging from the facility with which they raid into the hearts of the unsophisticated British fair. The fondness of young ladies for their father's *syce* is rather a common occurrence in Europe. It is a marvel how charming lassies themselves are charmed by such indifferent wizards. Whatever the causes, there can be no doubt as to this strange partiality.

One continually hears of elopements with grooms in the most fashionable circles. Neither wealth nor rank nor birth nor culture is safe. The peace of the Church itself is invaded by the rascally menials and their occult fascinations. Who can forget the sad story deposed to by the late Dr. Newman Hall? Sadder still are the depositions on record in the two volumes of the Proceedings of the Trial of Queen Caroline. What a part was played by the ostlers and outriders and other menials and their kinsmen and relations on the establishment and about the person of their accommodating Royal Patroness!

We wonder whether all this is the reason why the husband of a newly married woman comes to have in English the name of "groom."

To the long list of grooms' successes with the fair sex, here comes an addition.—

"At Taunton, on January 23, James Levey, 20 years of age, was charged with having assaulted his wife. Last year the parties eloped, the lady being the daughter of Mr. Hanbury Williams, of Abercavenny. She is a lady-like person, 24 years of age. She married Levey, who was a groom, at Leamington, where they were discovered, and the lady's brother thrashed Levey. Since then they have lived at Derby Skegness, and other places, and for the past few months they have lived in Taunton. Prisoner has been in the habit of ill-treating his wife, and on Monday evening he struck her about the face with his hands. Her screams attracted the attention of a neighbour, who ran into the house. Prisoner, in this woman's presence, said: 'I'll get the whip and beat you the same as your brother beat me at Leamington.' He got the whip and lashed her across the back. He had threatened that if ever she put him in prison he would put a bullet through her when he came out. On Wednesday night she was in a neighbour's house when the prisoner threw a brick through the window of the room in which she was sitting. The Magistrates sentenced the

prisoner to three months' hard labour, and it was intimated that proceedings would be instituted to obtain a judicial separation."

And the following seems darkly, obscurely, significant:—

At a ball by the *bourgeoisie*, in Clausenburg, the chief town of Transylvania, a nobleman was represented by his man-servant who capitally personated his master and won the good graces of many young ladies with whom he danced. Subsequently, the fraud oozed out and the public indignation against the aristocracy was great. Several duels were fought. An editor fought three duels in one week but without bloodshed.

We should think, instead of the indignation being directed against them, it is the aristocracy that had most reason to complain. But what do we Asiatics know of love?

THE discoverer has been discovered. The explorer has been probed—with the quill of a brother penman. The American press has by its enterprise thrown the European newspapers into the shade. The great Stanley himself, though an Englishman by birth, was the agent of a New York journal. Another American paper, the *New York World*, not to be outdone, sent out its representative, Mr. Thomas Stevens, to penetrate to the heart of Africa to meet Mr. Stanley. He encountered no small difficulty in executing his commission. The commander of the German occupation in Zanzibar would not allow him to join the German expedition to the interior. But he was not to be stopped or baffled. He broke a way from the settlement, evaded the outposts and succeeded in joining Stanley, and was enabled to give the civilised world the first news of the African explorer returning to the coast. He was not slow to utilise his splendid opportunities, and has of course given the most copious authentic account of Stanley. Mr. Stevens not only found Stanley but also explored the explorer. He clearly managed to find a way to his heart. The following confession into which the "interviewer" beguiled the subject of his operation has no little autobiographic value and suggests a reason why Stanley was a second time driven to the recesses of the Dark Continent.

"I thought I had made a capture once. It was aboard an Atlantic steamer. I was going across to New York. The captain, with whom I was well acquainted, was a great friend of mine. His great delight was to get me seated next to him and get to tell stories of my African experiences. Well, on this occasion, I sat on his right, and opposite me, on his left, was a very charming young woman. She was strikingly handsome and looked very lovable and all that. She seemed as delighted as my friend, the captain, was at my stories of African adventures. I, at the same time, was charmed with her. With me it was a case of love at first sight. The captain introduced us to one another, and for several days my suit seemed to progress swimmingly. She seemed to have eyes and ears for no one but me. My next neighbour to the left was a young dude, all collars and cuffs, who didn't seem to have two ideas in his head, and had never achieved anything more heroic than smoking cigarettes and wearing an eye-glass. Well, this youth hardly ever said a word at the table, but one day at dinner he happened to remark that he knew how to make an exceptionally good salad. At the mention of salad the angelic young fairy opposite immediately dropped all interest in what I was saying to her and bestowed her attentions on him. Very well, the dude was not blind to this display of interest in his salad, and that evening had a dish of it prepared and invited her to help him eat it. The end of it all was that she cruelly threw me over, and shortly after reaching New York married the young man whose sole recommendation, so far as I could see, was that he knew how to make a good salad, and whose accomplishments consisted in wearing an eye-glass and puffing cigarettes. Yes, it's sad, but it seems to be only too true, that a salad will make a deeper impression on the daintiest piece of femininity you might meet in a month than all the romance and chivalric devotion in the world."

The tone of sneering jocularity of that declaration scarcely disguises the pang of being jilted. We do not hold the sneer at the fair sex justified by the circumstances. These only prove the youthful simplicity of the adventurous traveller. He had evidently set his heart upon a conquest at first sight on the credentials of his pluck and his sufferings. He had met with a Desdemona, he thought. The whole account seems a free translation into modern prose of Shakespeare's blank verse. The skipper proved a very father-in-law to our explorer, even as Brabantio to Othello.

The Captain lov'd me; oft invited me;  
Still question'd me the story of my life,  
From year to year, —the battles, sieges, fortunes,  
That I have pass'd.  
I ran it through, even from my boyish days;  
To the very moment that he bade me tell it:  
Wherein I spoke of most disastrous chances,  
Of moving accidents by flood and field;  
Of hair-breadth 'scapes i' th' imminent deadly breach;  
Of being taken by the insolent foe,  
And sold to slavery; of my redemption thence,  
And portance in my travel's history:  
Wherein of antres vast, and deserts idle,  
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads touch heaven,  
It was my hint to speak,—such was the process;

And of the Cannibals that each other eat,  
The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads  
Do grow beneath their shoulders. This to hear,  
Would Desdemona seriously incline ;

\* \* \* \* \*  
She gave me for my pains a world of sighs :  
She swore,—in faith, 'twas strange, 'twas passing strange ;  
'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful :  
She wish'd she had not heard it ; yet she wish'd  
That heaven had made her such a man : she thank'd me ;  
And bade me, if I had a friend that lov'd her,  
I should but teach him how to tell my story,  
And that would woo her. Upon this hint, I spake :  
She lov'd me for the dangers I had pass'd ;  
And I lov'd her that she did pity them.

But alas ! the whiteman, even in wooing one of his own white girls,  
was not half so successful as the Moor in winning a doubly, trebly,  
quadruply fair creature—one of the fairest—in every sense—of Eve's  
daughters. It is all nonsense that

She loved me for the dangers I had passed ;  
And I loved her that she did pity them.

'Not a bit of it. He may have beguiled the dreary monotone of  
life on board with the thought that

She listen'd with a fitting blush,  
With downcast eyes and modest grace,  
For well she knew, I could not chuse  
But gaze upon her face.

And she, on her part, might well have innocently encouraged the  
lovelorn moonling into the fancy for the nonce that

She listen'd with a fitting blush,  
With downcast eyes, and modest grace ;  
And she forgave me, that I gazed  
Too fondly on her face !

If she did so, she would never have thought that the love play would  
be remembered on shore. But she does not seem to have done even  
that. It is a huge "sell—himself being his own vendor." He, poor  
fellow, may have loved her after a fashion, but there is no trace that  
she ever loved him on any ground. It is a case of misunderstanding  
all round. The hero certainly does not know his own mind. He  
loved her not for her tenderness but her beauty, although we confess  
we miss in him that enthusiasm which one who had been confined  
to the desert with savage African belles might be expected to evince.  
Rather, he liked her looks, saw her "a charming young woman,"  
"strikingly handsome and all that"—he did not care enough for her  
to dwell upon her charms—and it was easy for him to conclude that  
such a creature might be a good pretext to turn from Benedick to  
Benedick and thus determine his gadding about existence. Directly  
he decided that the connection would be a good one, he saw all  
difficulties in the way vanish. He believed himself most interesting  
in her eyes. She may have pitied him if she believed all his "moving  
accidents by flood and field," but, as for loving, she never pretended  
it. We have his own authority for saying so. It is plain enough  
from his account that it was all a jumping to an agreeable conclusion  
on his part. She is incapable of loving on such a trumpery ground  
as the dangers passed by a man or the daring shown by him. She  
might as well be expected to wed every private of the Pioneers or  
Sappers and every fool who goes in for the barren letters V. C. She,  
the Girl of the Period, wanted something better to fall upon, something  
that might at once give an order for a well-furnished house and  
table and cellar. As for hair-breadth escapes, she had been wont  
to yawn at Blondin performances. She may have pitied him, for his  
miserable choice of a life. She evidently allowed herself to be bored  
with his stories of ugly monsters, human and unhuman, surcharged with  
jaw-breaking names.

The very head and front of her offending  
Hath this extent, no more.

SIR Henry Harrison is in no sense among the Monarchs Retired from  
Business. At the worst view, he is a Napoleon relegated to his Elba—  
but a ruler still in his empire in miniature. But really it does rank in-  
justice to the sacred institution—that administrative fetish—the Board  
of Revenue to compare it with a *Chur* in the Mediterranean. It is true  
our late Chairman is neither sole monarch there, nor supreme. He is  
a sort of Tycoon or Dhurm Raj—a second king, but far more efficient  
than the alternative or Junior Ruler in any Constitution, present or  
past, rejoicing in a double-barrelled head.

Nor has he left the Corporation of which he was the undisputed head  
for near a dozen years. He has his seat there still, though he has de-  
scended from the Chair. His burden of office having devolved on an-  
other European member of the same Covenanted Civil Service, who is  
presumably his personal friend and who could scarcely get such a lift  
without his recommendation to Government, Sir Henry, if so minded,  
will still be able to rule in the Municipality *benami* through his *tulchan*  
as it were, without in the least feeling the weight of his former respon-  
sibility. Such a prospect is to many minds exceedingly fascinating.  
But Sir Henry Harrison is too serious-minded a man to abuse such an  
opportunity. The utmost that he may do, and do legitimately, is to  
see that his policy is not unfairly disturbed.

Meanwhile, the great man condescends to mingle in the mob of the  
Commission. Sir Henry held his last Durbar—Council—on the 14th  
April. That day was his last as Chairman—

The first dark day of nothingness—  
The last of danger and distress.

On Thursday last (24th), the new Chairman held his first palaver.  
Sir Henry Harrison graced the occasion. The two Kings, being more  
than allies, the one being original holder and the other his chosen heir,  
met one another without embarrassment. Always genial, the veteran  
since his abdication is almost mercurial. With the weight off his  
shoulders, he was jolly as a frisky girl and agreeable as any jilt.

The monarch quits his throne, and condescends  
Humbly to court the favour of his friends ;  
For pity's sake tells undeserv'd mishaps,  
And, their applause to gain, recounts his claps.  
Thus the victorious chiefs of ancient Rome,  
To win the mob, a suppliant's form assume,  
In pompous strain fight o'er th' extinguish'd war,  
And show where honour bled in ev'ry scar.

But though bare merit might in Rome appear  
The strongest plea for favour, 'tis not here ;  
We form our judgment in another way ;  
And they will best succeed, who best can pay :  
Those, who would gain the votes of British tribes,  
Must add to force of merit, force of bribes.

For "British" you may as well read "Baboo." As for "bribes,"  
these are of two kinds, positive and negative. If you don't pay, you  
may put the ratepayers' money into one's pocket or divert it to ex-  
pected channels, or grant offices. The ratepayers in general them-  
selves care nothing but to be let as much alone as possible. They  
cannot afford—the majority of them—to pay more than they do for  
even the blessings of a civilised municipality.

It is a serious matter among so many patriotic representatives of the  
town for any one, without a long preliminary canvassing and in-  
fluencing, to aspire to the prize office of Vice-Chairman carrying a  
pay of one thousand a month. When Sir Henry Harrison, at his  
farewell meeting of the Corporation as Chairman, proposed Baboo  
Preo Nath Mullick for acting Vice, he was assailed from all sides with  
deafening cries of No! No! After that, it is evidence of no little  
courage in Baboo Janokimath Ghosal to present himself for the danger-  
ous elevation. He is scarcely to be pitied if he found that a  
Municipal Corporation is a different thing from a National Congress.  
The public estimate of his value on the Board is emphasised by the  
fact that he cheapened himself to an old song. But though they  
were offered a Baboo in all the glory of a chimney pot (he is supposed  
to have crossed Suez) for nothing, they'll none of it.

LAST December, three Frenchmen—the brothers Rogue and another  
Frenchman—and a native servant were carried off by brigands in  
Annam. They have now been ransomed for 50,000 dollars, a dozen  
silk pieces and a dozen watches. It was a difficult business to exe-  
cute the conditions and effect the release and conveyance home of  
the captives. A trifle might raise the suspicions of the raiders and  
marauders. A single false step might invite failure. So far from  
bringing back those already in the hands of the enemy, there was danger  
of leading the mission and the ransom all into the grip of the brigands.  
Happily, the event has proved otherwise. The mission went under  
an escort, but perhaps the presence of a priest was the more efficient  
protection for the party.

WE are glad to see the leading organ of the defenders of the Empire—the *Army and Navy Gazette*—reproduce the well-merited tribute paid by the *Times of India* to the Indian service of the Duke of Connaught who has just vacated the Bombay command. The experiment of officering the Army and Navy with Princes of the Blood and kinsmen and relations of Royalty is not without risk from the difficulty, in the first place, of maintaining discipline, and, next, the liability of nepotism in promotion to the injury of legitimate claims and, of course, the inefficiency of the Service. When, therefore, such a personage in condescending to serve does, in very sooth, earn his wages as soldier or sailor under the Crown, when he in right earnest pursues his calling, patiently submitting himself to all the drill and drudgery, learning all his duties and giving genuine work, the fact should be freely and handsomely acknowledged. There is no reason in the world why the Royal Caste should not turn out good soldiers and sailors. In all ages, in all parts of the globe, war has been the occupation of Princes. It is the privilege of sovereigns to lead their armies in the field. It is only in modern degeneracy that princes have been relegated to a life of inaction, or, what is worse, a career of show-soldiering. In England, under the constitution and public opinion of the land, the condition of the scions of royalty is specially hard. The Princes of Great Britain have perhaps less scope than those of the absolute monarchies of the Continent. The profession of arms is, however, still open to them. But they have not achieved in it any remarkable success,—either in the field or in camp. There are a few honourable exceptions, however. Indeed, when such a personage does succeed, he usually succeeds excellently well. Such is His Royal Highness of Connaught. He is no dunghill cock, or milk-sop. Without being a Hector or a Quixote, he is far from a drawing-room knight. He is not a military man for the flashy uniform, but for the chances of distinction of that line, with full knowledge of the mischances. He is proud of his profession, because proficient in it. Having entered the army, he has not only always been to the fore in any duty of danger but also cheerfully undertaken every drudgery. In fine, he is an admirable soldier.

In India, he has won golden opinions. This is a bad country for a royal personage in office. A hundred temptations assail him. Hundreds of men, many in loyal good faith, are ready to seduce him from the path of duty. Happily, he proved himself superior to all such dangers. He is a true soldier whose first discipline is exercised on himself. Socially, the Duke gave a good tone to the army in India. To the native soldiery, he was most gracious. Accessible to the private, he delighted to converse with the native officers, who loved him for his merits and regarded him for his mother.

WE have to apologise for not having yet thankfully acknowledged the handsome *omende* that the *Bengal Times* made to us, after having done us no little injustice, even to charging us with something like forgery. The fact is, having mislaid the number of the *Dacca* paper, we forgot the matter. We dare say it will turn up one of these days. Till then, we can only generally express thanks and reciprocate the good feeling—both which we do with our wonted sincerity and thoroughness. Under all his difficulties and trials—specially from Hindu tall talk and impertinence—there was always the right stuff in the editor which we hoped would come out at a favourable moment. His individuality not even a *dak*-runner, provided he owns a head piece, could not be so aggressive. But though not perhaps a very amiable individuality, no one possessing himself any personality to speak of, or cultivating the courage of conviction, could fail to appreciate it—there being both capacity and honour visible in it. As for its combativeness, that was thoroughly appreciated in a quarter which could return as good as it got.

THE Labour Revolt is extending in Austria. Miners and others struck work in Moravia and at Ostrau. They wanted other workmen to follow suit. They took to riots. There were many conflicts between the strikers and the military and the police and many severely wounded. The strikers have since calmed down. At Cracow, there was, on the 23rd, looting of the Jewish shops, the military were called and eleven persons killed and many injured. The latest telegraphic report speaks of a demonstration by four thousand workmen at Biala in Galicia. They grew unruly, and made for the taverns which they wrecked.

The riot could only be ended by military firing, causing bodily injury and several deaths.

MR. Balfour's Irish Land Purchase Bill has attained its second reading. Mr. Parnell moved for its rejection. He urged that the Bill justifies the Land League. While it will relieve a large class of landlords, it will only make a quarter of the tenants owners. The fund proposed was inadequate, meeting only half way the demand. He would rather prefer the advance to landlords from the local rates to enable them to dispose of encumbrances and for compensation for reduced rent, to advances to tenants as in the Bill. Mr. Gladstone opposed the Bill on ground of insufficiency of guarantee for British credit, and characterised Mr. Parnell's alternative as vague and, therefore, incapable of discussion. The debate has been adjourned to Monday next and may be concluded by Thursday following.

ON the 18th, Mr. Samuel Smith introduced in the House of Commons a motion for an International Conference on the subject of bimetallism. He said that it was not yet shewn that the fall in prices was due to the fall in silver. Sir William Harcourt considered the step undignified and dangerous. Mr. Gladstone expressed himself against the motion. Mr. Balfour was for it and approved the principle of bimetallism. Mr. Goschen was of opinion that bimetallism would only be practicable if all parties to the agreement remained true, which obviously was expecting too much. The motion was rejected by 183 against 87 votes. It has since, however, been announced in the House that the Government intended to arrange for silver imported from India being admitted at the rupee standard of purity or its equivalent.

In the United States, too, the proposed Silver Purchase Bill has been abandoned, and an amended Bill is being framed, empowering the Treasury to purchase, from time to time, silver bullion of an aggregate value of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million ounces of pure silver monthly, and making Treasury Notes eligible for all public dues, and further enabling the Treasury to coin such portion of the purchased bullion as may be necessary for redemption of notes.

THE London merchants are opposed to Mr. Goschen's proposal for a new hall-mark on plate of a rupee standard from India. They held a meeting over it and referred the matter to manufacturers in India.

Speaking at a merchants and bankers' banquet at the Mansion House, Mr. Goschen hinted at the probability of a reduction in the income-tax, in case of a surplus, next year. Will the Government in India take the hint?

The reduced mail postage to India probably takes effect from next month. There is no indication that we in India shall be allowed any saving on our letters to Great Britain.

Replying to a question, Sir John Gorst said in the House of Commons that Lord Cross sees no reason to interfere in the Durbhunga temple matter.

HER Majesty has arrived at Darmstadt and the Prince of Wales in London.

There is a strike among the railway *employés*, and traffic is suspended between Queenstown and Dublin.

The Brazilian Republic has abolished religious teaching in the state schools.

The German Attaché Baron Plessen at St. Petersburg has, without notice, gone to Copenhagen. It is said that he had employed agents to obtain plans of Russian fortresses.

They have abolished the gambling saloons in Egypt.

Mr. Stanley is being feted at Brussels. He has advised Belgium to persevere in her undertakings in Central Africa. The Premier has announced to the Belgian Chamber of Deputies that King Leopold had proposed that the Congo State should form a Belgian colony.

ORATOR Surendranath Banerjee goes on repeating his denunciations of the Government in India and of the Indian Legislative Councils. There was a meeting at Exeter with Sir John Budd Phear in the Chair. Of course, a resolution was carried urging election in the Councils as a necessity of the time and civilization.

WE received yesterday by post a printed invitation, dated overnight, to a public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta, to be held at a theatre in the Native quarter this evening, at 5 o'clock, to protest against Lord Cross' Indian Councils Bill and to urge the introduction of the elective principle. The whole thing is suspicious in the extreme, and of a piece with the methods of the knot of wire-pullers who have, for these several years, undertaken to manufacture public opinion. To begin with, this circular to the select is signed by Baboos "Rajkumar Sarvadhikary and J. Ghosal, Secretaries." But who appointed them? Are they Secretaries of their own creation? And what for? Of which institute or what body are they Secretaries. There may be respectable people in this ignorant land to attend to such a call, devoid as it is of all political value and indeed wanting in assurance of authenticity. There is no taking the public into confidence—no, not even a serious call to the public. On receiving the circular, we looked into the papers of the day, but not the faintest suggestion occurs in any of them, of the tornado for overwhelming poor Lord Cross and his measure that the duet of Secretaries—to nothing—were preparing for this evening's entertainment of the politicians of Black Town. Of course, the Town Hall is discreetly avoided. Far be it from us to reproach our brace of patriotic Secretaries. They are scarcely free agents. The real operators are not visible, being probably not in the country. There are all the elements of a discreditable hole and corner movement. And yet, we know, how the news will be reported by telegraph.

WE are sorry, though scarcely surprised, to learn by telegraph of our old friend Nawab Syud Loof Ali Khan, C.I.E.'s death this morning, at his residence at Patna. He was long suffering from heart-disease. His death removes an important figure in Behar society. He was about 80 years old, and was a link between the past and present generations. He has left with his immense fortune three sons, namely, Syud Mehdi Hassan Khan, Syud Ibraheem Hosain Khan, and Syud Akbar Ali Khan, and two daughters, one of whom is a widow. Here is a splendid opportunity for the men connected with the Courts, by bringing about a quarrel between the heirs.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1890.

### THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUTE TO LORD REAY.

BOMBAY has spoken unmistakably of Lord Reay's administration. Nothing could be more enthusiastic than the terms of admiration in which the Western Presidency bade farewell to its retiring Ruler. Valedictory addresses rained down upon him, and his last days in Bombay must have been to him glorious and happy days indeed. Lady Reay also had her share of the kind things which were said on all sides on the close of their Indian career, and we congratulate them both on the honor they have achieved. Certainly, Bombay has not had for many a day a Ruler of such high character. Marked has been the progress made by that city, and the Presidency in general, under Lord Reay's just, active, and sympathetic rule. And he has had his reward in the remarkable display of good will and esteem which his departure called forth from all classes of the people. The demonstrations in Lord Reay's honor were characterised by as great a unanimity as is possible in these days. Not that there is not a rift in the lute, but perfect harmony of opinion in public questions is perhaps no more to be looked for in this country.

The *Rast Goftar* which has shown a remarkable moderation in its notice of Lord Reay's administration, regrets the attitude of a section of the European community. There were, indeed, a few prominent Europeans present at the Town Hall meeting held in honor of the Governor, but the majority of the community kept aloof. "This is most unfortunate—this severance of race from race, in their respective opinion of the Governor's administration. The wide

diversity of feeling with which it has been regarded by the two great sections of the community gives rise to many painful reflections and minimises the hope of the gulf which divides them being ever bridged over." These melancholy reflections must excite an echo in every true lover of the country. And so far as these movements to do honor to a retiring proconsul serve to emphasise the schism in the body politic, their political effects are not altogether of a salutary kind.

Barring this inevitable element of regret, the demonstrations in honor of Lord Reay have been of a remarkable character. The Town Hall meeting resolved to raise a statue in commemoration of his services as well as to found some institution calculated to be of permanent benefit to the people. The speakers at the meeting were some of the most conspicuous citizens of Bombay, and they all spoke with genuine feeling of admiration of Lord Reay's eminent services. Mr. Budrudin Tyebji, who moved the first resolution, passed the whole of his Lordship's administration under review, and let his public acts speak for him. Lord Reay's singular success in the appointments and nominations made by him—the progressive tendencies of his legislation—his firm support of local self-government—"his righteous wrath against corruption and misconduct"—his support of the dignity of the Native Princes without sacrificing the interests of their subjects—his great educational reforms—his rare tact in calling forth public benevolence in aid of institutions for the relief of suffering—the numerous hospitals, asylums and other charitable institutions which have owed their existence or their development to his fostering hand—and last, but by no means least—his gracious and charming courtesy, and accessibility to all classes—these are by no means small claims upon a people's regard, and the people of Bombay acknowledged those claims at their fair value. Mr. Pheroze Shah Mehta made a fine and humorous speech in seconding the resolution. The *Rast Goftar* summarises the opening portion of his speech so well that we need no apology in transferring its note to our columns. "Mr. Mehta" says our contemporary, "generally has some anecdote apt to the occasion, or some idea to turn his imagination upon. This time he discoursed pleasantly upon the striking dissimilarity between the likeness of Lord Reay at the Technical Institute taken when his Lordship was on the brown heath and shaggy wood of his own native land, and his living presence in Bombay. The portrait showed him pale and thin, while his own self looked very much better for its stay in India. How could he have thrived in this much abused climate of ours—(and no one just now abuses it so much as the Uncovenanted Civil Servants of India.....) with hard work and the cares of office? Might not Lord Reay be a fraud, after all? Mr. Mehta, of course, dismissed this thought, as soon as it had entered his mind, and.....deduced an inference.....that His Excellency had thriven and thickened on hard, earnest, conscientious toil. Lord Dufferin, who claimed to have labored very hard while he was Viceroy of India said that.....that he was but 'a pale and attenuated shadow' of his former self. So it would appear that one man's meat is another man's poison!" Speaking seriously, Mr. Mehta said: "The sympathetic character and robustness of his policy had been conspicuously manifest in his desire to understand the real wants, wishes, and sentiments of the people, and in the courage with which he had



invited and welcomed knowledge, information and criticism from all quarters. While thus calmly and judiciously administering the affairs of the Presidency, Lord Reay was not lacking in firmness where firmness was required. He never faltered nor wavered when misconduct and corruption had to be exposed and eradicated. He (the speaker) thought that it would yet come to be universally acknowledged that his action in such matters had not only been in the interests of the purity of the administration and of the public welfare, but also in the best interests of the honor and prestige of the Services of which England was justly proud and of the English name."

The Rev. Dr. Mackichan made a very able speech in commending the proposal for two separate memorials. "He believed that it was no exaggeration of the truth, nor was it any injustice to the memory of loved and honored Governors of this province to say that Lord Reay had impressed himself upon the heart of the people to an extent which had not been often attained in the history of our Presidency." Mr. N. G. Chandravarkar spoke with equal warmth of Lord Reay's many merits. His Lordship had been a most assiduous inspirer of philanthropy and work of public utility, but the crowing glory of his administration was its adherence to lofty principles of rectitude. Dr. Cowasjee Hormusjee spoke chiefly of the medical reforms introduced by Lord Reay, and specially of his reorganisation of the Grant Medical College. Mr. Grattan Geary, and the Hon. Mr. R. M. Sayani paid glowing eulogiums upon his Lordship's rule. Speaking of Lord Reay's self-denying decision to postpone the construction of the much-needed Government House in favour of the European Hospital, Mr. Grattan Geary remarked: "This incident is one of many which might be adduced to illustrate the altruistic spirit in which Lord Reay had dealt with many difficult and thorny questions. An administrator of a different stamp would have consulted his own ease or sought an ephemeral popularity by leaving them to his successor. Lord Reay had not been deterred from doing what it seemed to him to be his plain duty through fear of misconception; he had not feared to make enemies of the unworthy or the malevolent. An administrator of this type might make mistakes, for to err was the lot of all men. But honesty of purpose had been always manifest, and his kindness, his eminently sympathetic nature combined with a high and even austere sense of justice.....might have saved him from much harsh and resentful criticism—a criticism not always to be distinguished from unscrupulous misrepresentation of which we have had in these recent days so many unsavoury examples." Mr. Sayani said: "His character was that of a simple, unpretending, solid nature—that of a real diamond—which by use gained in brilliancy. He had often noted in the Legislative Council that instead of holding the members to the strict rules of procedure, he gave them every facility of expressing their views, even when such members were not in order. He carefully listened to their arguments, and in fact he managed matters so well that every one not only was, but felt himself to be, perfectly at liberty to speak and to vote as he thought proper.....Again, it was marvellous to observe how true to conscience was his Lordship. No opposition, no adverse criticism, would induce him to abandon the part which conscientiousness and duty had marked out. The same straightforward conduct had been conspicuous in the exercise even of patronage and hence his selections had commanded universal approbation."

All the speakers vied with one another in paying their tribute of respect to a ruler who had left his mark on their province. The Bombay Town Hall meeting was indeed the most important demonstration in his honor, but the other cities were far from behindhand. The Native Princes also were equally enthusiastic in their praise of a Governor whose bearing towards them had been one of real friendliness. Some of Lord Reay's parting words to the Native Chiefs deserve to be laid to heart by our territorial aristocracy. In replying to the address from the Princes and Chiefs of Kattywar, his Lordship said: "It will give us the greatest pleasure to welcome you to our home in England, but I should be departing from the truth if I led you to think that frequent absence from your states is desirable, because I know that it is the desire of your own subjects that they should see as much of you as possible, not only in your capitals, but also in your villages, and that personal rule entails constant personal supervision..... Then as to your sons being educated in England, that is an extremely difficult question. On the one hand, by sending them there at an early age you secure to them the full benefits of an English education, but on the other hand, there is a risk that if they go at too early an age to England, they will be alienated from their own surroundings and not be in touch with their own people. That would undoubtedly tend to weaken their influence and power for good. Perhaps the best solution of the problem is that they should receive their first education at the Raj Kumar College, and at a riper age they should be sent to England to some of the best institutions to finish their education."

The number of addresses and entertainments with which Lord and Lady Reay have been honored is legion. The cordiality of the demonstrations of good will on the part of the people is unmistakable. Lord Reay has elevated the tone of the Government by his high moral character. He has won the respect of all classes without distinction. With the progress of constitutionalism, statesmanship of the highest order has become a lost art. Under the centralization established by the Duke of Argyle, there is scarcely room for it in the Government of India: there is certainly none for Provincial Governments. All talk of statesmanship is, under the circumstances, idle. All that we care to claim for Lord Reay is ability of a high order, untiring energy and thorough earnestness of purpose. At the same time, he possessed in a large degree those attributes of justice and honesty which are essential to the success of an administrator. The great secret of his success was his deep sympathy for the people over whom he was placed.

We believe Dr. Mackichan did not drop a random statement, when he claimed for Lord Reay a popularity and influence among the people more extensive and deeper than those of any of his predecessors. That, to our mind, is a debatable point, considering that the Presidency has been ruled by Governors like Duncan, Monstuart Elphinstone, and Clerk. But there is little in common between the conditions of the country in their times and those since, and no useful comparison is possible. There is no doubt that Lord Reay succeeded beyond all the modern Governors of Bombay—we mean the last six from Sir Bartle Frere downwards—and, indeed, with perhaps the sole exception of Sir George Russel Clerk, better than any of the twenty heads of the Presidency since the retirement of Sir John Malcolm towards the end of 1819.

## HERO-WORSHIP :

OR,

*Suppressio veri et suggestio falsi.*

Inaccuracies will creep into the most carefully edited publications, even as accidents will happen in the best-regulated households. Beeton in a philological fit says that the Brahmans derive their title from the Jewish Patriarch Abraham. But he is beat hollow by Dr. Brewer who represents Ayeen Akbari as a Brahman king that erected the temple of Juggunnath. "Bunkum," asserts a third white savant, "was a senator of South Carolina," while the wisest and brightest of Britishers, nay of mankind, makes the Prophet of Islam say "If the mountain do not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain." There is no escape from inaccuracies. Fly them and they will follow you. *Reis and Rayyet* is no exception, the lynx-eyed literary leviathan presiding over it notwithstanding. The fine Roman hand of the philosophic sage is not certainly discernible in the few lines which lead me to the above remark, but as the responsible editor, he cannot but he made the scapegoat of those that conceal their identities.

The writer of the leaderette in question evidently assumes book-learning to be the be-all and end-all of one's existence---forgetting that education is nothing unless it fills the heart with a due sense of what we owe to God and man---or else P. K. Lahiri would not have been regarded as entitled to the honor of a pretty long obituary notice in *Reis* which, by the way, deliberately omitted to notice the death of a sound scholar like A. Barua whose edition of Bhabavuti's Vircharita is an invaluable contribution to Literature. Learning is a good thing, but it is not the one thing needful. A man may be as brilliant, as clever, as scholarly as you like, but with all this, if he is not good, he is a paltry fellow, and the death notice of such a man need not take up half a column of a journal that has ever been characterized by keen discrimination and well-balanced judgment. But what though, as a moral man, Mr. Lahiri lived and died very poor and very small, he had, we are told, charity---and charity, you know, covers a multitude of sins---for he has left no inconsiderable portion of his fortune for the poor. This will be news indeed to not a few, for, however great an "expounder of the higher classics" he might have been, he was never guilty of an exuberance of charity in any sense of the term. That writer must either be indebted to his imagination for his facts or it is fellow-feeling that makes him wondrous kind. His hero might have done the good Samaritan, but that always without the oil and the two pence. He might have been sentimental to a degree like that "most seeming virtuous" author of Tristram Shandy, who in spite of his flood of tears for a deceased donkey, suffered his own to rot in jail for debt while he himself was basking in the sunshine of prosperity, but sentimentalities no more make a good man than fine feathers make a fine bird.

But let alone the poor; what has he left for his widowed sister scarcely passed her teens, who was, during his life time, compelled to throw herself on the hospitality of a distant kinsman, and the generosity of that relative failing, had to be bred in the kitchen to the eternal glory of his Pandit brother under petticoat government? What provision has he made for his old aunt whose life he managed to render not worth a day's purchase? The other sister has indeed been provided for in the will. But is the testament worth the paper on which it is written? Was it not made simply to save appearances, or why was care taken not to have it registered? Who knows that it has not already been made away with.

It may be true that Mr. Lahiri was twice offered an appointment in the Education Department which he did twice refuse, but does it necessarily follow that "he was possessed of much self-respect?" It is certainly "a pleasure to hear his pupils speak enthusiastically in his praise," yet his life with all his scholarship was simply time elaborately thrown away, and ought to be a great warning to those who are willing to take a lesson. Thoroughly wanting in a kindly culture of unselfishness, a perfect type of Mammon-worshipper he

fell a victim to the greed of filthy lucre, and those that sat at his feet, however much they may admire him, should think twice before they take a leaf out of their deceased Professor's book of life. They should never lose sight of the fact that neither literature nor cultivation, nor knowledge will avail one anything unless it is the cause of noble deeds and worthy actions.

Be good, sweet maid, and let whom will be clever.

Do noble things, not dream them all day long.

In conclusion, I hope I shall not be taken to task for disregarding that most pernicious precept *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*. Were it acted upon, Biography would not have been the most universally pleasant, universally profitable of all reading that it is. We should certainly

Be to one's faults a little blind,

And to his virtues a little kind.

But we ought at the same time to remember that

Praise undeserved is scandal in disguise.

WHOLE TRUTH.

## ELECTIVE SYSTEM AND THE MUSSALMANS OF INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,---Many are anxious to know the reason why do the Mussalmans, who form one-third of the population of India, object to the introduction of the elective system in this country? For the edification of these men I wish to explain the matter in the following few words which I hope will prove the justification of the attitude taken by the Mussalmans of India at the present time.

Though there are not many Moslem orators and public speakers and writers, yet the few that are to be found in this country are sufficient enough to let the Government and the public know the views of their community on questions concerning themselves. It is gratifying to see that the leaders of the Moslem community headed by Nawab Abdool Lutef, from the very foundation of the Congress refused to join that body in their political movements. Were the objects of the Congressists not enmical to the interests of the Faithful, the Nawab and others would not have refused the repeated invitations of the "political agitators." Besides this the present demand of the Congressists is the introduction of the elective system in the Legislative Councils of the realm, which self-interested demand is highly injurious and greatly detrimental to the interests of the Indian Mussalmans. In the way of verification I have to mention that Lord Ripon's local self-government scheme based on partly election principle is yearly doing much harm to the cause of the Islamites. Had not the Government kept in its hands the power of nominating a certain number of its members, every Local Board would have been entirely free from the Moslem element in it. The result of the elections for the Local Boards shows that excepting in very rare cases Moslem candidates never succeeded in their endeavours to get seats on the Board. The few names that we find in the Civil List are almost all Government nominees. The reason of this is evident. The Moslem candidates on account of their being penniless have not much influence in the locality and consequently cannot successfully cope with their Hindoo antagonists in securing the adequate number of votes for seats on the Board. Again in cases of trading classes such as hide-merchants, meat-suppliers, boot-sellers and the like, if one of them ever succeeds at a great expense to secure a sufficient number of votes to make him eligible for a seat on the Board, the other elected Hindoo members deadily object to sit with him, forgetting that among themselves there are many *Telers* (oil-dealers), *Paramanicks* (barbers), or *Gadals* (milkmen) who are always scorned on account of their mean calling, by the respectable people and never get a respectable place in high society. On Municipal Boards the case is the same as the above. The elected Moslem members are seldom to be found. There is a good number of educated Mussalmans in each locality who are quite competent and eligible to serve on the local corporation or the Board, but on account of their being empty-pursed they have not sufficient means and influence to beat the Hindoos in the canvassing contest. The nominated Moslem members who are very few in number never get opportunity to do good to the community they represent. Whenever they propose anything for the benefit of their co-religionists they are outvoted. Where there are European and in special cases impartial non-official chairmen, the interests of the followers of Islam are occasionally protected. These Boards are without any hindrance doing much injury to the poor Mussalmans. In the Reports of these Boards it is seldom found that the Hindoo members ever proposed anything for the good of the

Faithful. It cannot be said without disparaging the local experience and knowledge of the Hindoo members that they do not know the grievances of their Moslem voters and their neighbours and the hardship they are daily undergoing for the non-redress of the same. Such being the state of affairs what good could the Mussalmans expect at the hands of these so-called patriotic and representative men.

Under these circumstances any wise and impartial man can easily see that the existing elective system has already done and is doing much injury to the cause of the Mussalmans. To introduce the elective system in the general administration of the country is to deprive the Mussalmans of what little political power and influence they now possess and to leave them entirely at the mercy of the apathetic Hindoos. When it is hardly possible for the Mussalmans to secure by election seats on the Local Boards, it would be absurd to suppose that they will be able to enter the Legislative Councils by means of election. By empowering the public bodies to send in their representatives to the Local Councils, the interests of the 50 millions of the Indian Mussalmans will not be properly protected. Consequently the nomination system which the Marquess of Salisbury, Viscount Cross and the Marquess of Lansdowne advocate is the safest course to protect the interests of the different nationalities of India. The Viceroy and his able and impartial counsellors will never do injustice to any communities in nominating their representatives and protecting their interests in matters of legislation.

I now beg to say a few words as to the elective principle itself. The Marquess of Salisbury in his masterly speech justly said: "The elective principle—government by representation is not an Eastern idea; it does not fit Eastern traditions or Eastern minds." This frank and unbiased expression of a stubborn fact has put the Congressists out of their senses. They in their madness gave vent to many objectionable utterances and tried their utmost to gainsay the noble Marquess by unsound arguments and misrepresentations. They cited the examples of the Panchayet system prevalent in India from olden times, and also the recently created so-called election system under which the delegates to the Congress are annually appointed. In the first place I beg to say that the Panchayets are never made by election, but they are made by nomination or sometime by selection. For the appointment of a Panchayet or Panchayets no voting papers ever issued nor were there ever any lists of voters for the purpose. It was generally the case that the most influential man of a locality sent for the intelligent men of the place and nominated some of them to perform the duties of Panchayets, and in the absence of any such influential man the intelligent people of the locality met together and selected some from among themselves to supervise the doings of the ignorant masses. These men on account of their advanced intelligence easily managed to rule over the ignorant. Similarly a certain number of Congressists meet together at one place and select some to represent the local inhabitants at the Congress.

Let the leaders of the Congress honestly say if they had ever during the last five years anything like constituencies and any lists of their constituents, and if they ever invited the people of any locality to give votes regularly and in a formal way, or if there was any regular polling for the election of delegates to the Congress.

When with so much zeal and energy the congressists could not act on the lines of election principle, which they so much desire, in sending representatives to their annual gathering, it is very strange that their "mouthpiece" Mr. Bradlaugh means to propose in the House of Commons that elective system should be introduced by the Governments in India and for each million of population 12 representatives should be elected. It would be prudent for the advocates of the elective system to first set the example themselves by appointing the delegates to the Congress on the elective principle, and have their so-called Congress representatives elected by fair and formal means as it is the case with the honourable members of the Imperial Parliament. Moreover, let the congressists first try to introduce the elective system into the Independent and Protected Native States which are in most cases managed by the highly educated and learned Hindoos. If they can do this with success and to the satisfaction of the different sections of the multifarious communities that comprise the population of the Native States, there would be no difficulty then to have the Government of India introduce the same in its administration. As long as the Hindoos cannot achieve this, so long the remark of the noble Marquess of Salisbury will remain unshakable

NOMINATION *versus* ELECTION.

#### A VINDICATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Kindly allow me to correct one or two errors which have unwittingly crept into your comment on the *Englishman's* badinage of me. No man knows better than the editor of *Reis and Rayyet* how unsafe it is to get information at second hand, from the *Englishman*. Who told him that I am the author of the works on

Vedanta Philosophy? Sure, there is not a single word to that effect in my letter (which, of course, he had not the fairness to publish). How your "staid (?) contemporary" the *Englishman*, came to understand that I should be held responsible for the "farrago of nonsense heralding my books," in face of distinct intimation, in the Prospectus of their authorship (Lala Sreeram Sahab and the late Mr. Dhole, being the authors) can only be explained upon the hypothesis of his proverbial obtuseness. I never suggested in my letter (which I herewith enclose) that "the prospectus was written by the Manager," having distinctly intimated at his express request that he, "an humble personage" should not come up for chastisement. These are grave enough slips. Surely, one, who "recalls a gem" should not object to "a dearly beloved motherland," being "hurled from a pinnacle." But that is not my concern.

I can well understand the provocation of the *Englishman* and you will understand it too, when you read the enclosed letter. But I have been extremely pained to find you, holding me up to public ridicule and not only myself, but the entire category of Calcutta University M.A.'s, on the bare pretext of a supposed comparison, which I, according to the *Englishman*, instituted between the prospectus of my (?) manager, and the impassioned style of Jean Paul and DeQuincy. Surely I have given you no provocation. Believe me, I never contended that the prospectus was "an unimpeachable specimen of classic English." To confess a truth, I am no admirer, even at its best, of flowery long-drawn diction. What I objected to was the *Englishman's* calling it a trumpet-blast of Bengal. I contended that it was not indigenous but exotic. "It had its origin not in Bengal but in Germany and England." I appeal to you as to an *Acharjya*—answer me this hypothetical question. Supposing DeQuincy had attempted to anticipate his organ-music of fifty at twenty years, or say at fifteen, had he not produced something very like the prospectus in question? The exquisite "impassioned style" of DeQuincy, when imitated by an inferior hand and that hand not at all practised in composition, became the style of the prospectus. This is what I meant, by submitting that it was the ordinary impassioned prose style of Jean Paul and DeQuincy.

For the rest, your contemporary has not one word to say with regard to my protest against his attempt to heap ridicule upon the *Upanisads*. I admire them with all my soul. And my only object in writing at all was to point out to your Philistine contemporary that "the only means of counteracting the heat-lightnings of English education was to let in" as the Vedanta publishers have attempted to do, "the pure broad white light of the Hindoo Sastras."

HIRENDRA NATH DATTA.

139, Cornwallis-street, April 21, 1890.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Englishman*.

SIR,—One or two words, with regard to your leader of the 26th March last, in which a person comes up for rather severe handling. What is there in the Prospectus to justify the tone of superior contempt which inspires your leader-writer? Is it the style or the sentiments. "These are no ordinary books to judge from the author's prospectus." If the Prospectus is the author's, why should the Manager, an humble personage come up for chastisement? "A philosopher should avoid the suspicion of levity." He should, to be sure; but much more should a publicist avoid slips of pen and intellect. There is, I repeat, nothing in the prospectus to fasten the "plantigrade phrases" on him.

With regard to the style I beg to submit that it is the ordinary impassioned prose style of Jean Paul and DeQuincy. It is not the gift of the Director of Public Instruction but of these eminent prose-writers. It had its origin, not in Bengal but in Germany and England.

You speak sneeringly of the English style of Bengali youths. The only rejoinder that I care to send is this: there are graduates among my friends and associates who will feel highly gratified if any English gentleman of their age, will consent to make a trial of style with them.

As for the sentiments of the prospectus I believe they are fully shared in by the best men of this country (for whom they are intended). There is no denying that English education is converting the country to "scientific atheism," or what is worse to atheism, based upon pseudo-science or as Carlyle would have called it "no-science;" and that the only means of counteracting the heat-lightning of English education is to let in the pure broad white light of the Hindoo Sastras. Why this should be talking "ridiculous nonsense" is more than one can understand.

Is not spirit more than matter? And is not spiritualism of absolutely greater worth than materialism? To think otherwise would be thinking like a Philistine. By your heaping of ridicule on *Kaivalya*, one is reminded of the ill fate which attended the word *saint*, in the England of Charles II.'s cavaliers.

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(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout

with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. .... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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### CACHAR LINE.

The steamer THIKAK of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 29th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 26th inst.

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Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta via Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels via Kannia only.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1890.

No. 422

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### LOVE AND NATURE.

O YE birds there, our sweetest in singing,  
Did ye learn your glad music of streams?  
From yon fountain melodiously springing  
Like a sleeper awakened from dreams?

Hark, that bell-note! How sweetly it tinkled  
Over ledges, thro' mosses and fern!  
As ye bathed there at noon dew-besprinkled,  
Did the first bird its first note there learn?

And the winds, now in Autumn-leaves moaning,  
Now joyous and gay after rain,  
Did ye hear them, your answer intoning,  
With a sadder or gayer refrain?

And the storms, were they also your teachers?  
Say, thou Eagle, dread monarch on high,  
Lord of air and of all feathered creatures,  
Came it thence, thine unearthly shrill cry?

Was it thus, now such melodies pouring,  
That ye learnt your first lesson, sweet birds?  
Even as eloquence, high in its soaring,  
Was content first to stammer in words?

Till the nightingale all notes combining,  
Song of finch, thrush, and warbler, oft-told,  
Came last, like a Homer, refining  
Rude lays to an epic of gold.\*

Ah, not thus, came the answer, replying  
From a songster, the sage of the grove,  
Not from wind, stream, or fountain outlying,  
But within us the teacher, from love!

Love, it may be, the picker, the chooser,  
Nature's sweetest sounds apt to recall;  
Love, it may be, the borrower, the user,  
But 'tis love at the source after all.

\* Love a joy, and a bliss, and a yearning,  
Love a pang, and a pain of desire:  
Ask yon lark there whose rapture is burning  
In the firmament, catching its fire:

Ask the skylark, our wonder, our glory,  
As he sings from his honest sweet breast,  
Tho' a world may be listening, his story,  
To his little brown mate in the nest!

\* "Inspired mocking-bird, greatest of plagiarists."

So the love-note, the love-song, the warning  
When the hawk is abroad in the sky,  
Are love's offspring, immediately born in  
Love's heart, and without love they die.

For a thousand sweet notes may be ringing,  
Heard Nature's rude harpstrings along;  
But the charm of them all is in singing,  
And the heart is the charm of the song.

And would ye too, *our* singers, not perish,  
But live on, and sound thro' the years,—  
Know, 'tis Nature alone we most cherish,  
But Nature made human thro' tears.

For a thousand sweet thoughts may be winging,  
Love-born, youthful fancies along,  
But as pearls to enchain us need stringing,  
So love to enthrall us needs song.

A. G. B.

*The Spectator*, March 15.

### LIFE'S AFTERNOON.

[Extract from the Poem under that name in Violet Fane's *Autumn Songs* just published.]

I sit at rest and Autumn-time is here!.....  
Her first red leaf lies quivering at my feet,—  
"At rest,"—not yet at peace! Oh, hurrying year!  
Oh, Youth, and Summer, that were once so sweet,  
Ere I renounce you,—with your joys and woes,—  
I must await the numbing Winter snows!

\* \* \* \* \*  
How shall a minstrel wake the trembling lyre  
And sing of Love, in Autumn-time, and live?.....  
Yet could the verse that lacks the sacred fire  
Which Hope, and Youth, and Love, alone can give!  
'I strike the lyre; the answering echoes ring:—  
Say, oh, my Friend! is it too late to sing?.....

Nay! for in sorer Autumns have I seen!  
Some slim brown bird start up upon a spray  
And warble as tho' all the world were green  
And chill October blossoming like May,—  
Yet droops the rose, and howso' sweet the song  
No bird nor minstrel may rejoice for long.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—The attention of all sufferers is drawn to these well-known remedies, for they possess conspicuous advantages as a safe and reliable aid in all those emergencies to which travellers, emigrants and sailors are so especially liable. They have been largely patronized by wayfarers by land and sea, and, in fact, by all classes of the community, to their very great advantage. The Pills are beyond all doubt one of the most effective remedies ever discovered for cases of obstinate constipation, confirmed indigestion and colic, complaints which are engendered by exposure and irregular feeding. The Ointment will be found of the very greatest service in cases of piles, abscesses, erysipelas and all kinds of local ulcerations.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

WE gladly publish in another column a letter from Maharaja Hurlabh Narayan Sinha, of Sonbarsa, explaining his purchase of the household furniture of the furlough-going Collector, Mr. Wace, of Bhagalpur.

THE Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief arrived at Simla last week. They were both welcomed by plentiful and replenishing showers.

THE High Court vacation for 1890 has been fixed from September 17 to November 28, the two senior Judges—Messieurs H. T. Prinsep and A. Wilson—doing vacation duty. The High Court is too high game for those of our mercantile friends who, in the amplitude of their leisure, are vexing their souls and their Chamber and the Government over the bare 12 days' holiday during Doorga Pooja of the poor native clerks.

THE Fellows of the Calcutta University have wearied of the Act of Incorporation so old as 1857, and appointed a committee to examine the Act and the amendments called for by time and necessity.

HAVE the Nizam's Courts jurisdiction over European British subjects living in Hyderabad within native jurisdiction? The question has been raised on the prosecution of a young English lady for assault of a native. She disputes the competency of the native Court to try her, and quotes the Treaty of the 10th July 1861 in support of the contention. The question has been argued before a full bench of the Nizam's High Court, but the result is not yet known. Whatever the decision of the Court, if it is adverse to the lady, will it bind the British Government? We are afraid the Nizam must prepare to give up his sovereign rights—if any is still left—against British-born subjects of Her Majesty.

IN the Hearsy-Allen suit for damages, the High Court—Mr. Justice Wilson—has, on the application of the defendant, ordered the issue of a commission to Allahabad, Bareilly, Cawnpore and Mussoorie, for examination of eighteen witnesses. The defence contended that the plaintiff has suffered no damages and that the matters to which he takes exception are true, and that it is necessary to examine the witnesses at the several places named on the issue of justification. There was objection to the issue of the commission on the ground of the heavy cost to a poor man like the plaintiff. The Judge in reply made the remark that all litigation is expensive and that the plaintiff should have counted the cost before embarking on it. A reply worthy of a Court which has pulverised so many opulent families and wasted so many big estates and ruined a legion of poor men who fondly believed that the justice of the Crown was for poor and rich alike.

UNDER the sanction of the Local Governments of Bengal and Assam confirmed by the Governor-General in Council, the High Court has promulgated new Rules for the preservation and destruction of the Registers of Subordinate Civil Courts. They are published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, Part I., of the 30th April, 1889 and come into force from the commencement of the year 1891.

IN Mysore city, they have decided to levy a uniform duty of Rs. 3 per cent on all piece goods, Europe or countrymade.

THE Maharaja Mongal Singh Bahadr of Ulwar has arrived at Bombay after completing his Australian tour. Did he take his Beebe and Belone children with him for the benefit of the sea breeze and the bracing climate of the Southern Continent? By the bye, we wonder whether our friend of the *Bengal Times* knows this family. His Highness makes a short stay in Bombay, and then starts for his own territory.

ACCORDING to the *Builder*, the German Government is in for pasteboard barracks. It intends quartering one of the line battalions in camp of twelve such huts. They will measure 32 metres by 7 metres each. The framework will be of wood, the walls and roofs being of pasteboard double, with an insulation of compressed peat and similar materials. It says that they will keep out cold and keep off heat. If they can stand the rain, they are welcome in India. The corrugated iron sheds

are a perfect nuisance. They draw all the heat of the sun, which itself proves less warm to a traveller on the Indian railways than a corrugated iron waiting room.

SIR Robert Sandeman will be back from the Zhob Valley to Quetta by the evening of the 25th, and Sir George White a few days later.

UNDER the magnificent bequest of the late Sagore Dutt, a dispensary was not long ago opened near his country seat at Kamarhati. It has now been raised to a hospital with 12 beds.

MAHOMED AZIM, charged with the late robbery at the Industrial Exhibition School of Art, Bombay, having been caught at Gujrat in the Punjab, with the stolen articles, is now on his way to Bombay for trial.

THE papers report the sad death of

"the Indian wife of an Eurasian gentleman, who claims to be Lord Gardner, from injuries received on the previous evening, by a spring door closing unexpectedly, striking her a severe blow on the forehead, and causing concussion and compression of the brain."

The Indian wife of a Eurasian nobleman, or even would-be nobleman is so suggestive of a romance of ethnology, that one cannot help wishing to know something more. Who is this unacknowledged Lord Gardner? The *Eastern Guardian* ought to be able to say.

A DISTURBANCE last week at Triplicane between the sons—assisted by their people—of the late Muthuvali of the Wallajah and Marwari mosques, and the servants of the present Prince of Arcot, so serious as to call for the interference of Colonel T. Weldon, C.I.E., Commissioner of Police, Madras, is reported. Muthuvali is, of course, our familiar friend *Mutwalli*. But what is the Marwari mosque?

AN offender of daring and originality has for sometime been amusing himself at the expense of our civil defenders in the Upper Provinces. In the assumed character of Police Inspector Mahomed Ali, the fellow so far bamboozled the Mainpuri police, as to get a sub-inspector and several constables to accompany him, in an imaginary pursuit after dacoits. He is supposed to be the notorious Lal Khan who had been personating the police in the district of Moradabad. He has been arrested by the railway police, at Etawah.

A SERIOUS affray of the olden type seems to have taken place at a village in the Kanaghat Subdivision of Nuddea, between the retainers of the Paul Chowdhrys of Kanaghat and those of the estate of the late Rasmani Dasi, of Jaun Bazaar, Calcutta, resulting in a couple of deaths on the spot from spear-shot. The fight must have been an unusually determined one, or dangerous missiles were freely used from the first. We confess we rather like this kind of thing—at a distance. Life is getting too safe and dull for all and sundry—even the most foolish and most rash. We shall not be sorry to see the matter amicably settled, between the parties and the Police. The two deaths are the difficulty. The surviving families of the poor victims will, however, be glad to receive adequate compensation.

THE grant for the establishment of Guru-training classes in connection with Middle schools was, during the last year, raised from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 9,000. It was distributed as follows:—

Presidency Circle	...	...	...	4,800
Western	...	...	...	1,050
Rajshahye	...	...	...	1,200
Eastern	...	...	...	1,200
Behar	...	...	...	1,200
Total	...	...	...	9,450

The following table shows the number of Gurus under instruction:—

	Schools.	Pupils.
Presidency Division	85 (a)	343
Chota Nagpore	19	90
Burdwan	5	13
Orissa	20 (b)	63
Dacca	18	40
Chittagong	11	19
Rajshahye	19	67
Bhagalpore	2 (c)	18
	179	653

The Guru-training system, which owes its origin to a suggestion of Mr. C. B. Clarke's, still flourishes most in the Presidency Division. It has been now extended to Bhagalpore.

(a) Includes 7 unaided schools with 26 pupils.

(b) Includes 1 unaided school with 5 pupils.

(c) Returned as aided schools.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

HER Majesty returned to England on the last day of the last month.

They are still on it. The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons.

Mr. Goschen holds that the State has no right to interfere in remedying the causes of depreciation of silver. That is Political Economy, pure and simple.

Mr. Parnell's amendment to reject Mr. Balfour's Irish Land Bill, has itself been rejected by a majority of 80 votes, the same number that had passed the second reading of the Bill. Mr. Balfour is of opinion that the Irish had not shewn themselves worthy of Government confidence, and it is not yet time, even partially, to hand over control over transfers of land, as suggested by Mr. Chamberlain, to Irish County Councils, which are sure to work on political lines with a determination to frustrate the object of Government.

At the annual Banquet of the London Chamber of Commerce, on the 30th April, at the Hotel Metropole, Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner in London for Canada, denied that there was a widespread desire in the Dominion for annexation to the United States, and assured the audience that England could always depend on the support of the colony in time of emergency.

Another assurance, at another festive gathering—the annual Civil Service dinner—on a previous date, was given by Lord Wolseley from the Chair. He recommended an efficient army, but ridiculed the idea that England's whole strength lay in her navy and that with its surrender, she would be undone. There was always, he said, ample provisions for eight months in store, and that it was not possible to block all English ports against fresh supplies.

The new smokeless gunpowder, named Walthamite after the place of its manufacture at the Waltham Factory, has been successfully tested. With the magazine rifle, it reached a marvellous accuracy up to one thousand yards or over half an English mile.

The Secretary of State for India has invited tenders for a three per cent. loan of £5,400,000 at 98, closing on the 8th May. The total sum will be thus distributed—£1,700,000 for the construction of railways in India by Companies, £500,000 for the discharge of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway debentures, and £3,200,000 for the purchase of the South Indian Railway.

The end of the railway strike in Ireland is not yet. Mr. Michael Davitt and Archbishop Walsh attempted to bring about a compromise between the masters and men, but failed. The strike originated at Cork and has spread to all the Southern and Western districts.

The *Navoe Vremya* is alarmed at the success of British influence in China. As a counterpoise, it advises Russia to divert to herself the Central Asiatic trade with India.

THURSDAY, the 1st of May 1890 dawned on Europe and America with a wide-spread Labor demonstration. It passed off peacefully. There were demonstrations at Vienna, Brussels, Liege and Amsterdam. Great crowds paraded the streets of Paris. The London labourers made a feeble show. The Germans avoided a public manifestation. The French were not content with mere show. In Paris, in the evening a disorderly crowd assembled in the streets and were charged by cavalry. Thirty were wounded and many arrests made. Next day, two thousand strikers at Turcoing and Roubaix attacked their factories and assaulted those who had replaced them there.

A ROYALIST conspiracy has been detected in Paris. The arrangement seems to have been to declare the Comte de Paris King on May 1st. Large quantities of explosives were seized. Many anarchists and malcontents in the army are suspected. Fifteen anarchists were arrested at Lyons with explosives and a secret printing press. A

warrant is out for the arrest of the Duc de Luynes for complicity in the conspiracy against the Republic, but he has already given the slip, having crossed the Swiss frontier over to Lausanne. There have been several arrests among royalists as well. M. Constans, Minister of the Interior, is reported to have threatened expulsion from France of five thousand foreigners prominent among the anarchists.

THE Indian Post office has limited the insurance of a single letter or parcel during transit to one thousand rupees.

THE Government of India, in the Home Department, has issued the following important Resolution:—

"Section 2 of Regulation XXXVIII of 1793 prohibits Covenanted Civil Servants from lending money, directly or indirectly, to any proprietor or farmer of land, or dependent taluqdar or under-farmer or rayyet or their sureties, and by Home Department Resolution of 17th March 1882, this prohibition has been extended to Natives of India appointed to an office ordinarily reserved for members of the Covenanted Civil Service under the provisions of 33 Vict., Cap. III, Section 6.

2. Instances have recently been brought to the notice of the Government of India in which uncovenanted gazetted officers of Government have lent large sums of money at various, and sometimes very high, rates of interest to landholders of the province, and even of the district in which they are serving. It appears to the Governor-General in Council very desirable that this practice should be discontinued at once. His Excellency in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that the existing rules on the subject, which apply to Covenanted Civil Servants and Members of the Statutory Civil Service, shall be extended to all uncovenanted officers in the Subordinate Executive and Judicial Services of the Government. Such officers are hereby prohibited from lending money at interest, whether directly or through relatives or other agents, to landholders, with or without security, within the province in which they are employed."

The Resolution is addressed to all Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance, and to all Departments of the Government of India for information.

WE have received the following telegram from Mymensing:—

"A crowded meeting of the Mohammandans was held this morning (Ap. 27) at the Juma masjid at the instance of Anjamani Islamia. The following resolutions were warmly passed: that this meeting most respectfully enters its strong and emphatic protest against the Bill introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Bradlaugh; that this meeting records its firm and strong conviction that the time for the introduction of a representative council on elective basis has not come; that this meeting unanimously records its cordial approval to the Bill introduced by Lord Cross."

Our Mahomedan brethren are gradually waking up throughout the country to the prospect before them.

THE British Indian Association held this week its annual meeting. Only 29 members including the office-bearers were present, or a dozen less than the office-bearers and Committee for the present year. On account of the illness of the President Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, the half yearly meeting had not been held, although the Association boasts of a goodly number of Vices, and the business of the year, such as could not be postponed, was done by Raja Doorga Churn Law. The Dr. President could only attend to one matter—that of the Lepers, and he expressed himself very strongly against their isolation. The President for the year is Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, and he thus expressed himself on the Doorga Pooja holidays:—

"I regret to observe that the Chamber of Commerce has submitted a representation to the Government, proposing the reduction of the Government Doorga Poojah holidays from 12 to 4 days. Our experienced Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Stuart Bayley, has explained to the Chamber that its request for their curtailment does not meet with the approval of the entire English mercantile community. Much uneasiness prevails in the minds of the Natives for this proposal of the Chamber, as no possible inconvenience can be felt by the merchants, when a part of the Custom House is kept open on the Poojah days for the transaction of business, as ships arriving in the port obtain passes to discharge their cargoes on these days. Natives living at a distance from Calcutta proceed to their houses to associate for a few days with their relatives, with whom they jointly observe the religious rites in connection with the celebration of the Doorga Poojah. Our wise and sympathetic Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne, would not, I am confident, wound their feelings by curtailing the Poojah holidays in accordance with the wishes of a few English merchants. To the honour and good sense of the British merchants in general, I must say that they do not share in the views expressed by a few of their class in the matter. Our just and enlightened Government, I am firmly convinced, never contemplates to interfere even indirectly with the performance of the religious rites of its native subjects."



The Maharaja is a better authority on the subject than the Government Pandit who, for some incomprehensible reason, has gone over to the Chamber of Commerce. The Principal of the Sanskrit College is a doctor of Nyaya, and no theologian at all. His part in the Pooja or other Hindu rite is easy—to pocket the presents made to Brahmans and Pandits. The Maharaja is a hereditary worshipper of the goddess Doorga, and he would be lost in this world as well as in the next, were he restricted to a worship of four days, which Pandit Mohesh Chunder Nyayaratna declares sufficient.

A thriving attorney, true to his profession and practice, wished the Association to take steps for extending the jurisdiction of the High Court to the amalgamated area of Calcutta for municipal purposes. Baboo Koonjo Lal Banerjee for once spoke sense, and in reply said that a greater misfortune could not befall the added area than the imposition of the ruinous machinery, and those who fatten by it, of Original Justice.

THE financial gain to France by the Paris Exhibition is thus calculated by M. Neymarck:—

"The deposits at the Bank of France were 3,000,000*fr.* in excess of the normal total. Between May and the close of the Exhibition 600,000 English and American tourists arrived; the Americans had letters of credit and cheques, for which they obtained gold amounting to 14,000,000*fr.*, and there were 1,500,000 other foreign visitors. Deposits in private banks rose by a sum of 33,300,000*fr.* The railway companies increased their usual income from passengers' traffic by 260,000*fr.*

The Seine river steamers gained 63,000*fr.* What waggonettes and other wheeled vehicles earned seems incredible. M. Neymarck knows the owner of a waggonette which did 33 double journeys a day, conveying at each journey eight persons at a franc a piece, thus taking about 20*fr.* a day."

This is indeed enjoying the holy sight of Lord Jagannath drawn in his tower-car and making a profitable sale of plantains on the occasion. What activity and locomotion are indicated in those figures! what wealth! The most heavenly exhibition in Asia would not—could not—draw like that. We do not care enough for our benefit to move for it. We are doubtful of man's power to help himself. Then, we are too poor to put much money in others' purses. If the gods themselves entered appearance, there might be a concourse of poor famishing pilgrims and sturdy beggars to cause dearth and spread dirt and disease, whose conservancy and other arrangements would swallow up the fees that might be paid by the traders and opulent visitors.

THE French having succeeded, against the opinion of the whole civilised world, in connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea by a ship-canal, are now crying for the moon. Notwithstanding their failure in Panama, they are as ready as ever for the wildest projects. M. Georges Rolland, an eminent French engineer, recently read a paper before the Académie des Sciences, in which he insisted on the necessity of constructing a railway across the Sahara.

"M. Rolland says that it is time for France to make up her mind as to the part which she intends taking in the economic conquest of the interior of Africa. In his paper he defines what are the regions of the Western and Central Soudan upon which French commerce could reasonably reckon, his conclusion being that nothing durable or really useful could be effected in the Soudan without the assistance of Algeria, while, in order to take any effective action in Algeria, that colony would need to be connected with the Soudan by means of a railway crossing the Sahara. Dwelling upon the necessity of a Trans-Sahara railway from a strategic, political, and commercial point of view, he asserts that the route from Algeria to the Soudan, although it might be the longest, might be made the most expeditious if proper influence were gained over the Touaregs, who hold in their hands all the trade between the Mediterranean and the Western and Central Soudan. In this view he warmly supports a proposal made by General Philibert, to send a column of 200 men to the Touaregs, with the essentially pacific mission of creating a French post at Timassim, while a second post should be established at Anguid, which would give a political and commercial command over the whole of Central Sahara. M. Rolland combats the idea of first sending a column to In-Salah, upon the ground that it would give rise to great difficulties, which would solve themselves if the Touaregs were once gained over. The conclusion arrived at by him is that the only practical and speedy method of opening up the Sahara is to construct a light railway of the Decauville type by way of Ouargla and Anguid."

There is not much harm for the Pandits and Haquims to amuse themselves with discussions in speculative engineering. But there is a time for every thing. At this critical moment of French history, the one thing for all Frenchmen who care for their country and its very existence—let glory alone—whether engineers or astronomers or chemists or metaphysicians, poets or politicians, whether men of business or mere men of the world, with or without any occupation, is to assist at the formation of a stable governing machinery and to discover the right men to work it. The example of their despised nation of

shopkeepers ought to shame them. If the English be described as a nation of tradesmen, they themselves may be called a nation of tailors and milliners on the one hand and of dandies, male and female, on the other. As such, they must have heard of the precept to cut your coat according to your cloth. First set your house in order before you go out to exploit distant Continents of savage men.

THE world circum-cycli-cised! That is the latest novelty in globe trotting. The difficult operation was last year successfully performed. We now read of two promising aspirants who have been trying their prentice hands on Europe:—

"Two enterprising cyclists, Mr. Walter Goddard, of Leeds, and Mr. James Edmunds, a Buxton gentleman, arrived in London the other day, after having accomplished the remarkable feat of journeying round Europe on bicycles. The two gentlemen left London last summer with the intention of making the tour round Europe on wheels, never leaving their machines except when absolutely necessary, such as crossing the channel, &c. With the exception of such instances, the whole journey was performed on bicycles. All they took with them was an ordinary tourist's knapsack stocked with such few necessaries as they might require during this extended tour. Starting from London last July, they rode their bicycles down to Dover, where they and their machines were conveyed across the Channel to Calais, whence they went on through Abbeville and Amiens to Paris, and thence across France into Switzerland, staying for a short time *en route* at such places as they considered attractive and interesting. From Switzerland they got into Austria, journeying through Graz, Vienna, and Buda-Pesth, southwards to Temesvar and Kronstadt. Thence they and their machines were conveyed across the South Carpathian Mountains into Roumania, and so on to Bucharest, Giurgiu, and across the Danube to Rustchuk and Varna, thence through Turkey as far as Constantinople, where they took boat to Odessa, where, resuming their bicycles, they proceeded on through the Russian Empire to Moscow and St. Petersburg. They journeyed from the Russian capital to Riga, where they took steamer across the Baltic to Stockholm, going across Sweden and Norway north as far as Bergen, and then southwards, recrossing the Baltic to Dantzic through Prussia to Berlin, Potsdam, and Bremen, and back through Holland into Belgium, staying at such places as Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, &c., to Ostend, thence to Calais, whence they crossed to Dover for London. The cyclists were everywhere well received, and expressed themselves much gratified with their remarkable tour."

Their detailed experiences ought to be entertaining and suggestive.

WE are afraid the Indian Army is deteriorating in discipline. It is a hard thing to say so and terrible to think of it, but so many ugly incidents, even of the character of outrages many of them, are cropping up in all directions that one is being gradually constrained to a conclusion adverse to the reputation of our defenders. Nothing would give us greater satisfaction than to be proved wrong in our view in this behalf. The matter is worth careful inquiry. We hope the military authorities will, in the interests of the reputation of their department and of the soldiery, do the needful. Happily, the Army is now under the best possible command. A brilliant soldier himself, at once brave and learned in his profession, Sir Frederick Roberts knows better than anybody could tell him how fatal must be a growing tendency to rowdiness in the rank and file to the efficiency of the Force.

The Punjab seems acquiring an evil repute for military outrages on poor natives. The latest case occurred at Lahore. According to the account, on the night of the 7th April a private of the Seaforth Highlanders on sentry duty challenged a native whom he observed near the lines, and receiving no answer fired at him. Luckily, the shot missed and the man fled, but he was caught by another soldier. Other soldiers now came and three natives, employed in the Military Work-Department who had been sleeping in a hut not far off, were attracted to the spot to see what was the matter. That proved their death—at least of one of them. The soldiers attacked them as bad characters. They fled and took refuge in their hut—their home. But it was a frail castle before a siege by British soldiers. They were unearthened and seized and treated so roughly that one of them died of his wounds before morning.

THEY are evidently trying to get up another O'Hara scandal in the Punjab. We read:—

"Among the men of the Murree Depot there seems to be a consensus of opinion that the corporal of the 5th Fusiliers, who is under arrest for the murder of a native, is not the culprit. Some of the party who were on the march up must know who fired the shot, but Thomas Atkins has strange ideas about such matters."

Yes, very strange and utterly discreditable ideas, which must be knocked out of his pate, if he is to be an honest Christian soldier and not a brutal mercenary. But we see plainly what these writers are driving at. They have only to produce a Judge of exemplary candour who will reserve deliberation after judgment.

At the last meeting of the University Senate, the Director of Public Instruction put his foot on the weak point in what we may call the institutional side of our vaunted educational progress. That progress had been mainly collegiate, instead of professoriate. We had multiplied seminaries, but no fresh personal agencies for instruction. Not that the new places of teaching opened had not been provided with teachers. But no professorships of new branches of knowledge had been added to the University, or attached to any of the colleges. And that is true. The lamented Bengali scholar the Rev. Dr. K. M. Banerjee tried his best for several years to have a Chair of Comparative Philology in the Calcutta University. His efforts did not bear fruit, however. Bombay, in this as in many other matters, has been rather more fortunate. The unexpected favour of a foreigner has come to her assistance where the liberality for which her sons are famous has for the nonce been wanting. The considerate benevolence of that Prince of Missionaries and educationists, the late Dr. John Wilson, has endowed for her University at least a modest Philological Lectureship, which has during these years brought to the front many able men to deliver their views who might else have remained unknown in such a connection. The choice has this time fallen on a native gentleman of culture and experience in the superior medical Service of Government. Surgeon Kirtikar, proud of his vernacular—the same in which the Sainted Tukaram lisped in numbers for the numbers came—has chosen for subject the Maharashtra Language and Literature. We have reason to anticipate for him an unquestionable success. The Introductory to the course which he lately delivered is an earnest of it. It shows at once capacity and confidence, without undue priggishness. The most important part of it concerns the relation of thought to language and their respective precedence or subsequence. Professor Max Muller when he first came to lecture at the Royal Institution rather adroitly kept himself out of this controversy by declining to assert any order of time or the absolute dependence of one on the other. Since then, however, he has cast off all hesitation. His latest work—Lectures on the Science of Thought—contains a Lecture in which he asserts the identity of Language and Thought. He explicitly declares that Language is the prime and necessary factor antecedent to thought which depended on it and could not and cannot exist without. The Bombay Lecturer took up this vexed question, and joined issue with the great Master. To whichever side of the controversy one may belong, no one can fail to be struck by the manner in which our Indian grapples with the famous German *savant*. Dr. Kirtikar said:—

"The lecturer next discussed the dictum of Professor Max Muller—'Without speech no reason, without reason no speech.' 'It is curious to observe,' says Max Muller, 'the unwillingness with which many philosophers admit that there is no reason without speech, no speech without reason.' Professor Max Muller says that 'it is curious to observe the attempts that are made to escape this conclusion, all owing to the very influence of the language which owing to the most modern dialects, has produced two words—one for *language* the other for *reason*—thus leading the speaker 'to suppose that there is a substantial difference between the two and not a formal difference.' To this Dr. Kirtikar replied that there was a substantial difference between a man possessing language, by which the lecturer understood power of speech, and a man possessing reason; thirdly, a man possessing both; and fourthly, a man possessing neither. The man possessing power of speech, but not reason, was in common parlance, a lunatic, or a man of unsound mind. The man possessing neither was not far removed from a worm or a jellyfish for worldly intercourse, and as such not useful to the present inquiry. It was where man possessed reason and was absolutely wanting in the power of articulate speech that Dr. Kirtikar found an illustration disproving the dictum of Professor Max Muller. What about the deaf-mute? he asked. Could Max Muller say a deaf-mute was void of all reason? Born deaf, he was an utter stranger to sound, which is the common, but not the only, vehicle of all rational thought between man and man. He is, therefore, unable to reproduce what he has never experienced, never had any knowledge of. And what was knowledge, but all experience? It did not arise out of man's inner consciousness. If the growing child, as soon as it began to take impressions from the outside world, was brought within audible distance of the human voice it took impressions: memory helped the hearer to preserve them or reproduce them in articulate speech. An English child in the constant company of an *ayah* speaking Hindustani only, showed often a predilection for the Hindustani speech. Similarly, a deaf-mute was unable to reproduce any language, for it had heard not the human voice. The psychological condition of the brain of the Iclander who learnt Sanskrit from books alone was exactly the same with reference to the pronunciation of certain Sanskrit letters such as 'sa,' 'la,' as that of a deaf-mute. The Iclander was a deaf-mute so far as the articulate Sanskrit was concerned. Deaf-mutes are known to be able to read in a similar manner written books without being able to read them aloud. The only difference is that the Iclander has the power to speak if he chose, the deaf-mute has not. A female deaf-mute is reported to have applied to Lord Hardwicke in 1754 (Chancery Reports, quoted by Beck) for the purpose of possessing her real estate. He put her questions in writing, and she gave sensible answers in writing. She had reason but no speech. The education

of deaf-mutes is known to be a highly successful institution and the glory of our age. It is capable—only through physical expression—of educating the mind of those hapless children, from whom 'knowledge at one entrance is quite shut out.' Nothing struck the lecturer so much as the training of the deaf-mutes and idiots in Earleswood Asylum, in Sussex, fifteen years ago, which showed that, though one may be lost to hearing and thence to speech, one is not lost to reason. Among deaf-mutes, as Taylor says, there is only a 'difficulty in the means of communicating knowledge.' So much for the dictum of Professor Max Muller, 'No reason without speech, no speech without reason.'"

For ourself, we have never been oppressed with any doubt on the point. No one who has seen deaf and dumb persons and marked their ways can doubt, we should think. They are all rational, though without the gift of articulate utterance. Some of those we have come across have considerable capacity for thought. They have no vernacular, never having heard any language. They communicate only by sight and touch, and these communications betray ideas un-reduced to verbal symbols. It is strange how a fact of common experience can be ignored by the wisest, and a plain question mystified by learning.

ADMISSION being free and unrestricted, the Theatres in Beadon-street, Black Town, were crammed to suffocation on Saturday evening. The farce announced might be named "Cross Purposes or How to Take the Name of the Nation in Vain," the object of the Managers being the condemnation of Lord Cross's Reform Bill passed by the House of Lords. Baboo Narendranath Sen, of the *Indian Mirror*, the Prince of Low Comedy Unconscious, was the leader fit of the actors. But it passes us how on earth was the Rishi's quiet son, who always resented the imputation of being a politician, to say nothing of an agitator—how was Dwijendranath the Good, found among the Philistines! The cry of the bisected meeting was—No taxation without representation. The assembled hosts, however, without declaring a War of Independence, contented themselves with recording the stereotyped Resolutions adopted throughout the country condemning Lord Cross's sober measure and praising up Mr. Bradlaugh's fanciful reform. If the papers of the party are to be believed, the country was never exercised so much as over the Cross Bill. Telegrams to the same effect are being transmitted from all sides, from all possible and impossible places. But those who know that the agitation is only the pulling of the wires—telegraphic—nothing more.

TRULY, as the *Englishman* recently remarked, the *Calcutta Gazette* needs editing. Under date the 29th April 1890, the Gazette of the following day allows Sir John Edgar, K.C.L.E., C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, six months' leave from the 10th May or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it. But Sir John had already left Calcutta before the date of the order. Mr. P. C. Lyon, we see, signs all orders as Officiating Chief Secretary, but his own appointment to the post has not yet been Gazetted. Till such officiating appointment is notified, is any of the orders issued or notified under the signature of Mr. Lyon from the Political, Judicial and Appointment Departments of the Bengal Secretariat, legally binding?

Mr. Colman Macaulay arrived by the last mail from furlough to take up the duties of the officiating Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government. He met Sir John Edgar at Bombay, and arrived at the capital on Thursday. Those who received him at the Howrah railway station saw that he was not in himself, and wondered what could be the matter. He was suffering, though the doctors knew not from what, and ascribed his state of health to the length of the railway journey at the height of the Indian summer. He drove direct to 32, Chowringhee, to reside as a guest at Sir A. Croft's house, where, the next day, at 6 P.M., he had a fit of shivering. Later in the evening, Sir S. Bayley came to see him and dine with Sir Alfred. While Sir Stewart was in the house Mr. Macaulay became worse. Sir Stenart immediately sent his carriage for doctors. Before they arrived, Mr. Macaulay was no more. He had not taken charge of his office. The entire Secretariat is closed to-day to allow the Assistants an opportunity of attending the funeral which comes off this evening at 5-30 at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Circular Road. By Mr. Macaulay's death the Government loses one of its ablest penmen, and the Irish Catholic Party in Bengal one of its important members. His taste for literature was shown by his making time out of his engrossing duties to contribute to a native periodical—Baboo Kali Prosunno Dey's *National Magazine*. He was not happy in his domestic life.

THESE being days when the dog-star rages, the Police Commissioner has notified that all dogs, found straying in the streets, both in Calcutta and the suburbs, shall be destroyed. The notification is dated the 18th April and will be in force till the 31st May. We cannot conceive anything more atrocious than this wholesale treatment of our inferiors—this war of extermination. Mr. Lambert himself we do not much blame, he is but the mouthpiece of his society, if he does not actually act under superior bidding. We only lament the heartlessness of a great Christian community. We must warn the Police, however, against carrying out the order in Burra Bazaar—the stronghold of unsophisticated Hindu, and, above all, Jain sentiment.

THE Indian Congress has lost its mother. Mrs. Allan Hume is dead. We beg to offer our cordial condolences to the bereaved husband for this deprivation, so late in life, of his help-meet, who doubtless sympathised with him in his joys and sorrows, and presumably shared his spiritual views and plans for human improvement, even if her health did not permit her to be actively useful to him. It is well for her perhaps that "her long disease" of a life has terminated before her lord. But to him the event, although relieving him of the constant anxiety and trouble of looking after a dear one who could not look after herself, and notwithstanding the cheering assurance of her relief, can only be a blow. The loss of a seasoned wife cannot be replaced. To be condemned to the loneliness of a widower in age is a calamity of the most trying kind—a prospect of frowning positive black without the faintest silver lining—

O dark, dark, unutterably dark,

Total eclipse without all hope of day!

The Congress may, as a consequence of the sad occurrence, come to a windfall of fortune as a legacy by the death of its mother, under the law and custom of the country. The father, freed from domestic distractions—relieved in the due course of Nature from the harassing obligations of cherishing the slowly wasting spectre in the cupboard of his hearth and heart—will have more leisure and more spare energy to devote to the movement of his creation. In fact, he must by a deeper plunge prevent, if possible, his personal grief overtaking him.

WE deeply regret to notice the bereavement of another Congress Chief—our colleague and friend Subramanier of the *Hindu*. Madras is the chief stronghold of the Congress and the persistent, spirited and well-reasoned advocacy of the *Hindu*—the leading daily in the native English press in India—and the untiring activity of its Editor have, in a large measure, brought about this result. Mr. Subramanier is at once a social and political reformer. As good as his word, he recently gave his poor widowed daughter in marriage. Strangely enough, he was not excited—evidence of the strength acquired by the reformers. But a greater trial awaited him. Mrs. Subramanier died—we hope under no revulsion of feeling from their brave stand against popular error and antiquated custom. Then came the difficulty—how to dispose of her remains. On a previous occasion—the death of Mrs. Gooty—none of the Hindus would go near the dead, or assist in performing the last rites to the body. Mr. Subramanier has been more lucky. Warned by experience, his friends, headed by Dewan Bahadoor Rughunath Rao, made prompt efforts and prevented any scandal. While sympathising with our colleague's loss, we rejoice at this evidence of advance. Altogether, the earnestness of the Southern reformers and their deserved success ought to embolden us of Bengal.

THE annual Report of the Chemical Examiner to Government is a document of some public interest. According to Dr. Warden, "opium and arsenic, the two most commonly known poisonous drugs, are still the favourite agents for suicidal and homicidal purposes, respectively, while the more easily procurable, and in many instances as deadly, vegetable poisons are comparatively still very little used in spite of the advance of civilization." The reason seems to us that these two are easily procurable and retained without suspicion, in consequence of not only their wide prevalence in particular medicines, but also of their habitual use among the people, specially of the former among all classes, high and low, as a prophylactic against, and panacea for, unnumbered ills that flesh is heir to.

IN connection with the examination of spirit for deleterious adulterations, the Chemical Examiner, in his report for the year 1889 remarks:

"Sixty-three samples were examined, compared with 18 during the previous year. The object of the examination was to ascertain whether or not noxious drugs were added to increase the intoxicating effects of the spirit. The following drugs were especially sought for:—Indian hemp, opium, nux-vomica, datura, aconite, and in some cases tobacco. In every case negative results were obtained. Bearing in mind that some of the drugs supposed to be used are highly toxic, and not usually credited with producing intoxicating effects, and having very distinctive and unpleasant tastes, and also remembering that others are costly, it seems highly probable that the idea regarding the adulteration of country liquor with noxious drugs is based on incorrect deductions made by persons not possessed of any technical knowledge. There is no doubt that drugs are added in some cases to the contents of the fermenting vats, as, for example, nux-vomica seeds in *bakur pills*, and the incorrect conclusion has been arrived at that the distilled spirit must also contain the same drugs. But this inference, as I pointed out some years ago, is founded on a misconception. The active principles of such drugs as aconite, datura, nux-vomica, Indian hemp are non-volatile, and, though the fermented liquid may be saturated with such poisons, the distillate under ordinary conditions will be harmless."

IN the list of articles tested for purity and quality in the Chemical Examiner's Report or rather the Government Resolution on it, occur—Fort William Arsenal, Medical Store Department, Telegraph Store Department, Commissariat Department and other Departments. There is against each, the number of examinations. We are not, however, given the verdict of the Examiner—how far they are pure or how adulterated. Are we to suppose that the P. W. Department, Bengal and India, is, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion?

CAPTAIN Hearsey is not the only European who cannot control his temper under insolence. Mr. Wall, an assistant master in the local Boys' High School, was fined by Captain G. B. Crawley, Cantonment Magistrate of Allahabad, for admitted assault on the Head Master's *khansama*. A magistrate is a different thing from a native servant, or Mr. Wall might have lost his temper in Court at the strange upshot of his litigation. He curbed himself and simply cried out—

"But, Sir, complainant was most impertinent, and I could scarcely help raising my hand to him under the sudden provocation. *The Magistrate*:—You had no business to raise your hand to him. If you were not satisfied with him you should have dismissed him. *Mr. Wall*:—I could not do so, as he was the servant of the head-master. *The Magistrate*:—Well, all the more reason that you should not have struck him. Your duty was to have complained to the head-master. I know if any one struck my servants, without first complaining to me, I should feel very much annoyed. On this the defendant left the court."

We believe the complaint would never have been heard of, had not the servant been dismissed by his master the head-master, presumably at Mr. Wall's by no means generous representation.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1890.

### THE ENGLISH CIVIL SERVICE AND THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

#### A CONTRAST.

IN England there is but one Civil Service. There the administrative agency is not split into something like hostile camps of conquerors and conquered. No invidious distinctions are tolerated where there is no inherent difference. In that land of freemen and a homogenous population, no gulf separates White and Black—Covenanted and Uncovenanted. Like the ethnology of the people, the service of the state is uniform. There is, of course, a necessary distinction between the political part of the service and the ordinary subordinate agency—between the Parliamentary executive and the permanent administrative machinery. There is an inalienable distinction. It arises out of the nature of the thing. There surely must be a difference between the persons for the time constituting the Government responsible to the country and removable under pressure of Parliament, and the fixed subordinates in the various departments who

assist and give effect to their Chiefs' decisions, views, and policy. These lesser servants of the public, in their humble sphere, not only form an essential factor, but perform an important part, in the state machinery. By their fixity of tenure they maintain the continuity of administration. Without it, Parliamentary institutions would be an intolerable nuisance. Indeed, Government would be impossible: Order would dissolve into Chaos.

In our country, too, with a different history and under another constitution, there is, as there ought to be, a difference. Here, the whole administration, from top to bottom, cannot be one, any more than in Great Britain. But the distinction is of another kind, and the limits of the difference should be circumscribed. Here, there are offices which, at least for years to come, must be independent of any general rules of qualification—they could not be consigned to the chances of general competition. They must, to begin with, be held by Englishmen. And well for India and Asia that they were so held, for long years to come! But the range of the monopoly need not be extensive. The monopoly maintained under the name of the Covenanted Civil Service is preposterously wide. It retains a large proportion of the Judicial and Revenue patronage—it has annexed the Chief Superintendence of the Jails and the Police. In fine, it embraces within its ample arms offices in all departments and various grades from the political and governing situations—which ought to be a reserve for the Leading Agents of British Power and Authority,—down to the situations of officers of Inland Collectorate, Customs, and Excise. In its giant proportions and greedy grasp at trifles below its dignity, it is at once an administrative mistake and a political blunder. It is, of course, an injustice—not only to the Natives but also to the British public at large—to the hundreds of Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen, as well as East Indians and Eurasian Christians who are thus unfeelingly debarred from a useful and honourable career.

Formerly, this favoured Service was an appanage of the members of the Governing Body of the East India Company—Nepotism was one of their dearly cherished franchises, and the Indian Civil Service was set apart as a preserve for their *protégés*. That was a natural, not to say necessary, state of things, arising out of history, and with some inherent weakness of principle and more corruption in practice, it was not without its good points. That arrangement was broken through in 1853, and in 1858 the Company itself was swept away by the Mutinies. But the monopoly remained, though its conditions and *personnel* were changed. The separate existence of the Service, to be recruited by arbitrary examination in England, planned, not so much by specific experience as by amateurs, Pandits and theorists, and the reservation for its members alone of all the fat posts and snug sinecures in this empire, constitute it a monopoly and, of course, a grievance to the public. Far be it from us to harbour schemes for vulgarising the administration and opening the door of office to inferior men, any more than lowering the *prestige* or weakening the securities of British Rule. But, surely, the Empire may be preserved not only in its integrity but in all its pride and glory, without inflicting a wrong on the whole profession of Government officials. Surely, the dignity as well as efficiency of administration may be maintained without dividing the *employés* into Brahmans and Sudras.

No doubt, the tendency to caste is unconquerable.

It is the natural disposition of human numbers. Every society, every considerable body of men—is apt to crystallise into castes. But that is no reason for encouraging the thing. Nor is it all expedient to make hard and fast distinctions between servants of the state who have so much in common. The distinction between Covenanted and Uncovenanted are of a severe and adamant character, unknown even to ancient Hindu polity and social organization. The authors of the Hindu caste system at least left it possible for inferior classes to aspire to promotion to the superior ranks. Under the British Indian system of administrative castes, there was no such provision. According to the unalterable decree of the official Manu, once a Sudra always a Sudra. There is no getting out of the rut of the depressed and despised Uncovenanted.

How different the case in England! There is no distinction except from the dignity of the office and the worth of the official. The homogeneity of the Service leaves ample room and verge enough for individual talents and ambitions, and allows of many possibilities. Although below the Parliamentary Service, and, in consequence, more analogous to our Uncovenanted, it enjoys advantages which the Indian Junior Service sighs for in vain. Accordingly, the British Civil Service is a far better career. It is an incentive to exertion and a path of ambition to merit. Its annals have been illustrated by many bright names and not a few remarkable successes.

The English Civil Service may as well be called the *Kerani* Service. There is no necessary opprobrium in that well-known Indian word, which we owe to our first visitors from Europe round the Cape, any more than in the much-abused title *Baboo*. *Kerani* means simply a *clerk* or "writer." The members of the White Covenanted Civil Service bore the official designation, dropped of late years, of the Company's writers, rendered into Hindustani *Company Ka Kerani*—briefly simply writers—and their posts were denominated *writerships*. Hence the long pile on the North of Dalhousie Square and facing it, now the Bengal Secretariat, as their residence, was called Writers' Buildings and known among the people as the *Kerani's Barracks*. With the spread of British empire in the East and the consequent increment of pretensions and finally with the rise of Paramountcy, the more clerical functions devolved more and more upon an inferior agency usually picked up on the spot, while an enlarged field of offices of great dignity and high emoluments was opened to an ever-increasing number of the favoured sons of the Company. Thus, gradually, the word writer or *kerani* became an anachronism and a misnomer. The true *Keranis* now are the non-professional sections of the Uncovenanted Service. And these are the true analogues and counterparts of the English Civil Service. But what a gulf parts the *Keranis* of England and the *Keranis* of India in respect of position and prospects and social repute! Much of the degradation of Indian Keranidom, no doubt, lies in the men, but the system is very much to blame too. It constitutes the Service the resource generally of inferior men. Better men are scared away from its blighting precincts. The superior men who, for want of a better opening, enter it, dwindle, for want of encouragement or communion with their betters. In the absence of opportunities for improving or for distinction, these poor fellows decline on a lower plane, until they, in a few years, rust and decay, or absolutely go to the bad.



### RESULT OF THE COMMONS' CONDEMNATION OF INDIAN EXCISE.

MR. CAINE, M.P., the apostle of temperance, may as well rest on his laurels. Having got the House of Commons to pass a practical censure on the Government of India's excise policy, he might well afford to pass over in silence the carping criticisms of well-known apologists of that Government. The Government itself scarcely denies the charge that there have been errors and irregularities in its excise administration. It only pleads the extreme difficulty and complexity of the subject, and it promises reform. This alone is sufficient vindication of the efforts made by Mr. Caine and his friends. That the Government in replying to Mr. Caine's charges has been able to throw discredit upon some of his facts and figures, is a small matter. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* has, indeed, made capital of this, and this has proved too much for Mr. Caine's patience. Mr. Caine has dashed off a long letter replying to the *Times'* correspondent's strictures.

Probably it were as well now that the controversy should cease, or at any rate be free from bitterness. The Government has promised reform, and already some action has been taken to give effect to the promise. It was in Bengal, far more than in other provinces, that the evils of excise administration reached their highest point. The outstill system here attained its greatest expansion, and although the mischief produced by it was patent to the public, the Local Government shut its eyes to its evils. Now, however, that the Government has been brought to see those evils, and Sir Steuart Bayley has from the outset of his administration shown himself earnestly determined to remedy them, our best course is to cease quarrelling, and to wait and watch the progress of the reform. Our contemporary of the *Statesman* rightly thinks that the present is a fitting occasion for our public Associations to thankfully recognise the great public service rendered by the present Government of Bengal by ordering the gradual abolition of outstills from populous districts. We quite agree with our contemporary. Sir Steuart Bayley is justly entitled to the thanks of the country for his attitude towards the excise question. The reform will not have been fully effected without a considerable sacrifice of the public revenue, and it requires no small moral strength in a Government always pressed for funds to undertake a reform in the face of such a sacrifice. In fact, were it not for Sir Steuart's personal determination in the matter, the reform would have little chance of being taken in hand, and even now we are not altogether without misgivings as to the extent of progress it may make in the long run. The resolution of the House of Commons has no doubt come in good time, and it will strengthen the hands of officials sincerely earnest in carrying out the reform.

But we should not expect too much even from a vote of the House of Commons. The Government out here is not a Parliamentary Government, and it carries on its work according to its own lights. Indeed, anybody who read the despatch of the Secretary of State in which the vote of censure was communicated to the Government of India, could not have failed to be struck by the almost contemptuous tone in which that vote was spoken of by that supreme executive authority. Nor does the Government of India in its elaborate reply speak of it with more reverence. The Government is a despotism, using

the term in no evil sense, and the details of administration will scarcely be affected by a debate in Parliament. At any rate, it will always have the right of the last word, and it can always make that last word tell. For instance, in its reply several of Mr. Caine's statements have been contradicted, and on questions of facts, the Government must always have an authoritative position. Mr. Caine himself is compelled to admit the inaccuracy of some of his information. This was inevitable in the very circumstances of his position, and need not cause him any uneasiness. The Government can easily turn the tables upon its opponents in any statistical contest. The statistics themselves are often misleading, being compiled upon no uniform system in the different provinces. Mr. Caine has therefore done well in frankly admitting, after the explanations given in the Government despatch, that his information had in some instances been wrong. But these are minor points. Let it be sufficient that the Government has at last admitted that its excise administration has not been all that it should be. It has taken, indeed, a very long time in seeing the error of its ways, and Mr. Caine is welcome to his triumphant reflections that it is the vote of the House of Commons that has awakened its conscience. Mr. Caine writes: "The 'Reply' [of the Government of India] shows conclusively that the Government is at last roused to a sense of its duty, and it furnishes abundant evidence, in the abolition of the out-still system in Bengal, the taxing of the strong native beers, the admission for the first time of the principle of local option and in many other ways, that the censure of the House of Commons is almost the only means of awakening the conscience of the Indian Government." Mr. Caine has worked too hard not to be entitled to these complacent feelings, but he cannot be unaware of the fact that, if it is a conscience so hard to awaken, it may go to sleep again after making some signs of waking up. The Government has it in its power to defeat the result of the debate in many ways. In reforms involving financial sacrifice, success practically lies in the hands of quite subordinate authorities. Even the most earnest orders of the Government may be marred in the execution. Let us therefore carry the Government with us, now that the Government itself has shown a commendable desire to set its house in better order. Let our policy now be to help the Government in its efforts and to wait and watch their results.

### UNCOQUIDNESS AND GIDDINESS: OR THE APOSTLE OF ABSTINENCE.

MR. THOMAS EVANS, the Evangelist of the Gospel of Jesus and of Teetotalism, the ally of Mr. Caine, M.P., is—in the estimation of himself and, let us hope, of many a poor private who had sold his soul to drink and the Devil before his redemption—a hero. But, unfortunately for him, he is not the only hero. He lost sight of this little ~~fact~~ and of another, namely, that private men are not so easy to misrepresent and run down as States and Governments. And so he has come to grief. He has had the rashness to tackle the redoubtable Atkins of Allahabad. Of course, he has made himself a laughing stock as the captor of a Tartar.

Flushed with success, Mr. Thomas Evans is not only quarrelling with all sorts of people, but also falling out with his friends, associates and supporters. A man embarked, as the mission of life, in a war against the entire trade of publicans and a great publican Government, has need to conciliate all other parties and interests in order to husband and concentrate all his resources on the one objective. His heart and soul are fixed on the great war for which he lives; he cannot afford to

futter away his forces on desultory skirmishes from time to time with various minor enemies. Not so the heroic Evans. He does not care to multiply foes. He represents the Church militant rather than the Gospel of the meek son of Mary. Like a mettlesome steed well used to strife, he puffs with swelling nostrils from afar the breath of war and dance with delight at the prospect. Before he had wriggled himself out of his conflict with the lawyers, he was in for another. He chose the Press as a convenient object for sitting upon. He anaethematised the *Morning Post* for—what enormity, does the reader fancy?—why, for opening its columns to drink advertisements. This sinfulness of his neighbours is too much for the goody-goody Evans to bear. His pure soul was not only agitated by the circulars of the vendors of spirits and wines, but also by the trade announcements of the business in malt liquor. He would crush the infant industry in that article in India. His ire is specially directed at the very honourable enterprise of the Murree Brewing Company. He had denounced the *Morning Post* for giving publicity and encouragement to that horrible business. This of course drew the Murree Company into the field, and between the Printing office and the Brewery, the Saint has been well dished. Indeed, the *coup de grace* has been applied by Mr. H. J. Whymper, of the Brewery. In a well-written temperate but incisive letter, he probes the enemy to the quick. The parts he reveals are indeed of the most stubborn calibre. He repays scorn with scorn, and carrying the war into the very heart of the enemy's camp, leaves him *hors de combat*.

After stating the cause of action, Mr. Whymper plunges in *medias res*. He says that at this moment the Murree Brewery is probably the largest subscriber to the Army Temperance Association, and that in its own interest, because brewing distinctly gains by temperance as opposed to intemperance. At the same time he freely confesses that the Company does not, naturally enough, believe in total abstinence being good for all.

Then the formidable man introduces his hand into his pocket as it were and produces a letter received last year from the Army Temperance Association, to wit:—

"Simla, 24th September, 1888.

H. J. Whymper, Esq., Murree Brewery Company, Gora Gully.

Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to send you a copy of the *Simla Herald*, a paper started here for the purpose of assisting the funds of this Association, and to solicit the favour of your very kindly supplementing your liberal donation of Rs. 500 by giving us a permanent advertisement of your Company's ales, &c., for the *Simla Herald*. The rate will be for a whole page, any position you like, Rs. 50 per mensem. For half-page Rs. 35 per mensem. I send you a specimen copy of the paper, which circulates largely in the hill stations surrounding Simla where troops are kept, such as Kasauli, Subathin, Solon, Jutogh, Dugshai, and also in Umballa, besides a liberal local circulation.

The *Simla Herald* is the mainstay of our Press, for which I appeal to your generosity in the interests of the Association.

Yours Truly,

ATTLEEN WALKER,

Offg. Hon'y. Treasurer, A. T. Association."

That takes one's breath away. Is it possible that the saints should sneak to the sinners, ready to sell their souls for a mess of pottage? The sinners are always more generous and the Brewery gave the Association a full page advertisement, which has appeared in the latter's organ regularly since November last. The saints, however they may affect to damn the publicans and sinners, have undoubtedly a particular affection—an intense crave—for their money. For one favour only leads to another solicitation. In less than a quarter after that grant of the foregoing advertisement, another appeal was made marked "Private and Confidential—without prejudice," which on that account is not published, but the purport whereof is briefly stated to be to explain that the temperance organization was on its last legs for want of funds, and praying the dreadful Brewers to come to the rescue with an advance payment for their advertisement.

Mr. Evans was not the man to sit quietly under such a disaster. But the ground had slipped from under his feet, and he could only feebly mutter the following excuse:—

"Sir,—I am sorry to find from your remarks on my last note that the *Post* has pulled down its temperance flag, and that it now seeks the patronage of publicans. With such money expect no blessing, for it is stained with the blood of those who have fallen victims to the demon drink. It may be as well that I should tell you in reply to your *tu quoque* argument that it is not applicable to me. I would not from principle knowingly accept money acquired by the sale of an article which has killed more than famine, pestilence, and war. And I may add that I refused to minister to a large church in England while liquor sellers were allowed membership. I am happy to be able to say that few if any churches at home now recognise the fellowship of those who traffic in alcoholic poison.—Thomas Evans."

There is no absence of tall talk in that epistle. This holy man is a Bully Dawson who takes a drubbing with all the airs of enjoyment. He never retires, but only makes a strategic movement. But his assurance will not alter facts. Since Sydney Smith routed his "nest of consecrated cobblers," there has scarcely been such an exposure. Nor are we permitted to pity. The vain, blustering, canting priest has brought it all himself.

## MAHOMEDAN EDUCATION IN BENGAL.

### AN OFFICIAL REPORT.

The following table compares the attendance and expenditure of all Medressas under Government management during the last two years. The Calcutta Medressa, the Nawab of Moorshedabad's Medressa, and the Cox's Bazar Medressa are maintained from provincial revenue, and the rest from the Mohsin Fund:—

Medressas.	Number of pupils.		Receipt from Government.		Total expenditure.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Calcutta (Arabic Department)...	362	408	10,036	11,251	11,658	12,984
Hooghly (Arabic Department)...	37	60	.....	.....	2,117	2,380
Dacca (Arabic Department)...	336	424	.....	.....	13,710	14,176
Chittagong (Arabic Dept.) ...	356	401	.....	.....	8,855	10,191
Cox's Bazar Medressa, Chittagong ...	34	28	432	401	600	514
Moorshedabad Nawab's Medressa ...	58	59	15,899	14,680	15,899	14,680
Rajshahye ...	46	76	.....	.....	3,020	3,935
Total ...	1,229	1,456	26,417	26,332	55,859	58,865

Calcutta Medressa.—The number of students on the 31st March last was 1,176. Of these, 25 were in the College Department, 408 in the Arabic Department, 437 in the Anglo-Persian Department, and 300 in the Colinga Branch School.

The total expenditure was Rs. 48,867 against Rs. 48,373 in the previous year. The amount of fees and fines was Rs. 8,409, against Rs. 10,276. The falling off is partly due to the fact that in 1888 the fees for April, May and June were collected in March, and included with the fees for that month. Twenty students were sent up for F. A. examination, of whom one passed in the second and 5 in the third division. 17 candidates went up for the Entrance examination, of whom 6 passed, 2 in each of the 3 divisions.

The number of resident students was 605. The new boarding house sanctioned by Government Resolution dated the 31st July 1888 contains 12 students.

The number of pupils in the Dacca Medressa rose from 336 to 424—238 in the Arabic and 186 in the Anglo-Persian Department. The receipts from fees and fines were Rs. 1,222. The number of boarders was 33, against 36 in the previous year. The number of students in the Chittagong Medressa was 401 against 356 in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 1,255 was realised from fees and fines. Out of 291 students who were examined locally, 124 passed the annual examination. In the Hooghly Medressa the number of students rose to 60. The income from fees was Rs. 208. In the Cox's Bazar Medressa the receipts were Rs. 40 from fees, Rs. 60 from municipal funds and Rs. 18 from subscriptions. There were 28 pupils on the rolls. In the Nawab of Moorshedabad's Medressa a gymnastic master has been appointed and a debating club started. The number of boarders was 16, as in the previous year.

The Sitapore Medressa in Burdwan received last year Rs. 2,172 from the Mohsin Fund. It had 60 pupils on the rolls. Moulvie Abdul Hai examined them and reported favorably on their progress, especially in arithmetic. The Jorghat Middle English School received Rs. 480 from the Mohsin Fund. The roll number was 55. The roll number of the Mir Ahya Medressa went down from 147 to 108 owing to the promotion of 50 boys to the Government Medressa and the opening of a new Medressa, called the Anglo-Arabic Medressa by Moulvie Abdool Udud, lately a teacher in the Government Medressa, with a roll number of 218. The Sasseram Medressa had 96 pupils on its rolls, against 105 in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 6,650 against Rs. 7,000. There are two Medressas in the Gya District. One at Gya, called Medressa Islamiya, with 111, and another at Aurungabad with 22 pupils.

The order to notice especially the number of institutions wholly or mainly intended for Mahomedans, with the number of their pupils, reached too late for the purpose of the present report, but it will be fully carried out in subsequent years. Meanwhile an attempt has been made in this section to give all the information on this point that was available.

### GOVERNMENT AID TO HORSE-BREEDING IN ITALY.

The following is extracted from a report on Government Aid to Horse-Breeding in Italy, which has recently been issued from the office of the Board of Agriculture :—

The May number of "Annali di Agricoltura," the valuable journal published under the auspices of the Italian Minister of Agriculture is entirely devoted to the provisions made by the Government of Italy to improve the breed of horses in that country. From this it is seen that the encouragement given, both in direct and indirect forms is very great. Among the direct forms are the establishment of stations for stallions, *Stazioni di monta*, in all parts of the country, the cost of whose construction and maintenance is borne by the district commune. There are also seven centres, *Depositi*, or head-quarters, from which stallions are sent from time to time to the stations. Three-fourths of the cost of building and maintaining these falls upon the province in which they are located, in proportion to the number of stations and the number of stallions within them, the other fourth is charged to the district.

The Government provides stallions which are selected and purchased by committees appointed by a council, *consiglio ippico*, consisting of the Director-General of Cavalry, the Commandant of the Royal Horse Corps, delegates nominated by the National Veterinary School, and, besides, others, seven members chosen by the Minister of Agriculture, of whom four must be owners of studs.

Everything connected with horse-breeding is regulated by this Council, which is consulted by the Ministers of Agriculture and War upon these questions.

In pursuance of a law passed in 1887, to take effect upon the 1st January 1889, a Royal decree was published in June 1888, prohibiting the use of stallions for service by private individuals unless they have been duly certified as sound and suitable in all respects, by a Commission, *Commissione ippica*, appointed for each province in the Kingdom. These Commissions consist of a member nominated by the Minister of Agriculture, who shall be the president; a Veterinarian, appointed also by the Minister; a breeder of horses, nominated by the Prefect, *Projetto*, of the province. Each Commissioner may charge travelling expenses first class by railway, and 3/4d. per mile by road and 8s. for each day occupied in examining stallions. In the examination season (1889) 870 horses were examined by the various Commissioners in the regions of Piedmont, Lombardy, Venice, Liguria, Emilia, Marches of Umbria, Tuscany, Lazio, South Adriatic, South Mediterranean, Sicillia, and Sardinia. Of these 818 were certified as fit for service. These stallions submitted for inspection belonged to 620 owners.

In addition to the stallion stations there are five establishments for purchasing and bringing up colts brought in the neighbourhood and for collecting horses for army purposes. These are termed *Depositi di allevamenti*. They are at Persano, Palmanova, Grosseto, Portovecchio, Scordia and Bonorva. From 1883 to the end of 1888, 41,021 colts had been purchased and brought to these establishments. Of these 31,961 were brought in Piedmont, Lombardy, Venice, Emilia, Umbria, Lazio, Sardinia, Sicily and other parts of the Kingdom; 2407 horses fit for service were also purchased for army service by means of these *allevamenti*, besides 22 French mules. The average price for the colts was £25; that for the horses £37 and £33 per head for mules. No less than 9,895 colts were presented for purchase at the *allevamenti*, of which 5,800 were refused for various causes, unsoundness, exorbitant price and excess of age; 1,705 were under the standard of height. During 1888 the number of horses sent to the army from the *allevamenti* was 3,989.

The directors of these *depositi* for rearing and collecting horses furnish reports to the Government as to the progress and work of each establishment. In most of these there are statements shewing that much improvement has been effected in the horses of the respective districts by the influence of the stallion stations and the examination of the stallions belonging to private individuals. Thus, concerning the *deposito* of Pisa, the director says that "in the province of Pisa, there is a sensible advance in breeding year by year as well in point of numbers as in stamp and type."

Colonel Raunizzi remarks of the *deposito* at Grosseto that the animals are "better made, more strong, and vigorous." Colonel Gerini, in charge at Persano, speaks of the improvement in the horses in some of the provinces and suggests that the number of Government stallions should be increased, as being so much more satisfactory than those belonging to private individuals.

The report from Sardinia is, however, not quite so satisfactory. Colonel Sosso observes that the number of horses rejected was large, chiefly owing to deficiency in height, caused, he is inclined to think, by the exceptionally inclement winter.

In the season of 1888 there were 209 stallion stations, *stazioni di monta*, as against 201 in 1887.

During the season of 1887 there were 360 stallions on service at the 201 stations, to which 13,006 mares were brought, an average of 36.23 mares per stallion. Of these 6,910 proved in foal,

but from abortion, 965; death, 211; sale, 242; the actual produce was only 5,495; or 2,752 colts and 2,740 fillies.

225 mares were not allowed to be covered in 1888 for various reasons. The average fee paid for the 12,255 mares covered in 1888 was £1-7s. The amount ranged from £6-5s. paid per head for 31 mares put to an American trotter, Amber, to £4, for 41 mares put to an English thoroughbred, Audred, to 10,578 mares put to various sires at 10s. per head. The fee for no less than 307 stallions was only 10s. The total amount received for fees for the 1888 season was £7,000.

Among the stallions in the season of 1888 were 74 English thoroughbreds, 94 half-breds born in England, 5 common bred horses born in England, and two cart stallions, making altogether 170 horses born in England, out of the 360 stallions at the stations in 1888.

The report of the Commissioners appointed to buy horses in 1888 and 1889 in England is interesting. The Commissioners were Professors J. Baldessare, Captain Masino, and Signor Ciuc, a veterinary surgeon. They visited 26 studs in Norfolk, 6 in Suffolk, 12 in Yorkshire, 12 in other counties. They examined 238 stallions, of which 198 were inscribed in the Hackney Stud Book and 40 in the General Stud Book.

Lamentations are made by the Commissioners over the decadence of the breeding of half-breed horses in England, as evidenced by many facts and especially by the willingness of the owners of the hackney stallions to take much lower prices than in the previous year for the same animals. Thus the owner of one horse is said to have refused to take "one penny less" than £1,000, for him in 1887, and accepted £400, in 1888; while the possessor of another sold him for £500, though in 1887 he declared he would not sell him at any price whatever. In spite of a most suitable climate, and the renowned skill of the English breeders, and all the aids given to encourage horse-breeding by societies and by the Royal Commission in placing the services of the best stallion at the disposal of breeders at a very low rate, the breeding of horses, according to the opinion of the Italian Commissioners, is not by any means advancing.

To encourage horse-racing a sum of £1,700 was given by the Government for flat racing, and £760 for trotting races in 1888. In the case of the flat races this was divided among 17 race societies, *societta di corse al galoppo* to whose funds the Jockey Club and the municipalities in the provinces also largely contributed. For flat races in 1888 the sum from all sources amounted to 21,340l.

Trotting races are also held under the auspices of societies, *societa di corse al trotto*. To these the contributions from all quarters equalled 3,800l.

Prizes were given at the Agricultural Exhibition of Aquila for stallions, mares, colts, fillies and groups of saddle and light draught horses, also for heavy draught stallions, mares, colts, and fillies. These consisted of 11 gold, 15 silver, and 5 bronze medals, and 265l. in money. Towards these prizes the Government contributed a proportion. Premiums were also awarded to the private owners of the best stallions. The amount spent by the Government in 1888 upon exhibitions and premiums was 1,498l.

The expense to the Government of the seven centres, *Depositi* and 209 stallion stations for the year 1888, that is for wages, forage, veterinary attendance, saddlery, harness, shoeing, insurance, including the 3,875l. for race premiums, prizes at exhibitions, and premiums for stallions, was 46,890l. Adding the amount spent in purchasing 97 stallions, 18,756l., the total sum spent is equal to 65,640l. It will be remembered that the construction and maintenance of the buildings fall upon the provinces and communes.

### AN EXPLANATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF *Reis & Rayyet*.

DEAR SIR,—In a late issue of your paper, I have noticed with surprise and regret, mis-statement and insinuation in connection with the purchase made by me of certain furniture from Mr. Wace Collector and Magistrate of Bhagalpur now on furlough.

You have stated that the furniture have been disposed of "to the best advantage to his good and obliging friend Rajah Harballabh Narain Singh at cost price."

I regret that you have been led to make this observation on incorrect information; and I therefore in the interest of justice to all parties hasten to correct it. I have purchased the articles not on cost price but on a fair and reasonable price, the list of the same along with other articles with prices fixed on them having been duly circulated among the people of the place. I request you therefore to rectify the mistake you have been led to fall into.

Yours Faithfully,

HARBALLABH NARAYAN SINHA,  
Maharajah, Sonbursa.

Dated the April 1890.

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## BENGAL BONDED WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION.

In conformity with Section 5 of Act V of 1854 a General Meeting of Proprietors will be held on Wednesday the 14th instant, at noon, for the inspection of accounts for the half-year ended 30th April last, the declaration of a Dividend, the election of two Directors in the room of Mr. Money Madhab Sain and Mr. A. E. Harriss who go out by rotation but offer themselves for re-election and the transaction of such other business as may be brought forward.

S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Secretary.

CALCUTTA:  
1st May 1890.

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BETWEEN  
*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*  
BY

**SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,**

Formerly Minister to the late

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,  
(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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CALCUTTA.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure

written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

C. RINGER & CO. have in hand the largest stock of Homœopathic Medicines, Medicine Cases, Medical Sundries, and Books, &c., &c., for sale at their Homœopathic Establishment, 10, Hare Street, Calcutta. Catalogue, free on application.

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This Company's Steamer "NAGPORE" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 6th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godown, at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. on Saturday, the 3rd inst.

**CACHAR LINE.**

The steamer THIKAK of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 13th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 10th inst.

**ASSAM DESPATCH STEAMER SERVICE FROM GOALUNDO**

and

**DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.**

A Daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. (Madras time) train from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta via Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels via Kannia only.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1890.

No. 423

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

HORACE.

BOOK II, ODE 16.

WHEN the pale moon is wrapt in cloud,  
And blinding mists the stars enshroud,  
When on the dark Ægean shore  
The bursting surges flash and roar,  
The mariner with toil opprest  
Sighs for his home, and prays for rest.  
So pray the warrior sons of Thrace,  
So pray the quivered Mede's barbaric race :  
Grosphus, not gold, nor gems can buy  
That peace which in brave souls finds sanctuary :  
Nor Consuls' pomp, nor treasured store,  
Can one brief moment's rest impart,  
Or chase the cares that hover o'er  
The fretted roof, the wearied heart.

Happy is he whose modest means afford

Enough—no more : upon his board  
Th' ancestral salt-vase shines with lustre clear,  
Emblem of olden faith, and hospitable cheer :  
Nor greed, nor doubt, nor envy's curses deep  
Disturb his innocent sleep.

- \* Why cast on doubtful issues life's short years ?
- \* Why hope that foreign suns can dry our tears ?  
    'The exile from his country flies,  
    Not from himself, or from his memories.

Care climbs the trireme's brazen sides ;  
Care with the serried squadron rides ;  
Outstrips the cloud-compelling wind,  
And leaves the panting stag behind :  
But the brave spirit, self-possessed,  
Tempers misfortune with a jest,  
With joy the allotted gift receives,  
The gift denied, to others frankly leaves.

A chequered life the gods bestow ;  
Snatched by swift fate Achilles died :  
Time-worn Tithonus, wasting slow,  
Long wept a death denied :  
A random hour may toss to me  
Some gifts, my friend, refused to thee.

*Holloway's Ointment.*—Sores, Wounds, Ulcerations, and other diseases affecting the skin, are capable of speedy amendment by this cooling and healing ointment, which has called forth the loudest praise from persons who had suffered for years from bad legs, bad breasts, piles, abscesses, and chronic ulcers, after every hope of cure had long passed away. None but those who have experienced the soothing effect of this Ointment can form an idea of the comfort it bestows by restraining inflammation and allaying pain. Whenever Holloway's Ointment has been once used it has established its own worth, and has again been eagerly sought for as the easiest and safest remedy for all such complaints. In neuralgia, rheumatism and gout, the same application, properly used, gives wonderful relief.

A hundred flocks thy pastures roam,  
Large herds, deep-uddered, low around thy home  
At the red close of day :  
The steed with joyous neigh  
Welcomes thy footstep : robes that shine  
Twice dipt in Afric dyes are thine.  
To me kind Fate with bounteous hand  
Grants other boon ; a spot of land,  
A faint flame of poetic fire,  
A breath from the Æolian lyre,  
An honest aim, a spirit proud  
That loves the truth, and scorns the crowd.

STEPHEN DE VERE.

*The Spectator.*

MY BOY.

There is even a happiness  
Which makes the heart afraid.

HOOD.

ONE more new claimant for  
Human fraternity,  
Swelling the flood that sweeps  
On to eternity.  
I who have filled the cup,  
Tremble to think of it ;  
For be it what it may,  
I must yet drink of it.

Room for him into the  
Ranks of humanity ;  
Give him a place in your  
Kingdom of vanity ;  
Welcome the stranger with  
Kindly affection,  
Hopefully, trustfully,  
Not with dejection.

See, in his waywardness,  
How his fist doubles ;  
Thus pugilistical  
During life's troubles.  
Strange that the Neophyte  
Enters existence  
In such an attitude,  
Feigning resistance.

Could he but have a glimpse  
Into futurity,  
Well might he fight against  
Further maturity ;  
Yet it does seem to me  
As if his purity  
Were against sinfulness  
Ample security.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

Incomprehensible,  
 Budding immortal,  
 Thrust all amazedly  
 Under life's portal ;  
 Born to a destiny  
 Clouded in mystery,  
 Wisdom itself cannot  
 Guess at its history,  
 •  
 Something too much of this  
 Timon-like croaking ;  
 See his face wrinkle now,  
 Laughter-provoking ;  
 Now he cries lustily—  
 Bravo, my hearty one !  
 Lungs like an orator  
 Cheering his party on.

Look how his merry eyes  
 Turn to me pleadingly !  
 Can we help loving him—  
 Loving exceedingly ?  
 Partly with hopefulness,  
 Partly with fears—  
 Mine, as I look at him,  
 Moistened with tears.

Now then to find a name :  
 Where shall we search for it ?  
 Turn to his ancestry,  
 Or to the church for it ?  
 Shall we endow him with  
 Title heroic,  
 After some warrior,  
 Poet, or stoic ?

One aunt says he will  
 Soon "lisp in numbers,"  
 Turning his thoughts to rhyme,  
 E'en in his slumbers ;  
 Watts rhymed in babyhood—  
 • No blemish spots his fame—  
 Christen him even so ;  
 Young Mr. Watts, his name !

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

It has been officially notified that the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, will be kept in India on Saturday the 24th May—the very day Her Majesty was born. There will be the usual State dinner, after which His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General will hold a Levée at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, at 9-45 P.M. But the State ball comes off later—on the 29th. There is no indication that the new Lord Mayor of Calcutta will gratify the town on the birthday as heretofore with his show of a Garden Party. Perhaps he has not been able yet to make his arrangements.

THERE was a Garden Party at Belvedere on Thursday. Sir Stuart there took leave of Calcutta society and starts for the hills on Tuesday next. But he does not go direct to Darjeeling. He spends a day or two at Cooch Behar under the hospitable roof of the Maharaja.

MR. MACAULAY was buried last Saturday, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Director of Public Instruction acting the chief mourners. The former thus notices the death in the Gazette in black :—

"The 5th May 1890.—It is with deep regret that the Lieutenant-Governor has to announce the death, on the 2nd May, of Mr. C. P. L. Macaulay, C.I.E., who had just returned from England to take up the post of Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

By his death at the early age of 40 the Government have lost an Officer of distinguished merit and ability, and one who, from an early stage of his career, had given proofs of high administrative capacity.

Mr. Macaulay had been associated for many years with the administration of Bengal, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires to place on record his high sense of Mr. Macaulay's services, and his keen regret at his untimely death."

THE Bengal Government has been prompt in making its selection and a proper one of the officiating Chief Secretary. Mr. C. C. Stevens, Commissioner, Patna Division, will act for Sir John Edgar, doing duty from the 13th, Tuesday next. In the meantime, the Officiating Under-Secretary P. C. Lyon remains in charge of the Judicial Political and Appointment Departments.

THE Government of India, for itself and as representing the Cashmere Government, has agreed to a telegraphic line from Suchetgarh to Jammu, preliminary to a railway enmeshment of the Unhappy Valley.

THE shortest period on record in Literature for journey round the world is 40 minutes. In his Dream, Shakespeare could not make Puck "put a griddle round about the earth" in less than that time. But a French *savant* has considerably shortened the distance. He calculates that a man walking day and night without resting would take 428 days to make the complete round of the earth ; an express train would do it in 40 days ; sound at a medium temperature in 32½ hours ; a common ball 21¼ hours ; light a little over one tenth of a second ; and electricity passing over a copper wire a little under one-tenth of a second.

HENCEFORWARD the District Staff Officers, 1st and 2nd class, will be known as Assistant Adjutant-General and Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, respectively.

LAST year, the Indian tea yielded over 102 million pounds. In the present, the estimate is 115 millions.

It is announced through the *Pioneer* that "the Legislative Council is not likely to commence sitting at Simla for another month to come ; and when it does open, the Session will probably be a quiet and unostentatious one."

THE Chief of Palitana has offered Rs. 2,000 for a portrait of the Duke of Connaught.

NANA NARAYAN BHOR, the blind Mahratta, has obtained permission to practise as a pleader in the Poona Courts. His advocacy must be costly, and he will be the wonder of the age, if he succeed in the profession he has chosen. He has combatted many difficulties ; there are yet many more to surmount, not the least of them the jealousy of his brother pleaders.

THE Thakore Saheb of Gondal returns from England earlier than he had arranged for. He has grown acclimatised to that climate, but it does not seem to agree with the Rani.

A JAIN from Cutch arrived at Bombay in 1885. He proposed the construction of a Jain temple, and to prove his ardour and sincerity offered Rs. 1,500 as the basis of a subscription. The collection gradually swelled to Rs. 8,000, and was put in a bank. The astute Cutchee who had by this time earned the confidence of his community, proposed a more lucrative investment of the sum and himself offered a higher interest. There was no suspicion and the Rs. 8,000 was transferred to him. The Jain having now gained his object, made himself scarce. A warrant was issued for his arrest. He has surrendered himself and is in custody.

A FUND is being raised in Hyderabad for relief of distress in Mecca and its neighbourhood. The Nizam himself heads it with Rs. 25,000 from his privy purse.

THE head—Bal Kishen Das—of one of the leading banking firms in Hyderabad has been convicted, by the Nizam's High Court, of dishonestly using a forged document, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of a lac of Rupees.

THE local Government has permitted the Port Commissioners to expend Rs. 12,417-10-3 for a Jetty at Dabee Roy's Ghat.

MR. H. M. Kisch, Postmaster-General, Bengal, acts as Director-General of the Post Office in India, during Mr. Fanshawe's absence on furlough.

WE take the following report from an English paper of April 18 :—

"The ninth German Congress on International Medicine was opened in Vienna on April 15 with an address by Professor Nothnagel, and speeches by Baron Gautsch, Minister of Public Instruction, and the Burgomaster. About 500 physicians and others, including the first authorities in Austria and Germany, are attending the Congress. On April 16 Dr. Unna, of Hamburg, read a paper on the Physiology of the Skin. From numerous experiments he had found that by covering the skin with fatty substances the perspiration was reduced, and the temperature of the body consequently raised, while the application of gelatine had just the opposite effect. Professor Senator corroborated these statements, and added that the covering of the skin with gelatine was a good anti-pyretic. Professor Mosler, of Greifswald, followed with a paper on Pemphigus, a malignant vesicular eruption of the skin. In his bacteriological examinations of the products of this disease he had failed to discover micro-organisms, and he inclined to the belief that the disease belonged to the order of nervous disorders, as he found that it was always accompanied by pathological derangements of the spinal cord. During the discussion which ensued, Professor Kaposi pointed to the great mortality prevailing among patients suffering from this disease. Of 200 cases which had come under his observation 90 per cent. proved fatal. Professor Weber, of Halle, stated that he successfully treated a case of pemphigus with warm baths containing permanganate of potash."

THE new German Chancellor, with leave of the President, on opening of the proceedings of the Prussian Diet on April 15, after the Easter Vacation, addressed the following speech :—

"I have to-day for the first time the honour to appear before this exalted House. In asking leave to address the House before the Orders of the Day, I have not been animated by any intention of developing to you a programme in the name of the Government. Such procedure would appear to me questionable in itself, and, on general grounds, it would be for me personally, at the moment, impossible. Hitherto a stranger to political affairs, I am introduced to a sphere of activity, to obtain even a general survey of which has not up to the present moment been possible for me, but I considered it my duty, and I had a desire to appear here to take the first step towards the establishment of personal relations between you, gentlemen, and myself. You will understand that, in view of my great predecessor, I must have a keen desire to enter into personal relations with you, at least in so far as such personal relations promote the real despatch of business. I could not but feel like a Minister who commences his official activity with a serious deficit if I only took my own personality into account at this juncture; but if, nevertheless, I have entered upon my new office with good courage, it is because of the consciousness that other considerations make it possible for me, if not in such measure as my great predecessor, yet in a humbler degree, to conduct public business for the well-being of my country. (Applause.) I am convinced that the edifice which arose under the distinguished co-operation of Prince Bismarck, by the force of his genius, his iron will, his profound love of his country—that this edifice is firmly enough built and established to continue, now that the support of his hand is withdrawn, to resist wind and weather. (Loud applause.) I consider it an extremely gracious dispensation of Providence, that at the moment when the departure of Prince Bismarck from public life came, Providence should have caused the personality of our youthful exalted Monarch to stand forth so clearly in its significance for our own and other lands, and that this personality is fitted to fill the void and to step before the breach. I have, therefore, an irrefragable belief in the future of Prussia. I believe that the continuance of the Prussian State, and of the German Empire, which rests on its shoulders, will long remain a necessary event in the world's history; and I believe that this country, and this empire, have still before them a future full of hope. (Loud applause.) You will have read his Majesty's words that the course steered remains the old one, and the circumstances that my colleagues continue in their offices undisturbed will demonstrate to you that the Government has not any intention to inaugurate a new era. (Applause on the Right.) But it is involved in the nature of the case and in human nature, that against a force like that of Prince Bismarck's other forces could hardly find place, that, in the face of his resolute and self-reliant ways of regarding and conducting affairs, many another tendency had to fall into the background, many an idea, many a desire, even if justifiable, could not be fulfilled. (Hear, hear, on the Left.) The first consequence of a personal change, with reference to the Government itself, will be this, that the particular Ministerial Departments will gain larger scope and greater prominence than hitherto. (Applause on the Left.) It will, then, be inevitable that within the Prussian Ministry the old collegiate constitution of the Ministry shall obtain more recognition than was possible under that mighty President of the Ministry. (Applause.) Without possessing any formal authorisation, I believe I am warranted in declaring, in agreement with my colleagues, that the Government will everywhere be ready to receive such arrears of desires and ideas, to subject them to fresh examination, and, so far as the Government becomes convinced of their practicability, to fulfil them. (Applause.) We shall accept what is good from wherever and through whomsoever it may come—(loud applause)—and we will execute it when its execution, according to our conviction, is compatible with the good of the State. (Applause.) If the Government is ready to meet the House and the desires of the country in this fashion I may venture to express the hope that I also may reckon upon the same attitude on this side of the House and of honourable gentlemen. We will willingly co-operate with all, and we hope for their close union, in view of the undeniably difficult home situation which we shall probably have to ace. We will co-operate with all who have the welfare of Prussia at heart, and are minded to aid in the further conduct of the establishment and development in a national sense of this Empire."

M. PASTEUR's chief assistant has found cinnamon fatal to the typhoid fever microbe.

AT the Hoogly Criminal Sessions, Sairavi Dasi, aged 25, was convicted of false personation of another woman before a Sub-Registrar and execution of a deed of sale for a valuable consideration, and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. Two men who identified her before the Registrar have been ordered two years each.

AS a rule, rural Sub-registrars are miserably paid and too much work exacted of them. It is therefore not to their interest to be sufficiently careful or punctilious in the discharge of their duties, and whenever they find it profitable they make no scruple to relax the rules of the department. The whole system needs amendment, specially in the selection and remuneration of Sub-registrars.

THE Magistrate of Hooghly has sentenced a village Guru to four months' hard labour for introducing two passed boy-students at the last Primary Examination. The two boys have received as their prizes, by order of the same Magistrate, ten stripes each. We are afraid, the pass system—payment by results—is at the bottom of this disgrace.

AN old and systematic swindler has at last been spotted. Amrita Lal Dey, of 69, Aheritolla-street, Calcutta, has been sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment by the Ranchee Deputy Magistrate. He had applied to the Maharaja of Chota Nagpore for contribution towards an institution which existed in his imagination, named the Lansdowne Royal Scientific College. The Maharaja smelt a rat, and made enquiries. The Police at last took up the matter and brought to light other delinquencies of the Baboo.

Two months hence, Mr. Dey will doubtless be found in Upper India, an eloquent missionary of the Congress, like another well-known to the Bengal Police, who is now an oracle to our friends of the *Advocate*.

GEORGE CROFTON'S Pastoral Theatre in the maidan closes after to-night's performance. It seems not to have been patronized sufficiently for a longer duration.

THE Hardings make their last appearance at the Corinthian on Monday next.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE tenders for the new three per cent. Indian loan of £5,400,000 came up to £10,500,000. Tenders at £99-3-6 will receive 16 per cent. and above in full. The price of issue was 98.

Sir John Gorst, in reply to a question, said, that Lord Reay had threatened but not tendered his resignation, as he was reported to have done in his speech while leaving Bombay.

The Poor-house Lunatic Asylum near Norwich, New York, was, on the 8th instant, reduced to ashes. Eleven idiots and two other inmates perished. A ferry steamer on the Ohio was capsized the same day drowning twelve passengers. Another lunatic asylum, at Montreal, has also been destroyed by fire, burning and killing sixty inmates and damaging property valued at a million dollars. The lunatics who escaped are still at large and are committing mischief by setting fire to houses.

A loss of 10 million dollars by frauds over a period of years has been discovered in the Customs Department of the Argentine Republic.

The railway strike in Ireland has closed and the men have returned to duty. Those at Roubaix and Tourcoing in France are nearing their end.

Mr. Stanley had been to Windsor where he dined with the Queen, staying all night at the Castle. He had certainly a grand opportunity for dating his communications for the nonce from the royal abode.

There was a monster reception of the explorer by the Geographical Society at Albert Hall on the 5th. Royalty and authority were represented by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Cambridge. Mr. Stanley described the geographical results of his journey and the Prince of Wales presented him with a special gold medal of the Society.



Mr. Smith announced in Parliament that Government was prepared to discuss the Crawford case but could not afford facilities for a discussion.

Portugal has agreed, as was certain, to submit the Delagoa Bay dispute to arbitration.

The Emperor himself opened the German Reichstag on the 5th. His Majesty declared that his efforts were unceasingly directed to the continued maintenance of peace and that he had succeeded in strengthening the confidence of the Powers by that policy. He will cultivate existing defensive alliances and friendly relations with all foreign Powers. Any displacement of the balance of power will, he said, endanger the equilibrium forming the basis of the peace policy of Germany.

The Emperor passed under review the resolutions of the Berlin Labour Conference, and expressed his greatest solicitude for the interests of workmen. He pointed out the urgency which existed for the amelioration of the conditions of labour, in regard to which the Powers were concerting measures of relief.

The proposed increase of the army, which begins on the 1st of October, was, the Emperor said, in consequence of the action of neighbouring Powers in the same direction.

Among the bills announced are the Military Bill, which is already known, and measures for the protection of workmen.

THE heat is excessive in Calcutta. But the epidemics are dying out. The Influenza has almost ceased, the later attacks proving fatal in some cases. The mortality last week from cholera was reduced to 15 from 18 and 27 of the two preceding weeks. The deaths from small-pox were 20 against 36 in the previous week. The total deaths from all causes were 230 against 270 and 345 of the earlier fortnight.

ON account of the heat of the season, under advice of the Health Officer, the Port Officer has advised the commanders of vessels not to expose their crews to the sun between the hours of 11 A.M. and 4 P.M. That is of course an obvious necessary precaution, but, like many other obvious truths of grave importance, often strangely neglected, resulting in disease and even death among the poor sailors.

To sailors equally with landmen we are prepared to give advice which, if not of the obvious kind, will, we trust, be found nonetheless useful. Take frequent draughts of the sherbet of the pulp of green mango thrown into the fire and taken out before it is calcined. The green mango, indeed, in different forms, is a tried preventive of sun-sickness. Announced to the European world by the late Raja Radhakanta Deb Bahadoor, of Sobhabazar, during the Mutinies, for the express purpose of saving the invaluable lives of the British soldiery who were succumbing daily to the heat of the march or the halt under exposure, and adopted not without reluctance, it was a discovery of the highest importance. Thus the Bengalis who had invited the British to the sovereignty of this country, again helped them in their hour of sorest trial to maintain the hold.

THE noble example of the Maharaja of Vizianagram is already bearing fruit. The Cooch Behar Government has sanctioned, as a permanent charge on the State, a monthly grant of rupees one hundred towards a professorship in Dr. Sircar's Association for the Cultivation of Science. This liberality of the Maharaja is worthy of Bengal's own Prince. The amount may not be enough to draw a Professor, but the Durbar may increase it in time, and other Princes and Chiefs may come forward with their quotas.

WHILE an expedition has been sent to Europe to speak down Lord Cross and the existing régime and cry up Mr. Bradlaugh and Democracy and altogether *sumjhuo* the good people of England into faith in the Congress as the true political Saviour, patriots of less enterprise have kept themselves within the *Kalipani* to conquer and consolidate at home. In the North, Pandit Ajudhia Nath has been taking city after city. And what wonder? The notice of his coming circulated in advance is itself a triumph :—

"MAY THE EMPRESS  
CONGRESS! OF INDIA'S PROS- CONGRESS!  
PERITY ENDURE.  
CONGRESS!"

Be it known that on April 4, 1890, on Friday, at 3-30 P.M., a very great Congress meeting will be held, at which thousands will be pre-

sent, at (such-and-such a place). At that meeting the Hon'ble Pandit Ajudhia Nath will explain Congress matters, and will speak about the petition which will be presented to Parliament, of which the object is the remission of tax (*maafi tikas*), the advancement of Hindustan, and the strengthening of the English Government. All *raises* and residents are invited to attend."

The cleverness of that writer is beyond doubt, whatever may be thought of his principles. He starts with the assurance of success. There will be a great meeting of thousands in favour of the Congress. It matters little whether you attend or not, but in your own interest you can not well neglect such an opportunity of showing the stuff in you.

The notification does not stick at trifles. It roundly offers the most tempting of all political baits—remission of taxation. As for the elective system, a discreet silence is maintained.

HERE is another of the recent orders of the Government of India, in the Home Department, evidently the outcome of the inglorious ending of the Calcutta Town Hall meeting in honor of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales. It is addressed to all the Local Governments and Administrations :—

"I am directed to say that the Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the attitude which should be maintained by officers in the service of Government towards political and quasi-political movements with which they may be brought in contact. Servants of Government have not the same liberty of action as private individuals and are bound to hold themselves aloof from many movements which are perfectly legitimate in themselves and which private persons are free to promote. Their participation in such movements is open to objection, because their connection with them is likely to create and even to be appealed to for the purpose of creating a false impression in the minds of ignorant persons that such movements have the countenance of Government and because their influence with the community at large is liable to be impaired by their indentifying themselves with the class by which the movement is promoted.

2. For these reasons His Excellency in Council desires that the following rules may be observed by all Government servants :—

(a) As a general rule no officer of Government should attend at a political meeting when the fact of his presence is likely to be misconstrued as to impair his usefulness as an official.

(b) No officer of Government may take part in the proceedings of a political meeting or in organizing or promoting a political meeting or agitation.

(c) If in any case an officer is in doubt whether any action which he proposes to take would contravene the terms of this order, the matter should be referred to the Head of the Department or District and if necessary to the Local Government or Administration."

PANDIT Prannath Saraswati, M.A., B.L., the worthy son of the late Justice Sambhu Nath Pandit, has been elected the Tagore Law Professor for the next session. He came, he saw, he conquered, for he had the appointment almost for the mere asking, as he had not, like his brother pleaders, to wait and wait till other favorites had been provided for. The University has done itself honour as well in the selection as in the manner thereof. Pandit Saraswati is one of the most accomplished and learned of our lawyers and publicists.

THE practice of flaying alive goats in Calcutta, coupled with the inadequate punishment awarded by the Honorary Presidency Magistrates, has, we see, attracted the attention of the Press in England, Mr. Labouchere, in particular, making it an occasion for attributing hard-heartedness to the natives of India generally.

In simple justice, we must exonerate our Mahomedan brethren from all responsibility in the scandal. It was the brutal conduct of some Hindoo butchers of Calcutta, that first brought the matter under public notice. That it has reached the dignity of an English agitation, we owe to the incapacity of the Honorary Magistrates who tried them to realise the gravity of the offence committed by the butchers. The chief responsibility, however, rests not with the unpaid magistracy. The Indian journals never dealt tenderly with the practice, and always severely commented on the insufficiency of the punishments awarded. But no body took the trouble to enquire why all these cases of an exceptional character were made over to the Honorary Magistrates for trial, and why not a single one of them was retained on the

file of the stipendiary Magistrates. These quietly allowed the cases to be transferred to the Benches, without making a precedent for them to follow. We must not, however, omit to mention that the highest penalty under the Cruelty to Animals Act—under which these prosecutions were made, is only a fine of Rs. 100, and it was doubted whether the Act was amended to cover the particular offence.

The tendency of the stipendiary magistrates has long been to take a brief magisterial airing on the bench, doing as little as they can and making over the bulk of their work to the poor Honorary Magistrates. It is strange that Government do not take notice of such a state of affairs, so long continued, at the very capital.

A JEW, Elias H. Solomon, is under arrest for colossal frauds on the Bank of Bengal and the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Bank. He is charged with defrauding the Banks of over ten lacs of rupees by forged documents—opium passes. The Bank of Bengal started the prosecution, but Government intervened and wanted to take charge of the case. The Bank resisted the attempt. It brought down Counselor Woodroffe to the Magistracy but ultimately retired, leaving the prosecution to Government. Mr. Aparcar thus opened the case on behalf of Government against the accused:—

"The accused was for some years a constituent of the Bank of Bengal. He was a purchaser of opium from the Government sales, and was both a dealer and shipper of opium. On many occasions the accused had received advances from the Bank of Bengal on what were called passes issued by the Board of Revenue after the usual monthly sale of opium. These sales were notified in the beginning of the year. The purchasers paid the necessary deposit and then paid the balance, and obtained passes, showing that the chests were in the godown, and were the property of the persons to whom the passes were granted, or in whose name they were endorsed. On the 21st of January last the accused took four opium passes, representing 600 chests of opium, to Mr. Balfour, the then Superintendent of the Loan Department in the Bank of Bengal, and representing them to be opium passes for which chests of opium were in the godowns of the Board of Revenue, he got an advance of six lacs of rupees. On the 6th of February in the same way he brought two passes representing 350 chests of opium, and obtained an advance of three lacs and forty thousand. Mr. Balfour gave over charge of the Loan Department on the 11th March to Mr. David Crowe. On the 20th March, Solomon, the accused, paid one lac on the four passes which he had pledged with the Bank on the 21st of January, and redeemed one of the four passes, so that three passes were left, and five lacs still unpaid. On the 7th of April accused brought two more passes representing 335 chests of opium, and obtained from the Bank of Bengal two lacs and eighty-three thousand rupees. The passes bore the endorsement of E. H. Solomon, and were forgeries. Subsequently, accused, being pressed, sent another pass representing 75 chests of opium as additional cover for the loans of advances made to him by the Bank. These forged passes purported to bear the signatures of J. Knox Old, Superintendent, and G. C. Chuckerbutty, Assistant, in the Board of Revenue, which were forgeries. The genuine passes bore the Government stamp which were not on the forged passes. Mr. Aparcar said he would also prove that comparing the writing in the body of the documents and the signature of the accused, they were in the same handwriting, and that the signatures of J. Knox Old and G. C. Chuckerbutty were forgeries. He would also show that when these passes for opium were alleged to be in existence, there was not the quantity of opium in the Government godowns. It would also be proved that the Nos. of the lots shown on the passes were the Nos. sold to Mr. Gubboy, and the opium delivered to him when called for. It would be shown conclusively that, on the representation made by the accused that the documents were genuine passes, cheques were given to him by the Bank of Bengal, and the cheques bore his endorsements on them."

The case stands adjourned to Monday next.

Meanwhile, our King of Israel—the same Solomon—we find, figures in the Insolvent Court.

AFTER having done all the mischief possible, Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyaratna now awakes from his sleep of Kumbhukarna to pour oil over the troubled water. He was evidently not prepared to be caught in the act—of striking at the religious and social institutions of his Hindu fellow-subjects. Our publication of his secret correspondence with the Chamber of Commerce forced him out from cover. He now makes a virtue of necessity and lays his correspondence before the public. In his covering letter to the *Statesman*, he thus justifies his conduct in connection with the Doorga Pooja holidays:—

"Several letters condemning me in connection with the question of Hindoo holidays having appeared in your correspondence columns, I beg the favour of your publishing the annexed copies of correspondence that passed between the Chamber of Commerce and me on the subject. I shall feel much obliged by your kindly drawing your readers' attention to the fact that I was asked only to furnish a list of the Hindoo holidays, *particularising* the days that are days of 'actual worship,' and to indicate, in the list of Hindoo holidays given in the Bengal Government notification, the days 'imperatively required for the performance of religious rites, and especially the strictly worship days in the Doorga and Lakshmi Poojas,' but that I was not asked to

mention the number of days for which I thought offices should be closed on the occasion of each Pooja. For the Doorga Pooja, as a matter of fact, I consider 12 days holiday, for various reasons, by no means too long."

The Pandit, after his wont, wants to please everybody. When he rushed into correspondence with the Chamber, he knew what he was doing and knew why the Chamber selected him, of all men, and for what purpose, and now that he is assailed from another quarter, by his own people, the Nayaratna takes shelter under a quibble, and assures his people that the 12 days' holiday is by no means too long.

SOME one—doubtless no friend to the Papacy—has calculated that the Cardinals at Rome receive an aggregate pay of £750,000 a year. But then the revenues of the Anglican Bishops? The receipts of the various Churches together form no doubt a vast and formidable total, before which the emoluments of all the Brahmins that ever lived sink into a veritable beggar's dole.

AMERICA maintains its name for being "go-ahead" in every thing. The latest discovered Continent has itself in our age taken rank as the Land of Discoveries. It has now surpassed itself by the invention of a new and perfectly original grievance. There is a Brummagem in Lancashire in England and there is a Brummagem in Connecticut in the United States. The British Brummagem takes the lead of the whole world in brass, Paris itself coming after it. But for brazenness all round, the Transatlantic Brummagem beats the universe. The girls of the Brass Factory there have, after the manner of workmen elsewhere, struck work. The problem here is not economical but rather emotional—not so much political as poetical. The girls' ground for mutiny is thoroughly characteristic. They inveigh against the tyranny of Capital encroaching on the right divine of gals to make love and be foolish. They would rather starve than continue to earn the wages of such slavery.

Let the reader think we are drawing upon our imagination for this picture of the female proletariat of the go-ahead Continent, we extract the following paragraph which is going the round of the press:—

"At Birmingham, Connecticut, the girls employed in the Housatonic Brass Company's factory have struck because they are not allowed to flirt with men across the street."

Poor Brass Girls! Relentless Brass Masters! The prohibition subtracts all poetry from the factory. What is the life of a factory gal worth after the loss of the dear privilege? Down with the Black Act! Flirting for ever!

THE Director of Public Instruction thus reports on the working of the Government School of Art during 1888-89:—

The number of students has risen from 158 to 172, and the expenditure from public revenue from Rs. 24,978 to Rs. 25,462.

Mr. Jobbins remarks that the students in the technical classes are doing excellent work, particularly in the wood-engraving and lithographic classes, and a considerable amount of outside work has been satisfactorily executed. Less work has been done this year in the advanced painting classes owing to the fact that 22 of the advanced students have entered as candidates for the first certificate of the 3rd grade. The work prescribed for this certificate includes examples in various stages of drawing as light and shade, outline, drawing with instruments, &c. The second certificate, "Painting and Design" will be commenced after the completion of the first. It is estimated that the execution of the works and preparation for the examination will take a year for each certificate.

The holder of one or more certificates of the 3rd grade will be eligible for employment as teachers.

Special classes have been instituted for those students desirous of becoming teachers. Lectures on Perspective, Practical Geometry and Model Drawing, are now given every week.

Another innovation is the establishment of a class for still-life painting. The progress of the students in this class has been most satisfactory.

In the elementary classes free-hand test papers (to be worked in a given time) are given out every week. The Superintendent examines and marks them himself and the results are put up in a conspicuous place in the class rooms.

The following prizes have been offered for competition among students of the school.

His Excellency the Viceroy. A silver medal to be awarded to the student who at the end of the year has made the greatest progress in any of the classes under instruction.

The Hon'ble Sir Alfred Croft. Four silver medals.

1. For the best head painted from life in colours in any medium.
2. For the best study of still-life in oils or water-colours.
3. For the best example of modelling in clay or wax.
4. For the best architectural drawing.

These prizes have been instituted in connexion with the Calcutta Art Society.

His Highness the Bara Thakur of Tipperah. A gold medal.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohan Tagore. A silver medal.

The Superintendent mentions the great assistance he has received from Mr. Ghilardi, the Assistant Principal, and Baboo Annoda Prasad Bagchi the Headmaster.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1890.

### A CONGRESS PUBLISHER AND THE LITERATURE OF THE CONGRESS.

WHATEVER opinions may be held by different politicians and thinkers about the objects of the Congress, or about the seasonableness or unseasonableness of the agitation or its methods, the phenomenon of the agitation itself is indisputable, though its proportions and influence may be exaggerated. The movement has drawn thousands in all parts of the Empire, including men of all sorts—good, bad and indifferent. The prime movers and their immediate followers are not a few, and they are all working with no little energy. Their wisdom may be questioned, their tactics condemned, their very sincerity suspected, but their apparent zeal is patent. Few as the chief leaders may be, they have plunged into the thing with heart and soul. They have made sacrifices and shown ability. They have maintained the movement with their purse, and have planned and perfected a great organization with numerous branches and wide ramifications. From this point of view at any rate, they are entitled to indulge the highest hopes, and may well declare—

'Tis not in mortals to command success ;

But we'll do more, Sempronius ; we'll deserve it.

The Congress has its press of course. All the Hindu journalism of the country, with three notable exceptions, is devoted to its service. That is a phenomenal fact. The Congress has found its Publisher too. Not that it has any recognised publishing House, but, with its luck in other respects, it has received the advantage of one. The times have evolved it—the movement has created it. A speculative printer has seized the opportunity. That enterprising gentleman is Mr. Ganga Prasad Varma, of Lucknow. Although not by Appointment, he is to all intents and purposes Publisher to the Congress. And he is the sole Publisher. There is no other in the field. Nor is there any likelihood of one. For, his publications are the despair of all brethren of the craft who might aspire to have a hand in the pie. By his cheap and prompt production he will always distance all competition. His work is far from handsome, but it is good enough, and, what is the prime consideration, within the means of the reading classes. His paper is not milk-white, nor his ink jet-black, but as the paper is thick and the type new, the print is clear. And surely sumptuous letter-press is much of a waste in matters so ephemeral, and distinctly out of place in this country.

Mr. Varma—the trade name of his business is G. P. Varma and Brothers (*sic*) Press—has, by his printing and publishing activity, doubtless advanced the cause. During the last two years, he has issued tract upon tract. These were not original works, but they were virtually such to most, and useful to all. Made up of matter from the newspapers and periodicals in England and in this country, they from the first allowed the masses of the Indian reading public a real opportunity of perusing and pondering what was said on the great Movement in the two countries. Newspapers like the *Pioneer* are in no sense popular. The circulation they boast

of is exclusive and sectional—simply racial—being confined to Europeans. Even the official *Gazette* is *caviare* to the general, and publication in the newspapers under European conduct is no publication to the people. As for the journals of Great Britain, the very names of most of them had not been heard by most natives. Even the more educated among them have not to this day seen a copy of the *Times* or the *St. James's Gazette*. Hence the value of Mr. Varma's labours in educating the popular mind on the subject of the Congress. Even those who had seen the speeches, epistles and essays in their original spheres at their first appearance, appreciated their reproduction together in a durable and handy form.

Mr. Varma's most important publication was one of his earliest. In a thick royal octavo volume, in unboarded coloured paper cover rather than a pamphlet—under the name of *India in England*, he fairly broke ground and laid the solid foundation of his claim to be the Publisher of the Congress. This is a reprint of all that had been said and written on the subject in England in 1888. First, we have so much of Sir William Hunter's address at the annual meeting of the National Indian Association at Willis's Rooms on the 3rd March of that year, under the presidency of Lord Hobhouse, on Recent Movements in India as relates to the National Congress, with Sir Charles A. Turner's remarks thereto and Mr. Dadabhai Naorojee's speech too. After another short speech by the last named, comes a longer speech from Mr. Caine, M.P. Then comes the Programme of the Indian Political Agency, followed by the covering letter of the President forwarding the Proceedings of the Third National Congress. The really valuable matter now appears in Sir W. W. Hunter's letters to the *Times*. Then come extracts from the newspapers. The pamphlet which the late Chief Justice of Bengal published soon after his retirement—"A Few Plain Truths about India"—is next reprinted, followed by Mr. Bonnerjea's speech at Wainfleet, then Messrs. Bonnerjea and Norton's speeches at Gateshead, again Mr. Bonnerjea's speeches at four different places, Mr. Bradlaugh's speech on Our Indian Empire, Sir William Wedderburn's Lecture on Our Duty to India, an extract from a letter from Sir John Phear on the Congress, and a short letter to the *Times* by Mr. Digby on Sir Auckland Colvin. Then follow two appendices containing Mr. Norton's letters to the *Hindu* and various letters and articles bearing on the subjects. The whole is preceded by an original Introduction of some dozen pages.

"The National Congress Vindicated" is another of Mr. Varma's publications of last year, containing Lord Dufferin's St. Andrews' Dinner Speech and Mr. Norton's Open Letter to the Marquess of Dufferin. The same year he published "Two Memorable Speeches of Mr. Eardley Norton delivered at Patcheappah's Hall, Madras, giving an account of the work of the Indian Political Agency and his English Travels." These are all interesting *brochures*, and their value will be daily more and more recognised as people require to refer to any of the incidents of the movements going on. Such a publisher is an important ally to the cause.

### NEPAL.

THE Indian Political Agency is doing magnificent work. That will be conceded by friends and foes alike. No candid mind can help admiring the ability

with which it is being worked; above all, its energy fairly staggers one. The Indian Congress whose interests it was started to promote, would have been sufficient to engross the working capacities of any organization. To recommend such a novel movement with the grave problems and wide possibilities involved in it to a practical unimaginative people like the British, is a task of the heaviest and most exhausting kind imaginable. But the Congress is but one department of the Agency, though by no means the least important. The Political Agency is a great unofficial India Office in London and no mean rival of the official institution. It is regarded by the people of India, suffering from the indifference of the official classes and the secret methods of government prevailing in this country, as a final board of appeal. It lends ear to all complaints, and advises and helps parties to the best of its power. What an enormous amount of work must be thus thrown upon it, may be imagined! Up to this, it is struggling valiantly with the ever-crowding demands upon its resources. In its miscellaneous department, the Agency has done some notable work. We are only afraid that the discerning public is unable to keep pace with the quick succession of public questions turned out by it. Certainly, amidst the vast mass the proportions of different subjects are apt to be missed.

Some such cause must account for the strange neglect which has befallen the Agency's literary effort in behalf of the despoiled and exiled Princes of Nepal. Neither in the cause nor in the treatment thereof, was there anything to justify indifference. It must therefore be that the multiplicity of the interests forced on the notice has bewildered the public and the press into an attitude of dumb show before a brilliant performance. Such undoubtedly is Mr. Digby's elaborate pamphlet. We call it a pamphlet advisedly, as advocating a cause in practical politics, otherwise, it might well be described as a grave work. To begin with, it comes to us in all the dignity of a well printed and profusely illustrated octavo, bound in cloth gilt. The matter is historical, involving no little research, and the manner is of the best. Apart from the particular cause advocated, the book is a valuable contribution to the history of Nepal with special reference to the course of British relations with that country. Indeed, but for its immediate object, it would pass for a smart historical essay. The main portion sets out with an account of the kingdom of Nepal and proceeds to relate its various fortunes until the ascendancy of Sir Jung Bahadur who consolidates the power and cements the alliance with Great Britain in the most splendid manner by fighting her enemies during the Mutinies. Then it goes on to recount the story of the present usurpation effected by base ingratitude and treachery and attended with massacre and spoliation and the present wretchedness of Sir Jung's family. The whole is preceded by some striking prefatory matters.

We will content ourselves with quoting the greater part of the preface as a specimen of the writing and an introduction into the subject:—

"In 1857

Sir Jung Bahadur places the resources of the Kingdom of Nepal at the service of the Governor-General of India. The offer is accepted. Less than a year after Lord Canning expresses cordial thanks for the aid which the Prime Minister of Nepal and his brave soldiers rendered in the suppression of the Mutiny, and adds: 'The friendly conduct of his Government, and the exertions and successes of his troops, will be held in grateful recollection not less in England than in India.' That Lord Canning was speaking the mind of England in so saying the English newspapers of the day bear testimony.

In 1886 and 1887

another Viceroy and Governor-General of India is, in view of what was said in 1858, asked to interest himself in Nepal, and to show some kindness to the family of India's friend in Mutiny days. The Dowager Queen of Nepal, a daughter of Sir Jung Bahadur, and other relatives of the late Prime Minister of Nepal, are refugees in India. They have been driven from their country and their homes by an act of wholly unjustifiable usurpation, the country not being misgoverned, and by a series of peculiarly base assassinations of most dearly beloved relatives. The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava is Viceroy and Governor-General. In culture, in broad-mindedness, and in a chivalrous sensitiveness to every honourable obligation binding upon the British nation Lord Dufferin is regarded as without a superior, and as not having many equals. Nevertheless, incredible as it may seem, with Lord Canning's plighted word on behalf of both England and India brought specially to his attention, his Excellency leaves the distressed daughter and nephew of Sir Jung Bahadur wholly without sympathy, and refrains from exercising that friendly intervention which was asked for and which could so easily have been rendered. One explanation, apparently, is alone possible. The Indian Foreign Office evidently had no copy of Lord Canning's letter to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, and Sir Mortimer Durand was, therefore, unable to verify the accuracy of the statements attributed to the Viceroy of thirty years ago."

"The 'grateful recollection' not less in England than in India' vouchsafed with sincerity to Sir Jung Bahadur by Lord Canning has been wholly effaced from the minds of the rulers of India. There remains England, whose 'grateful recollection' Lord Canning felt himself justified in proffering. It is the object of this little work to ascertain whether gratitude for such unique and most valuable aid as Sir Jung Bahadur rendered is as little cherished in England as, apparently, it is in India. The Dowager Queen of Nepal, her cousin General Dhoje Nursing, and other Nepalese refugees in India, entertain no doubt on this point. They believe British statesmen who ruled India in past days said what they meant and meant what they said, and that the British nation will stand by what they said. Not statesmen only have spoken. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, and not a few of the nobles of England, have been lavish in their acknowledgments of Nepalese help and goodwill to Britain in India, and, it must be presumed, have not been unmindful of the obligations consequential on such acknowledgments. The belief is cherished, with a confidence and fidelity that have in them much that is touching, that services so splendid and so timely as those rendered by Sir Jung Bahadur in 1857 and in 1858, and the subsequent hearty recognition of those services, cannot fail to bear some fruit. The crop looked for is not large. Only a little thoughtful consideration, and friendly intervention in a quarter where one word spoken with firmness from the Viceroy and Governor-General of India would be sufficient, in redemption alike of Treaty provisions and personal promises, are sought. These pages will have been written in vain if at least this much of justice is not granted through the friendly efforts of English people, or, better still, of his own generous and grateful motion, by the Marquess of Lansdowne, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, with whom is the power and, I would fain hope, the will also to do all that is desired and all that is due."

Mr. Digby has evidently had very able assistance in the correspondence of some of the fugitive princes. General Dhoj Nursing in particular, on the subject of their grievances. He has with a true artist's eye enriched his pages by freely quoting from their letters. For example, we quote a capital letter addressed to the head of the Jungs by the other members who had made up their minds that the good offices of the British Government should be invoked:—

"May it please your Royal Highness,

With profound deference and submission we, the undersigned, beg to approach your Royal Highness with this humble representation, expressive of our deep disappointment at the ungenerous treatment which we have experienced at the hands of the Government of India. After the treacherous murder of our universally beloved Prime Minister, Maharajah Sir Ranadip Sing, and the usurpation of power by Bir Shumshere and his brothers, we were induced to come to British India in the confident hope of receiving every assistance from our powerful ally in rescuing our country from the hands of the usurpers. That hope was based—

1st. On the services which Nepal had rendered to the Government of India during the Indian Mutiny;

and,

2ndly. On the third clause of our Treaty with the British Government (No. XLVII of 1801), which provides 'that the principals and officers of both Governments will cordially consider the friends and enemies of either State to be the friends and enemies of the other; and this consideration must ever remain permanent and in force, from generation to generation.'

But our hope was doomed to bitter disappointment. Within about two months of the cruel murder of Maharajah Sir Ranadip Sing, the Government of India, perhaps at the instance of a new Resident, wholly unacquainted with the country and the real sentiments of the people, and before we had hardly any opportunity of stating our case, precipitately recognised Bir Shumshere as Prime Minister, and entered into political relations with him as the rightful representative of the Nepal Durbar. On our arrival in British territory, memorials were submitted to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council on behalf of our country, and also for the restoration of our property, both



personal and immovable; but our representations have been altogether unheeded, and we have been subjected to a most galling police espionage as if we were the enemies of both States. The Government of India, which is never slow to insist on the observance of treaty obligations on the part of its allies, has shown its singular fidelity to Nepal by taking the part of the unscrupulous traitor.

Meanwhile, the country is being ground down under the iron heel of Bir Shumshere. There have been repeated massacres of innocent men since his usurpation of power; nearly all the nobility and trusted leaders of the people have been either killed or forced into exile, and their property seized by him; there is no security of life and property, justice being polluted at its very fount; trade and every industrial enterprise are being fast ruined by systematic oppression, and by jealous restrictions imposed on free intercourse between Nepal and the rest of India; the public revenue is wasted in promoting either the personal indulgence or the self-aggrandisement of the usurper, whose arbitrary will constitutes the law of the land; and the entire nation is utterly demoralised by a policy of stern repression, and emasculated by the deprivation of all means of successful resistance to tyranny. And who can say, now that the pillars of the State and the natural defenders of the throne have been removed, that Bir Shumshere will not, in the pursuit of his lawless ambition, crown his supreme guilt and infamy by ultimate regicide?

Under these circumstances, we humbly but most earnestly pray, that your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased, on behalf of our ancient kingdom, to make an appeal under the existing treaty to the People and the Parliament of Great Britain. England is no less just and generous than great and powerful among the nations of the earth; and we are sanguine that the moment her sympathies are awakened in favour of Nepal, the downfall of the tyrant is certain. We would ask the British Government, in fulfilment of its treaty engagements, to withhold its support from Bir Shumshere, and to assist us in establishing a regency, composed of the senior members of the Royal family, to conduct the administration of the State during the minority of our beloved sovereign. Such a regency, we are sure, would be most acceptable to all classes of the people, as being in entire harmony with precedents in our past history, and calculated to ensure the speedy restoration of internal peace and tranquillity by vesting the supreme authority of the State in those who are naturally entitled to our allegiance and veneration. And we are confident that if, under British auspices, your Royal Highness, attended by your faithful Sikhs, now appeared with a small force in Nepal, the army and the people—by this time wholly disillusioned—would readily flock to your Royal Highness's standard, and throw off the hated yoke of Bir Shumshere with heartfelt alacrity and with feelings of deep gratitude to their British deliverers.

With sentiments of profound loyalty and reverence,

We remain,

Your Royal Highness's most devoted and humble servants,  
(sd.) PADAM JUNG RANA BAHADUR,  
(sd.) DHOJI NURSING RANA BAHADUR,  
and others."

We will conclude with the Jaitha Maharani's representation to the Viceroy:—

"To Her Royal Highness Sri Panch, Dowager Jaita Maharani of Nepal. May it please your Excellency,

It is now upwards of two years since the writer of this, the Senior Dowager Maharani of Nepal, and daughter of Sri Jung Bahadur, came to British India under most melancholy circumstances. The late Sri Ranadip Sing, Prime Minister of Nepal, had been treacherously murdered by General Bir Shumshere and his brothers; and I myself, though a woman, had been shot at by them, and would have shared the same tragic fate but that I succeeded in escaping into the Residency by timely flight. With the aid of the Brigade stationed at Khatmandu, to whose command General Bir Shumshere had been appointed by the generous confidence of the late Prime Minister, the conspirators had killed General Juggut Jung and his son Yuddi Pratap; sent the leading Bhaddars into captivity, or otherwise compelled them to seek protection at the Residency; and thus established a military despotism on the ruins of the constitutional Government of the country. In this unhappy situation, I determined to leave Khatmandu for British territory; and I am thankful that I was enabled to fulfil my intention through the friendly assistance of the Residency officers and men. But I had to leave behind me my only daughter, who is Heir-Presumptive to the throne of Nepal, as well as all my personal property, with the exception of the jewellery I had on my person.

As the head of the Royal Family of Nepal during the minority of the Maharaj Adhiraj, I may be permitted to say a few words on the present situation. By the old laws of Nepal, the King only could appoint his ministers for carrying on the work of administration; but if the king happened to be a minor, as in the case of Rana Bahadur Shah, Grivan Yuddh Bikram Shah, and Rajendra Bikram Shah, the authority to appoint ministers, as well as the control of the administration, was usually vested in a Regency, composed of the senior qualified members of the Royal family. This law was, during the Premiership of my father, Maharaja Sir Jung Bahadur, abrogated in favour of a settled rule of succession to the Ministry, which was solemnly accepted by the then reigning Sovereign, Surendra Vikram Shah, and his father, Rajendra Bikram Shah, and by all the Bhaddars of the State. But neither under the old law, nor under Maharaja Sir Jung Bahadur's Rule of Succession, is General Bir Shumshere lawfully or constitutionally entitled to exercise the authority of the Durbar which he has assumed in his hands. The King is a minor, and could not have given him the power; of the three senior qualified members of the Royal family two, namely, the Senior Dowager Maharani and the King's uncle, are decidedly opposed to his elevation, and view his usurpation of power with the greatest distrust and consternation; while he stands only fifth on the constitutional roll of succession to the Premiership. Successful violence, therefore, is his only title to power; and if the

British recognition is founded on that fact, then I submit, it is opposed to the Treaty of 1801, the 3rd Article of which provides as follows:—

"The principals and officers of both Governments will cordially consider the friends and enemies of either State to be, the friends and enemies of the other; and this consideration must ever remain permanent, and in force, from generation to generation."

Surely the men who murdered the Prime Minister of Nepal; who attempted the life of a number of the Royal family, viz., of the Senior Dowager Maharani (which is felony punishable with death under the law of my country); who have placed the King's uncle in captivity; and subverted the constitutional government of the State; can only be regarded as her greatest enemies. I would respectfully ask your Excellency to think for a moment, if these unhappy events had occurred in England, how would the British people, how would all lovers of constitutionalism, regard the perpetrators of the crime? It is true Nepal is not England, but that is all the more reason why the truest friends and allies of Nepal should openly discountenance all political violence subversive of established order and tranquillity in the State.

Since my arrival in British India my minor daughter, I deeply regret to say, has been married by the party in power, into an inferior family and to a person acknowledged to be devoid of education, against my wishes and in spite of my strongest objections as communicated to the Foreign Office. No exigencies of policy nor considerations of political advantage could be pleaded in justification of the measure; it was, apparently, deemed not enough to have separated mother and child, and so the cruel wrong must needs be crowned with a crueler one, in order to inflict deep pain and humiliation on the exiled mother, if not to overawe the people of Nepal by a show of the irresistible power of the wrongdoers.

It is now, as I have said, over two years since I came to British India, but I am sorry to observe that no provision whatever for my support has been made by the present Government of Nepal. At the time of my departure from Khatmandu a promise in writing was extorted from me that I should not claim any personal property nor ask for maintenance during my residence in British territory; but, as the promise was given under compulsion, and without a consideration, it is, of course, not binding upon me. According to the established usage of my country, members of the Royal family, while residing in British India, have always been liberally supported at the expense of the State; and the Government of India has, in the past, benevolently interfered to secure for them fitting provision from the Durbar. What crime, what felony have I committed to merit a different treatment? Even the Junior Maharani of Rajendra Bikram Shah, although guilty of the grossest excesses, was amply provided for on her retirement to Benares. These considerations have induced me to seek the good offices of the great Government of India; and, therefore, in reliance on the friendship and amity which have long subsisted between it and our family I beg that your Excellency's Government will be graciously pleased to exercise its benevolent interference in securing a suitable maintenance for me and in recovering my personal property which I left behind at Khatmandu, from the present Government of Nepal.

I remain, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

SRI PANCH,

Senior Dowager Maharani of Nepal.

168, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta, May, 1888."

Nothing could be better expressed or more forcible. But *cui bono*? The despoiled Nepalese exile is a despoiled exile for a' that, and a' that.

#### A MAHOMEDAN PROTEST AGAINST ELECTIVE COUNCILS.

To the Hon'ble the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament Assembled.

The humble petition of the Committee of Management of the Mahomedan Literary Society, Calcutta.

SHWETH,—That the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta, founded in 1863, is the earliest educational and political organisation established for the purpose of representing their orthodox co-religionists throughout India, and promoting their interests, and your petitioners are the Members of the Managing Committee thereof.

That Your Petitioners are satisfied with the Indian Councils Bill as passed by the Hon'ble House of Lords, acting upon the advice and suggestions of the responsible rulers of this great Empire.

That your petitioners especially desire to express satisfaction at the omission of any elective principle from the said Bill, inasmuch as owing to the peculiar religious and social circumstances of India, the country is not yet fit for the exercise of such privileges, and it is their firm belief that should election form the basis of any portion of the contemplated legislation on the subject of the Indian Councils, the Mahomedan community though numbering some 50 millions will be at the mercy of a strong and compact Hindu majority whose notions of right and expediency are so different in many vital points from those entertained by the Mahomedans. History, both ancient and modern, is replete with instances of conflict between contending factions; and it is submitted that the Legislature may therefore well pause before enacting any measure which will have the practical effect of committing the interests of one community to the control of another.

In consequence of the backwardness of the Mahomedans in regard to English education and political organization, their com-

munity will be unable to benefit by any system of election, and even if they should secure a certain number of representatives, their numerical proportion could never be strong enough to ensure a due regard to their vital interests.

Your petitioners therefore whilst accepting gratefully the Bill abovementioned as an appreciable movement in advance towards reform, manifesting the confidence and good will of the British Government towards the Natives of India, humbly pray that in dealing with the Bill Your Hon'ble House will be pleased not to allow any system of election to be introduced therein, but leave the responsible executive Government of India to make such selections for the several Councils in India as under proper safe-guards they may consider right and proper in the interests of the various nationalities which form the subject races of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress.

And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.  
Calcutta, the 1st April 1890.

## THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

### THE KILIMANJARO MOUNTAIN.

At the Council meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on April 14 the awards of the honours for the year were finally decided upon. It may be as well to explain that at the meeting of March 24 the award of the gold medals of the society was virtually agreed to, though, in accordance with the rules, the final decision was deferred till April 14. At the same time it may be stated that upwards of a fortnight ago the president of the society telegraphed to Emin Pasha that one of the Royal medals had been awarded to him in recognition of the great services rendered by him to geography and the allied sciences by his explorations and researches in the countries east, west, and south of the Upper Nile during his twelve years' administration of the equatorial Province of Egypt. Emin Pasha was at the same time invited to come to London and receive the medal in person at the anniversary meeting of the society on July 16. In a telegram to the society some time previously Emin had expressed a hope that he would be able to come to London. As no reply has yet been received to the telegram announcing the award of the medal, it is not known whether the message has reached him. If Emin means to accompany a German expedition into the interior, it is of course highly improbable that he can be in London in the summer.

The other royal medal of the society has been awarded to Lieutenant F. E. Younghusband for his journey across Central Asia in 1886-87, from Manchuria and Peking *via* Hami and Kashgar, and over the Mushtagh to Cashmere and India, a distance of 7,000 miles.

Africa has claimed another honor this year from the society. The Cuthbert Peck grant has been awarded to Mr. E. C. Hare for his valuable observations on the physical geography of Tanganyika made during his many years' residence on that lake. The Murchison grant has been awarded to Signor Vittorio Sella in consideration of his recent journey in the Caucasus and the advance made in our knowledge of the physical characteristics and the topography of the chain by means of his series of panoramic photographs taken above the snow level. Finally, the Gill memorial has been given to Mr. C. M. Woodford for his three expeditions to the Solomon Islands and the important additions made by him to our topographical knowledge and the natural history of the islands. Mr. Woodford has just published a richly illuminated volume describing the results of his visits to these islands.

Dr. Hans Meyer then read a paper describing his ascent of the Kilimanjaro mountain, supposed to be the loftiest within the limits of Africa. This great snow peak of Eastern Africa has already been described by Dr. Meyer himself with great minuteness, and before his day more than one naturalist passed some time on its slope. When, in 1848, Mr. Rebman, of the Church Missionary Society, intimated to the world that there was in Africa, three degrees south of the Equator, a mountain covered with perpetual snow, his intelligence was received with something like incredulity, although it was fully confirmed by his companion, Dr. Krapf. All doubts on the matter were, however, finally set at rest by the visits paid to the mountain by the party of Baron Von der Decken, in 1862, and by that of Mr. New, who, in 1867, reached the lower edge of the snow. Since that date, it has been frequently examined, and described with more or less fulness. Sportsmen have haunted around its base and far up its lower reaches, and Mr. Johnston, now our Consul in Mozambique, passed several months collecting natural history specimens within the temperate area of its many climatic zones. In reality, it is now believed that long before modern African travel or travellers were dreamt of, Aristotle alluded to it when he wrote of "the so-called Silver Mountain," from which flowed the mighty Nile. But, says the *Standard*, no one will dispute Dr. Meyer's claim of being the first to attain the summit, or deny that to him belongs the glory of being its most exhaustive explorer, although he had the experience of more than one predecessor by which to profit.

Of late years, Kilimanjaro—or Kilma-Njaro, as the purists in

Bantu philology insist on writing the name—has assumed an entirely novel aspect. It has been found to be only one of several snow-capped peaks in the same region, and one of many dormant or extinct volcanoes in the African Highlands. Kenia, not to mention the white top of Ruwenzori, which Mr. Stanley has described in his preliminary account of his latest explorations, equals, if it does not surpass it in grandeur, though Kilimanjaro is undeniably the highest known point in Africa. Some of its rivals have, it is understood, been ascended, though there are, or there have recently been, such a number of private expeditions in Central Africa, that it is difficult to keep account of the work done by travellers, many of whom are sportsmen who do not essay literature, or are engaged on behalf of rival trading companies, which have every interest in keeping secret the movements of their agents. But Kilimanjaro is within the sphere of the German Company's operations, so that Dr. Meyer is justified in making the patriotic boast that in ascending the summit of this mountain he has been able to plant the flag of his country on the loftiest ground in German territory.

Kilimanjaro stands quite isolated from all other heights on the Eastern edge of the great plateau of Equatorial Africa, though Kenia and Lemeru lie only a hundred miles away, while due west, at a distance of between thirty and forty miles, towers the noble mass of Mount Meru. It has two principal summits, besides various volcanic craters now filled with vegetation, or, in one instance at least, with one of those strange tarns which are so familiar to geologists in the Eifel and other volcanic regions. The great peaks are Kibo, or Baremi, a magnificent dome distinguished by a smooth and regular outline, and Mawenzi, or Kimawenzi, which, on the contrary, is dark and rugged, the saddle between the two being a ridge several miles in extent. The first of these summits Dr. Meyer, during his three weeks' stay on the upper slopes of the mountain, ascended four times, while the latter was reached almost as often. Hence, perhaps, in spite of his modest disclaimer, there is not a great deal to do for those who come after him, the botany, zoology, and geology of the mountain having been thoroughly examined. The latest series of ascents commenced in October last, Dr. Meyer and his companion, Herr Purtscheller, being accompanied by a native of Pangani, though, as a rule, the tribesmen living on the sides of the mountain, unable to bear the cold of the higher reaches, decline to go as far as the snow line. The saddle-shaped plateau above Mareale's village, 14,270 feet above sea level, formed the basis of their operations. From this point they crept upwards along the great lava streams running in a south-easterly direction. At 16,400 feet they met the first snow, though in much smaller quantities than in July 1887. At 18,240 feet, in an atmosphere hard to breathe on account of its rarification, the lower limits of the ice-cap of Kibo were attained, and there what would be called in Switzerland the real Alpine work began. Coloured spectacles to prevent the climbers from being blinded by the glare of the snow, ropes to keep them from slipping, and axes to cut footholds in the slippery glacier, now came into use. Crevasses were numerous, and that difficulty of breathing which affects men so differently that, on the greatest heights of the Andes and the Himalayas yet attained, the "zoroche" has sometimes not been noticed, was so intense that a halt was necessary every few minutes. At length, just when their strength was all but exhausted, the rim of the Kibo crater was reached. But though they saw its highest elevation on the south side of the mountain rising some few feet above the ice-cap, they were unable to go further unless at the risk of having to bivouac without the least protection from the bitter cold of an elevation over 19,000 feet above the sea-level. Having climbed 5,700 feet in eleven hours, and, by discovering the eruptive cone in the bottom of the crater, having solved the problem of Kibo, they considered, not without reason, that for that occasion they had done enough.

Their next attempt was crowned with complete success, for they reached, with comparatively little labour, the highest point—Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze—which, by the aneroid barometer, an instrument by no means trustworthy at great elevations, was found to be 19,696 feet in height. Shifting their quarters, Mawenzi was next essayed. This summit seems much older than its twin peak; and owing to its ragged crumbling rock, worn away by ages of rain and wind and snow, it affords a less secure foothold than Kibo. Detached patches of grass straggle up to 15,750 feet. Beyond this all vegetation, except lichens and mosses, ceases. However, the different sides of the summit are not equally difficult, so that three ascents were accomplished to an elevation of over 19,300 feet. If, therefore, Dr. Meyer's estimates by the aneroid barometer are not inaccurate, the mountain is considerably higher than was previously supposed, 18,715 feet being the elevation usually given for it. The mere climbing of this peak, though creditable to the perseverance of Messrs. Meyer and Purtscheller, who, for sixteen days, worked at a height of over 13,000 feet, is of less geographical than biological importance, since the observations of previous explorers had made us fairly well acquainted with its general features, the 2,000 or 3,000 feet which were left for the Germans to traverse not being the most interesting of the 19,000. The lower reaches of the

mountains are those which will in future years be found most important. Already they are dotted with native villages, some of which ascend to a height where the climate is almost temperate. In the fertile, well-watered valleys of this volcanic mountain all crops can grow, from the fruits and grains of the tropics to the cereals and garden vegetables of the North. At 5,900 feet the last banana is passed, when a forest region is entered, which extends to about 11,000 feet. Then come grass-covered lava fields, which, we have seen, extend to between 15,000 and 16,000 feet, and, in detached patches, even further, though the zones of vegetation, of which there are six well defined, vary a little in different exposures. After this lichens and mosses assert their sway, until snow and ice stop the upward range of life. Kilimanjaro may, therefore, with its sister peaks, become, if not the most lucrative of the German possessions in Africa--and Sir Samuel Baker declares that he never saw anything in Africa except ivory "worth a shilling the pound"---at least the most important. For here Europeans can live in comfort; and no doubt, in the ages that are before us, sanatoriums like those on the Indian hills will be established on the heights of Kilimanjaro. The Germans are, indeed, fortunate in this respect. For if they have entered the field of African colonisation rather late in the day, they have secured in this summit in their East Coast possessions a health resort rivalled only by the Cameroons Peak in their pestilential territory on the Western shore of the Continent.

### THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION,—MAY 1 AND 5.

(Before Wilson, J.)

STEPHEN *vs.* STEPHEN.

The respondent in this case, which was a suit for divorce brought by a wife, did not enter any appearance or defend the suit, and in January last a decree *nisi* for divorce was obtained against him by the petitioner. Mr. Pugh now applied to the Court, on behalf of the respondent, for a rule to the petitioner to show cause why the Court should not set aside the decree *nisi*, or require further inquiry or have the affidavits of the applicant filed and placed on the record for consideration should it be deemed fit to make the decree absolute, or otherwise deal with the case as justice might demand. Mr. Pugh in support of the application said: The matter has been discussed by Mr. Justice Bayley at Bombay who reviewed all the English cases bearing on the point, as for example, *Stoate v. Stoate*, 2 Sw. and Tr., 384; *Boulton v. Boulton*, 2 Sw. and Tr., 405 and deplored the non-existence in this country of a Queen's Proctor. The 16th section of the Indian Divorce Act (No. IV. of 1869) provides that at any time after a decree *nisi* has been granted, and before such decree has been made absolute, any person shall be at liberty, in such manner as the High Court, by general or special order from time to time, directs, to show cause why the said decree should not be made absolute by reason of the same having been obtained by collusion or by reason of material facts not being brought before the Court; and that on cause being so shown, the Court shall deal with the case by making the decree absolute or by reversing the decree *nisi*, or by requiring further inquiry or otherwise as justice may demand.

Wilson, J.—What is the general character of the case? Which do you allege, collusion or suppression of material facts?

Mr. Pugh.—Both. The respondent's affidavit in support of this application states that he married the petitioner, who had been a Mahomedan, on October 1888, she having on the previous day been baptised as a Christian. That after their marriage she became acquainted with one Mr. Creet, and at her request, he was engaged to teach her English, and after a time, besides visiting respondent's house for that purpose, used to visit it at all times and up to a late hour in the night as a friend. That in December 1888 during respondent's absence from the house she allowed Mr. Creet to put his arm round her neck and kiss her, on learning which the respondent thrashed him and turned him out of the house. That petitioner and respondent made it up together on the next day upon the distinct agreement that Mr. Creet should be forbidden the house. That during his visits to the house Mr. Creet was guilty of various other familiarities with the petitioner. That on several occasions in January and July 1889, during the respondent's absence from the house, petitioner without his knowledge or assent visited Mr. Creet at his private residence. That in November last she left respondent's house with the ostensible object of going with her mother to Dacca for a fortnight; but in reality stayed in Calcutta and instituted this suit for divorce against him, of which suit he knew nothing till he was served with the summons. That after the institution of the said suit the petitioner, who was the owner of the premises No. 31-1, Theatre-road, subject to a mortgage for Rs. 14,000, told respondent that if he would promise not to enter an appearance in the suit she would make over to him the said premises in Theatre-road, which he could if he wished, settle for the benefit of their child, who was to remain in his custody. But that in case he would not consent, and opposed her in

getting a decree in the said suit, she would revert to her former religion of a Mahomedan and not part with the custody of her child, but bring her up as a Mahomedan.

That the respondent agreed with the petitioner that he would not, and did not, enter an appearance and defend the suit. That before the decree was made he consulted his attorney with reference to the carrying out of the agreement between him and petitioner as stated above. That after the decree had been obtained, the respondent's attorney had an interview with the petitioner's attorney, who told him the petitioner had made up her mind not to carry out the agreement as to the premises in Theatre-road, but was prepared to give the respondent Rs. 10,000. That the said suit had been managed on her behalf by the said Mr. Creet and that the suit was not a *bonâ fide* one, but was brought by the petitioner in order to obtain a dissolution of their marriage solely with the object of marrying the said Mr. Creet with whom, as respondent was informed, and verily believed, the petitioner had on many occasions since her marriage with the respondent committed adultery. That the respondent had not been guilty of adultery or cruelty to his wife.

Wilson, J.—There is nothing whatever in the affidavit except an allegation that he was a party to the corrupt bargain. There is no reasonable suspicion against the petitioner. He merely says, he believes she committed adultery with Mr. Creet.

Mr. Pugh having read the affidavit of Aratoon Simon Galstaun, his Lordship inquired whether he put it as a corrupt bargain negotiated between the two attorneys.

Mr. Pugh.—It does not seem that my client's attorney was employed in making the bargain at all.

Wilson, J.—This represents the two attorneys as parties to the bargain.

Counsel then cited in support of his contention the cases of—*Boulton v. Boulton* and Page 2 Sw. and Tr. 405; *Stoate v. Stoate*, 2 Sw. and Tr. 384; *King v. King*, I. L.R., 6 Bomb. 416; and *Clements v. Clements* and *Thomas*, 3 Sw. and Tr. 394. In *King v. King* it was ordered that the petitioner should appear in Court in person for examination, and the case was adjourned for that purpose. What happened then does not appear in the report.

Wilson, J.—Who is to cross-examine her?

Mr. Pugh.—That is the difficulty. There is no Queen's Proctor here.

Wilson, J.—In England the divorce law has two provisions—the first, for the protection of the interest of the parties; and the second, for the protection of public morality. In this country the legislature seems deliberately to have left out the second provision.

Mr. Pugh.—There being no Queen's Proctor here, and no other authority established in his place, any one who is willing to intervene ought, I contend, to be allowed to intervene.

Counsel then asked for a rule in the terms of section 16 of the Divorce Act, the terms of which have been already set out.

Wilson, J.—That is really a motion for a new trial.

Mr. Pugh.—It comes to that.

Wilson, J.—Suppose these affidavits are put up with the papers in the suit, and notice is given to the petitioner, and she goes into the witness box, who is to examine her unless she is examined by her counsel and answers 'No.' when the truth of each allegation is put to her.

Mr. Pugh.—That is the difficulty.

Wilson, J.—There is this difficulty as to section 16. This is an Act taken from the English Act, and yet one is to put an interpretation on the section totally different from that put on corresponding section in the English Act. Under the Indian Act no public officer is provided like the Queen's Proctor, to intervene in cases which seem suitable for such intervention.

Mr. Pugh.—Section 7 of the Act provides that subject to the provisions contained in the Act, the Indian Courts shall act and give relief on principles and rules, which in the opinion of the said Courts are as nearly as may be conformable to the principles and rules on which the Divorce Court in England for the time being acts and gives relief. Section 16 says any person may intervene; *i. e.*, according to the English practice any person may do so, except the respondent or some one moving at his instance. Yet in practice only the Queen's Proctor moves.

Wilson, J.—In England there have been numerous instances of private interveners.

Mr. Pugh.—In the contemplation of the Act the great mass of the cases would be intervened in, by the Queen's Proctor. A liberal interpretation should be placed on section 16.

His Lordship intimated that he would take time to consider the matter, and on Wednesday delivered the following judgement:—

I shall follow the course adopted by the Bombay High Court in *King v. King*, I.L.R., 6 Bomb. The affidavits which have now been filed by the respondent and others in this matter will be put up with the record of this suit. As in the Bombay case, when the case comes on for the decree to be made absolute I shall not allow the respondent to be heard, but I shall direct that notice be given to the petitioner's attorney that her decree shall not be made absolute till the matter of collusion has been fully cleared up. She must take what course she may be advised in the matter.

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## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE INVINCIBLE ARMADA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF SCHILLER.  
BY A BRITISH OFFICER.

*Affavit Deus, et dissipati sunt.*—Elizabethan Medal.

SHE comes, she comes, the southern haughty fleet,  
Borne on the bosom of the groaning main,  
With shackles laden and a hated creed,  
And threatened thunders from a thousand mouths.

Big with the world's destruction she bears on,  
A swimming host of towering citadels,  
(Such as the sea ne'er looked upon before,)  
Her boastful name—The Invincible Armada.

How loud the title by the spreading fright,  
She strikes on all around ;  
Old Neptune, awestruck, with majestic pace  
His burden onward bears.  
Behold, she nears ! each gale, each storm is hushed.

See, where she floats right opposite thy shores,  
Thou happy isle ! Fair ruler of the seas,  
Great-hearted, proud Britannia !  
'T is thou they threaten, with their galleon hosts :  
Woe, woe to thy free-born gallant sons !  
See, where she floats ! A thunder-laden cloud.

Who won thee, say, that high and priceless gem  
That made thee queen of nations upon earth ?  
Didst thou not conquer, from thine own proud kings,  
Of nation's laws the wisest ever known ?  
The Magna Charta, that turns your kings to citizens,  
Your citizens to kings ?  
The sea's proud sway ;  
Hast thou not wrung it from a million foes,  
In bloody battle on the foaming main ?  
Who won it for thee ? Blush, ye nations all !  
Who, but thy mind, thy spirit, and thy sword ?

Thou doomed one ! Mark those grand batteries yonder ;  
Mark ! with forebodings of thy glory's fall ;  
Throughout the world all eyes are strained on thee,  
In anxious fear. / Each freeman's heart beats high,  
And every good and beauteous soul bewails,  
In sorrowing brotherhood, thy glory's fall !

God, the Almighty, cast his eye on earth,  
And saw thy foe's proud lion-flag unfurled ;  
Saw, threatening, open thy too certain grave.  
Shall, said He, shall my Albion pass away,

And perish thus my noblest heroes' stock ?  
Oppression's rocky barrier crumble down,  
And last obstruction 'against a tyrant's power  
Be swept away from off the hemisphere ?  
/ Shall manly worth's firm bulwark be destroyed ?  
God, the Almighty, blew--  
And scattered to each wind th' Armada crew !

### LOVE IN SORROW.

WHAT shall I do for thee ? Thou hast my prayers,  
Ceaseless as stars around the great white throne ;  
No passing angel but to heaven bears  
Thy name, wreathed round with some sweet orison ;  
Yet evil on thy path may come and go,  
Taking deliberate aim to lay thee low,  
While I stand still, a looker-on, to prove  
The penury and silence of my love !

How can I comfort thee ? my tears are thine ;  
Full duteously upon thy griefs they wait ;  
If thou art wronged, the bitterness is mine,  
If thou art lonely, I am desolate ;  
Yet still upon thy brow the darkness lies,  
Still the drops gather in thy plaintive eyes,  
The nails are sharp, the cross weighs heavily--  
I cannot weep away one pang for thee !

The midnight deepens—and I cannot guide ;  
The tempest threatens—and I cannot shield ;  
I must behold thee wounded, tempted, tried,  
Oh, agony—I may behold thee yield !  
What boots that altar in my heart, whereon  
Thy royal image stands, unbreathed upon,  
And pure, and guarded from irreverent glance,  
With a so vainly jealous vigilance ?

Oh, were this all ! But no—I have the power  
To grieve thee by unwary tone or deed,  
Or, niggard in my fear, to miss the hour  
For comforting with hope thy time of need,  
To hide, too shyly, half the love I feel,  
Too roughly touch the wound I seek to heal,  
Or even, (oh, pardon ! ) wayward and unjust,  
To wrong thee by some moment of mistrust.

Yet I would die for thee, and thou for me ;  
We know this of each other, and forgive  
Those tremblings of our frail mortality,  
So prompt to die, yet so afraid to live.  
Lift we our eyes to heaven ! Love greets us thence  
Disrobed of its earthly impotence,  
Even human love—below, still doomed to be  
Stronger than death, feebler than infancy !

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

It is gravely announced that the Nizam has been elected an honorary member of the Northbrook Club in England. Great condescension on the part of the Club.

THE difference between His Highness Siyajirao Holkar and his mother have been made up, and they have together gone to Nowsari.

THE Mysore mines yielded last year gold worth Rs. 20,00,000.

A STRIKING proof of the futility of moral text-books is afforded by a late incident in the London Police Courts. On the person of a burglar caught breaking into a fishmonger's shop in the city, was found a slip of paper filled with the following writing :—

" 'Keep good company or none,' 'Honesty is the best policy,' 'Drink leads to ruin,' 'Honour thy father and thy mother,' 'Civility costs nothing,' 'Do not mock at sacred things.' "

AN infant, two and a half years old, of the Teli caste, has lately been given in marriage at Ramkristopore, Howrah, to a man aged thirty seven.

IN consequence apparently of recruiting difficulty, Government have withdrawn the orders against recruiting for Native regiments from Afghanistan consequent upon the number of desertions during the Afghan War, and have sanctioned the formation of new Afridi companies in certain selected regiments.

THE following "home news" comes to us all the way from Hyderabad in the Deccan, by way of the far Punjab :—

"A correspondent sends to the Lahore paper an account of what he mildly describes as 'a strange event' which occurred at a village called Banagram in the sub-division of Jessore in Lower Bengal. In his own words :—'A Bengalee pleader, named Chatterjea, swooned away in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate after finishing his pleadings in a case. The doctors, after examination, decided that death had taken place. The corpse was accordingly taken to the cremation ground, and directly the fire was applied to it, there was a terrific noise like that of a thunderclap, and the body flew up to a height of about 100 feet and fell into the river that flowed past the cremation ground. The body was no more seen as it sunk down directly it fell. The phenomenon has created a sensation in the village, and the superstitious among natives are attributing the thing to causes which only the superstitious can believe.'—*Hyderabad Record*, 9th May.

IT will be remembered that soon after the executors of the late General Nassau Lees sold the *Times of India* to the editor Mr. Curwen and the manager Mr. Kane, they were presented with an address of grateful appreciation by the *employés* on the establishment. On the eve of Mr. C. E. Kane's departure for Europe, there was on the 10th another meeting of the servants to present him with an address. The two proprietors of the *Times of India* have subscribed liberally, out of their pockets, in aid of the Provident Fund which their *employés* have started.

IT is said that as many as 61 Parsis have been admitted into the Poona Volunteer corps, and they are undergoing recruit drill with commendable assiduity. Meanwhile, news comes that the relations between the European and Eurasian members of the Poona Volunteer corps on the one side and the Parsees on the other have already become strained, and the former have taken objection to the admission of the latter.

THERE is at least one hero and statesman among our Mahomedan brethren of Madras. He glories in the characteristic name of Mahomed Anwar-ud-Din. Speaking at the late annual meeting of the Mahomedan Association of Madras, for the purpose of inducing his co-religionists to educate themselves, "If Russia attempted to invade India," he is reported to have said, "she would not only be repulsed, but lose all her conquests in Central Asia, in governing which educated Indian Mahomedans would be called on to help. Mahomedans would then reap the reward of their labours."

THE Opium Agent, Behar, Mr. W. Kemble is Gazetted to act as Commissioner of the Patna Division, during the absence, on deputation,

of Mr. C. C. Stevens, Mr. W. H. D'Oyly, Magistrate and Collector, Mozufferpur, acting as Opium Agent.

MR. P. G. Melitus, Bengal Civil Service, officiates as Postmaster-General, Bengal, for Mr. Kisch, promoted temporarily to the Directorship-General of the Post Office of India.

THE Damuda-Rupnarain Survey Division has been abolished from the 1st instant.

THE Chitpore Lock of the Circular Canal, hitherto closed for examination and repairs, has been re-opened for traffic since yesterday.

IN October 1886, the Bengal Government promulgated rules for the payment of revenue not exceeding Rs. 50 in amount a year by means of postal money-order in the Burdwan and Dacca Divisions. The system being found successful, the rules were, in April of the following year, extended to all the districts in the Lower Provinces. In March, 1888, further extension was ordered in respect of all demands on account of land revenue, of whatever amount, and of Zemindari and other cesses. In July 1889, the system was experimentally introduced for six months in the Burdwan Division for payment of rent. The Board of Revenue then recommended the general adoption of the system, but the Lieutenant-Governor is cautious enough and is unwilling "to extend too rapidly a change which may have important consequences, and considers that the power conferred by the Act (Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885) should be exercised in the divisions which in their circumstances most resemble Burdwan." Accordingly, from the 1st July 1890, payment of rent by means of postal money-order has been authorized in the Burdwan, Rajshahye, Presidency, and Dacca Divisions.

THE Calcutta University has commenced to announce the results of the last examinations. In Medicine, 9 students have passed the Preliminary Scientific L. M. S. ; 20 in the First L. M. S. ; and 13 in the Second L. M. S. It is bungling too long over the Entrance and First Arts Examinations.

FROM the commencement of the current month, the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to empower the Port Officer of Calcutta

to receive the fees payable in respect of surveys in the Port of Calcutta ;

to receive declarations of Surveyors in the Port of Calcutta ;

to deliver certificates of survey of steam-ships, to give notice to owners or masters of steam-ships when certificates are ready for delivery, and to receive expired, cancelled, or suspended survey certificates in the Port of Calcutta.

These duties, we believe, were hitherto entrusted to the Port Commissioners, and is it in the interests of the Port that they are now transferred to the Port Officer? We hope there will be no friction between the Surveyor and the Officer of the Port.

IN Russia, they have proposed to connect St. Petersburg with Archangel, a distance of over 500 miles, by a railway to be worked entirely by electricity. The cost is estimated at a little over 3,000*l* a mile, including rolling stock. The current will be supplied from a series of generating stations distributed along the line. It will be necessary to span a wide stretch of country between the Baltic and the White Sea.

PROFESSOR Kaufmann, of Paris, is said to have successfully treated snake-bite by putting a tight ligature over the wound, and injecting into the wound, with a morphia syringe, a mixture consisting of one part of chromic acid to two parts of water.

THE latest development of surgery is *dégraissage*, or the removal of fat from the body. It is reported by a Paris correspondent that Doctors Marx and Demars successfully operated upon a literary man, M. Hiroguelle. They raised the skin and cut away four-and-quarter pounds of the adipose tissue. Of course, the patient was put under chloroform. The skin was stitched up and it healed in about a week. The patient is said to have suffered only from headache, the effect of the chloroform.

A BARISAL correspondent communicates to the *Statesman* the following information of archæologic interest :—

"About eight years ago a couple of copper plates of the same size, together with brass idols, numbering 40 in all, were found by a Mahomedan cultivator when levelling a mound at Asraffore, thanna Rtipura, in the district of Dacca. One of the plates some parts of which had been completely mutilated by age, was purchased from the finder by Babu Protap Chandra Bannerjee, the well-known Zemindar of Mura-para in Dacca, and was presented by him to the Asiatic Society. It was deciphered by Raja Rajendralala Mitra, and a *fac simile* of the inscription and an English translation of the same were published in the *Journal* of the Asiatic Society. The plate was said to have borne the names of Raja Khadga Shinlia and his wife Ranee Probbabati, who made a gift of certain lands to a Buddhist monastery in the eighth century, *i. e.* eleven hundred years ago. I have seen another plate which is still in the possession of the Mahomedan who is not willing to part with it unless Rs. 25 be given him. No part of this plate has been mutilated at all. At present a few idols remain with the Mahomedan after distributing most of them to the neighbouring Hindoos who have taken to worship them. Any one interested or willing to purchase the above plate and the remaining idols may write for further information."

We hope this will draw the notice of the Asiatic Society. If they do not care, the trustees of the Indian Museum ought to secure the plate and as many of the idols as possible.

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It is said that the head of the Police of Rampore State was, on his way to Moradabad, set upon by four men, one of whom attempted to stab but was shot dead by him.

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THE Lahore *Tribune* accuses Mr. Warburton, District Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, among other things, of compelling people to make false declarations that they have never been ill-used in the manner described by the *Tribune* previously; that he is "indebted to the amount of Rs. 70,000, of which some Rs. 25,000 are moneys extracted from Amritsar people. Our contemporary adds, "We are prepared to prove many of these debts, and have knowledge of them all." "Other serious charges are brought against Mr. Warburton and his subordinates, and an appeal is made to the Lieutenant-Governor for the instant suspension of Mr. Warburton. Matters have now gone too far, and the only course open to Sir James Lyall is to call upon Mr. Warburton to clear himself of these charges by prosecuting the *Tribune*."

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MR. Le Maistre, Deputy Magistrate of Allahabad, last week, convicted one J. Bose, booking-clerk at Nynee station, under Section 417 of the Indian Penal Code, and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 50; in default, to suffer three months' imprisonment. The accused took from the complainant, Massaniut Lachmin, Rs. 3-13 as the fare from Nynee station to Fyzabad, while the actual fare was Rs. 2-13, thereby appropriating one rupee for himself.

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MR. Ratnavaloo Chariar, B.A., an Assistant Conservator of Forest in the Nizam's Service, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geological Society of London.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

BEFORE the King of the Belgians and all the members of the English royal family, the Queen, on Monday, unveiled the equestrian statue of the Prince Consort at Windsor,—the Jubilee gift of the women and children of the United Kingdom.

Her Majesty has been on a visit to Baron Rothschild at his seat at Waddesden Manor, Aylesbury.

DJEVDET Pasha, the Turkish Minister of Justice, has been dismissed in consequence of his action in the Moussa Bey case.

Several officers are under arrest for huge and systematic robberies of bombs from the Sebastopol magazines.

Destructive American cyclones are reported from Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, and Kansas. Hundreds of houses have fallen, and many persons been killed and more injured.

Influenza has reappeared in Warsaw and in acute form, this time attacking both men and cattle—horses in especial. Was it

On mules and dogs the infection first began;

And last, the vengeful arrows fixed on man?

we wonder. If the disease in its aggravated form is to make an immediate and second round of the world, the prospect is fearful indeed!

Stanley is going bravely through the penalties of greatness in Christendom. Having, besides escaping death, discovered the rich India rubber trees and been the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle, he has, as usual, been made the hero of a poor medieval play for presenting him with the freedom of the city of London, as it is called.

The gasmen of Hamburg have gone into strike, leaving the city to darkness.

On the 13th, Lord Alcester was run over in Piccadilly by an omnibus, breaking three of his ribs. Notwithstanding, he is expected to recover. Even an English Lord is hard to kill.

THE Colonial Bill has been introduced in the German Reichstag. The new Chancellor explained that it was impossible for Germany to go back without loss of honour and purse. He assured the House that there was no conflict between Germany and England and no intention of any encroachment on the British sphere. Emin's mission will be confined to entering into relations with the tribes in the interior and making an estimate for the establishment of fortified stations; in other words, to strengthening Germany's position in East Africa. In unofficial language, it is the introduction of the thin end of the wedge. The Minister of course omitted all reference to the thousands of elephants' tusks on which poor Emin's huckstering heart is set. In the meantime, Emin's progress is not smooth and easy. The caravan has met with a serious check. After a five days' march, fully a quarter of the porters deserted in a body.—Major Wissmann bombarded and captured Lindi on the 10th.

Italy is as conciliatory to England. Speaking in the Chamber on the 13th, Signor Crispi said that Italy was in accord with England and Austria, and would not allow any revolution in the Balkan States which menaced the peace of Europe. Italy was content with her portion in Abyssinia. There was concord between Italy and England, and Italy would do nothing which England disapproved.

IN speaking on the Army Bill, on the 14th, Count Von Moltke declared that the European situation was a problem of ever increasing difficulty, and that the only guarantee for peace was a strong army.

SENATOR Plum has introduced a bill in the American Senate making the unit-value of the dollar, whether in silver or gold, legal tender. Senator Jones, in opening the debate, recommended free silver coinage. His remarks were received with many marks of approbation, shewing the direction of the wind.

THE Congress agitation is progressing valiantly in England, aided by loudly and expensively expressed sympathy from unexpected recruits in India. Just now there is cause enough.

The dog-star rages I say, 'tis past a doubt,

All Bedlam, or Parnassus, is let out:

Fire in each eye, and papers in each hand,

They rave, recite, and madden round the land.

Reuter, under date the 12th, reports :—

"The delegates of the Indian National Congress have addressed meetings at Bristol, where a telegram from Mr. Justice Norris, of the Calcutta High Court, was read, wishing every success to the movement. Sir Charles Hobhouse presided at meetings in several of the London divisions last week, and the Hardwicke Debating Society in the Temple, after four hours' warm debate, carried a resolution favouring Indian reform. A meeting of delegates takes place at Reading to-night, and on Friday the Manchester Reform Club will entertain them at dinner, and a meeting will take place afterwards. On the 20th instant the delegates will be at Birmingham, where they hold meetings under the presidency of General Phelps. On the 22nd instant, the Oxford Union will hold a debate, which the delegates have been specially invited to attend. During the Whitsuntide holidays, meetings will be stopped. Meetings will be held on the 2nd of June at Newcastle, and subsequently at Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dublin. A meeting of ten federated associations of South Wales will be held at Cardiff on the 16th of June. Mr. Mudholkar Joshi and Mr. Eardley Norton, with Mr. Surendranath Banerjee, will take part in the later meetings."

THE governing body of the Imperial Institute has been formed to consist of 120 members. All the industries of the United Kingdom are to be represented. India will have 15 members. The Viceroy will elect 3, the different Provinces 6, the Chambers of Commerce 4, and the Native Institutions 2. The Congressists will not fail to make capital of this concession.



IN the House of Lords, Lord Cross, repeating the oft-given assurance of non-interference with the internal affairs of Native States, informed the House that he would ask the Viceroy of India to advise them to follow the factory legislation of British India. That is, of course, a Parliamentary way of enforcing the order in those States.

In the House of Commons, on the 14th, the Irish members stole a march on Government. The House being thin, the Irish moved the second reading of the Bill for the erection of Labourers' Dwellings. There was an attempt to adjourn the debate, but it proved unsuccessful. The adjournment was negatived and the second reading was agreed to without a division. Was the tyler—we mean the whip—fast asleep at his post? To recover countenance as it were, Mr. Balfour said that the vote for adjournment carried against Government, was without significance.

There is quiet in Crete, and the reserves have been disbanded.

Serious riots are reported from Bilbao—Spain—among the miners and other workmen on strike. Troops were called. They were received by the mob with volleys of stones. The military in reply fired on the mob, killing and injuring several.

MR. Bradlaugh has presented to the House of Commons a petition from 500 rayyets of Jessore accusing the Magistrate of cruelty and perversion, and praying for an enquiry. The Home Government has agreed to refer the matter to the India Government.

TEMPERANCE is gaining ground in Parliament. After three days' debate, the Lower House, in full assembly, has passed by 73 votes the Local Taxation Bill empowering County Councils to withdraw publicans' licenses by compensating the holders. That is Reuter's report. According to the Central News, the Bill to amend local taxation was rejected by as many votes.

MAHARAJA Sivaji Rao Holkar must put his house in order, without further delay. In the House of Lords, the Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question, announced that the last report was not favorable to the Maharaja's administration, but that there was no immediate intention of any interference in that quarter.

SOUDAN is not all peaceful yet. There is admitted to be much insecurity and great distress in the Eastern Districts. The dervishes of Tokar and Handoub occasionally raided on the neighbouring districts. The Soudan Trading Company, however, have been able to conclude agreements with Native Chiefs for growing cotton and opening up the Berber route.

THERE was a report in Paris that M. Pasteur was dead. The truth is he is in excellent health.

THE *Times'* correspondent at the Porte reports the dismissal, by the Sultan, of a swarm of Palace spies, who, in the language of the correspondent, while quite powerless for good, did a great deal of mischief by furnishing numerless fantastic reports to his Majesty. That means a saving of nearly 10,000/ a year, and a possibility of strengthening other Departments of the State.

THE Lieutenant-Governor left Calcutta on Tuesday, under the usual salute. A goodly number of officials and others were present at the Sealdah railway station to see him off. Sir Steuart Bayley, accompanied by Miss Bayley, Mrs. Colvin, Mr. Colvin, Private Secretary, and Captain Greenway, A.-D.-C., left for Cooch Behar by the ordinary train. After partaking of the hospitality of that Durbar, the party yesterday moved on by road to Buxa, where halting this day, they again drive on to-morrow, Sunday, to Falakotta, and thence on Monday the 19th to Julpaigori. Here there will be a halt of two days, and Darjeeling will be reached by road from Siligori on Thursday the 22nd. This is a rational and agreeable way of breaking the dangerous fall of temperature from the plains to the heights of the Himalayas.

MR. H. J. S. Cotton has been fully restored to the good graces of the Bengal Government. He has been confirmed as Secretary in the Financial and Municipal Departments, and will be taken in in the jocal legislative council in place of the deceased Mr. Macaulay, if only the Supreme Government will allow it.

If Sir Steuart Bayley can take to his bosom the Secretary who, by a secret compact with a professional agitator, contrived to insult him and royalty alike in the same breath, at a public meeting, by a pack of insolent boys, Lord Lansdowne too may well think it none of his business to part them.

THAT confirmation confirms Mr. C. E. Buckland as Senior, and Mr. K. G. Gupta as Junior, Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

THE new officiating Chief Secretary does not go to Darjeeling till after the arrival there of the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Stevens will work away the period in Calcutta.

GO-A-HEAD again! There is at New York a juvenile actress of the age of seven, and she has found her match—in an actor of eight years of age! These little imps of the mimic art, precocious beyond their years, have actually concluded a treaty of marriage between them. It runs to the following effect:—

"We, the undersigned, do promise and vow three things in our names—first, that at the ages of 20 and 21 we will get married; second, that we will star together for ten years and not get divorced; third, that at the ages of 30 and 31 we will retire from the stage and live in Fifth Avenue."

Notwithstanding this business-seeming transaction, there is romance at bottom. Indeed, a parol understanding, whatever may be its legal value, modifies the contract. The little actor is up to a considerable chivalry of sentiment. He has allowed his contingent *inamorata* the important privilege of changing her mind, saying, "Gertie, if you ever do marry another man, I will feel very much distressed, but I won't sue you." A superfluous piece of generosity.

GO-A-HEAD to the bitter end. There is at this moment a lady in the United States who boasts, and is ready to prove, that she has been married *nine* times since 1867! Thus she has tasted of the joys of matrimony once in two years and a half. Three of her husbands are dead and five divorced. Her ninth mate—rather than lord—has been only recently taken in—in every sense we are afraid, poor fellow! The advanced girlhood of the great Republic has adopted a new reading of the customary marriage vow of obedience to the husband. Instead of "I will obey you," the bride would say "I will Bay you!"—a novel formula suggestive of not the brightest prospect for the unhappy groom.

Such is the "advanced" solution of this important problem of marriage in the great democratic community beyond the Atlantic. These Americans at any rate have actually carried into practice the wildest suggestions of European speculators like Goethe. There is some thing to be said in favour of their choice. It must be a delicious prospect to enjoy a honeymoon every second year. The tree of matrimony is too often discerned to be an upas, but not before it grows to seed. Marriage is a nuisance only by flux of time. In its virgin freshness and purity, it is a right good thing. And the honeymoon—there is nothing like it! The go-a-head reform offers to surfeit you with it. Hurrah for Paradise Regained!

HERE is news that comes home to suffering humanity:—

"The ninth congress on internal medicine was closed at Vienna on April 18. Among the papers read at the last two sittings was one by Professor Senator, of Berlin, on Bright's disease, which created special interest. The Professor remarked that this terrible malady was not incurable, as was generally believed. The greatest importance was to be attached to the diet. Food containing albumen ought to be avoided, while fats and carbon hydrates were desirable. Fish and the meat of young animals might be given to patients, but not eggs. The milk cure and the koumiss cure had been found efficacious in many instances. Professor Ziemssen, of Munich, recommended hot-air baths and hot-water packings, while other speakers dwelt on the curative effect of prolonged rest in bed. Dr. Kleniperer, of Berlin, lectured on the treatment of fever. He recommended large doses of bicarbonate of sodium. Professor Eppinger, of Graz, reported on the newly discovered micro-organism *cladotrix*, which produces a disease similar to tuberculosis. Great interest was manifested in Professor Stricker's electric microscope, by which microscopical preparations under a magnifying power of 11,000 linear were made visible to an audience of 300 persons. The pulsating heart of a dog and the heart beats produced by suffocation were successfully demonstrated, and the experiments convinced the spectators that the teaching of natural science would be greatly assisted by this appliance. The next meeting of the Congress will be held in 1891, Wiesbaden."

Why should not there be an annual conference of the numerous medical men scattered throughout India, Burma, Ceylon, the Straits

Settlements and China, and even Japan and Australia? It would do them and science a world of good to have such periodical opportunities of exchanging notes. No congress or society in Europe would afford them equal facilities. They are a class by themselves, confined to a sphere of their own, in a different climate from Europe, engaged in battling with new forms of disease under different conditions of not atmosphere only but also society. Such a class can expect little sympathy from medical men in Great Britain, far less from those on the Continent. At the same time, these Eastern physicians and surgeons have doubtless a stock of experience and ideas to communicate which, valuable to the East, is not to be despised by the faculty in general throughout the globe, but which naturally perishes in the absence of a record. We commend the proposition to the enterprising founder of the new popular medical journal, the *Medical Record*.

PREPARATIONS are making, or rather orders on that behalf are issuing thick and fast, for the next census. It will be taken on the night of the 26th February 1891. Mr. C. J. O'Donnell has been appointed Provincial Superintendent of the Operations for Bengal. A happy selection. Mr. O'Donnell has a facile and smart pen, and he is, we believe, blessed with the patience and tact that other penmen of his grade in the service lack. Certainly, he has, from an early period, been accustomed to statistical inquiries and economical speculations.

With regard to the Census of 1891, the Commissioners of Divisions have received some introductory instructions. They are reminded to be particularly careful about two initial proceedings—namely, the accurate and exhaustive demarcation of all inhabited areas, and the appointment of intelligent, and, if possible, educated enumerators. These need not be appointed immediately, but a list of them should be prepared without delay, selecting men capable and willing to do the work. In rural parts, it will not do to blindly depend on the village Panchayets without enquiring into their educational qualifications for the work. It is suggested to choose young men with the requisite literary proficiency, leaving the Panchayets to aid the youthful enumerators by their influence and local information. The importance of good and trustworthy enumerators is beyond question, and we trust Government will not be wanting in its efforts, nor niggard of purse, to employ them in proper time to make a proper return.

THE whole of Dacca District has been thrown into commotion by an extraordinary occurrence. We translate from a local vernacular paper:

"Srinagar and Sholaghur are two villages in Bikrampore. The Babus (Zemindars) of Srinagar are a well-known family; Sholaghur is the birthplace of the Hon'ble Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose. Of late, Srinagar and Sholaghur have been at feud on many points. From Dacca the way to Srinagar lies through Sholaghur, where passengers leave their boats in the canal, and proceed on foot to Srinagar. Recently, on the occasion of the wedding of Babu Kali Prasanna Ghose's son, the bridegroom's party went to Srinagar *via* Sholaghur. After the marriage, the bridegroom and bride with the bridegroom's friends took boat at Sholaghur and left for Dacca. In the meantime, an affair took place which dumbfounds us to hear. At 2 O'clock in the morning, a man with the title [*tit*] of Khasnavis, with about 200 or 300 men armed with clubs, boarded the boats and attacked the boatmen and belaboured many of the gentlemen within an inch of their lives, (besides) smashing the boat and wasting the goods and articles contained in it. Many gentlemen saved their lives from the fury of the attack by swimming. Next day, many reached Dacca naked and barefooted. Some are still laid up from the beating received.

"We are sorry to hear that the aforesaid Khasnavis is dewan or steward to Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose. It is said that it was under the orders of this Khasnavis that the *lattials* (professional clubmen) committed this horrible outrage upon the harmless gentlemen at dead of night. One of the leading pleaders of the Dacca bar was amongst the wedding party, of course he could not come out unscathed. The pleader, we hear, by giving information to the police, has caused some 12 or 13 men to be arrested. Khasnavis, we hear, has escaped and cannot be found.

"Every one is pained at hearing the villainous conduct of Mr. Justice Ghose's servant. Mr. Ghose will, we are confident, by surrendering the wicked to the police, see them duly punished. The hon'ble Judge should keep a strict eye upon his servants so that, under cover of his good name and wealth, they might not commit such crimes any more."

WITH an eye to the traffic from transmission to town of the imports of the kerosine oil landed at Budge Budge down the river, a branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway was run up—or down perhaps—to that country port. But it was no sooner opened than closed—for having nothing to do. It is not only cheaper but every way more handy to transport the cargoes of oil from the Budge Budge dépôt to Calcutta by boats. The Railway authorities are doubtless thinking of a reduction of their rates. But can they without risk make a reduction out of all proportion to their general tariff for all their lines throughout?

The reduction must be considerable, we suspect, to enable the Railway to crush the competition of the boats. But will it be worth the Railway's while to do so? Can the railway afford to come down so far? At any rate, the matter was worth considering before going to all the expense of opening a new, however short, line to catch a single traffic which has now, after all, given it the slip. Who is responsible for the waste of public resources?

AT the Allahabad High Court, on May 9, Mr. Justice Straight made some very pertinent remarks on the ways of the Police in this country. It was at the hearing of the appeal of Maurakhan and three others against a sentence of the Sessions Judge of Cawnpore, condemning them to death for murder. According to the prosecution, Bugwandin and Ramcharan, his son, whilst returning from the market of Hamiapore were set upon by men armed with clubs. The assailants knocked down the son and knocked off the father from his pony, which they took away, the said pony having wallets containing jewellery attached to the saddle. Bugwandin died some weeks afterwards from the injuries to the head he received in the assault. Evidence was given that, before his death, he recognised the four accused as his assailants, and the son also identified them. Mr. Justice Straight, with the full concurrence of Mr. Justice Brodhurst, remarked in his judgment:—

"The deceased was taken to Cawnpore, and it is obvious from what appears in the diaries that no intimation ever came from him as to who the persons were that assaulted him until after the police had already themselves fixed upon these four men. . . . The attack upon deceased took place on the 21st December, 1889. Before the 3rd January these four men were under the control of the police, though, according to the charge-sheet, they were not arrested until the 18th January. The learned Sessions Judge has made some strong remarks on this matter, and has said, what is perfectly true, that for a period of more than a fortnight these men were in a condition of unauthorised arrest. If the police will act in this way, they must expect that their conduct will be regarded with the gravest suspicion, and that what happens while this unauthorised arrest continues will always be regarded with the greatest suspicion by us. I think the police made up their minds that because three of these men were absent from their homes, and that the fourth was found under circumstances considered to be suspicious, that they were the persons who had perpetrated the crime. . . . Nothing was found in their houses. Looking to all the circumstances of the case, I think it would be most unsafe to go upon the evidence produced as establishing the guilt of the accused. The appeal is allowed, and prisoners will be released."

We hope these remarks will be taken notice of by Government. Mr. Straight usually speaks with the manliness of an English judge, and he has the further advantage of not being a lunatic.

WE are delighted to see Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's Parliamentary prospects brightening up. The Central Finsbury Liberal and Radical Association met recently to consider the following Resolution:—

"That the Executive Committee recommend to the Council as Parliamentary candidate for Central Division of Finsbury the Hon'ble Dadabhai Naoroji, who being in a position to devote his whole time and attention to the service of the constituency and representing the great cause of 250 millions of our fellow subjects, is, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the best eligible candidate, and likely to regain the seat for the Liberal and Radical party. The Executive Committee further recommend Mr. Naoroji to the Council because of his well-known views in favour of Home Rule and his adhesion to the London programme."

As a result, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji was definitely selected as their Parliamentary candidate. The old Association, who nominated Mr. Richard Eve, may still put difficulties in Mr. Naoroji's path. But then, whether in love or war, Eve is a slippery name for an ally. Their Eve may give them the slip any moment. He is understood to be contemplating a strategic movement to carry himself out of the field before it is too late. His friends are indignant that he is not earnest in his own cause, and seems not unwilling to retire as soon as he can do so gracefully. We wish him God speed! It is time enough to have a Baboo installed in old St. Stephen's historic chapel. The whirligig of Time brings in its own revenges. The irony of Fate would be a myth if it did not send Lord Salisbury's own "black man" to the House of Commons, to confront his Lordship's own ministry!

THE new organ of the Kayastha community of Behar is destined at no distant date to make its mark. The *Kayastha Gazette* is now in its 19th number, and it is already one of the ablest members of the press. It needs only a proper material expansion to constitute it a journal of weight and authority. As it is, the single small sheet of which it consists, is brimful of readable matter. The present issue opens with an excellent leading article on the Importance of Social Reform. Taking for his text Mr. Justice Telang's late speech at the Elphinstonian gathering, the writer notices the speaker's remark that "he did not disapprove of the agitation in favour of election to Legislative Councils, but asked them to remember that they yet required the *life* to make such systems work," and adds—

"This remark is both pithy and profound. Yet in order to work out our political salvation, we must attain a certain standard of elevation in our social life, and although we do not go so far as to say that it would be like putting the cart before the horse to begin with political agitation before you have reached an Utopian standard of perfection in your social system, yet it would be but the bare truth to say that social reformation is the wheel of political reformation; without the wheels the horse may pull and pull ever so hard, but it will be able only to drag. You cannot have the one without the other, the two are interdependent on each other for progress; both must be synchronous to be successful."

UNDER the head "To Kayastha Students. [By one of Them.]" occurs a remarkable discourse, much too well written for the most part for almost any student, Brahman or Kayastha, or, for the matter of that, British, made up apparently of scraps of Smiles and other popular writers, but none the less useful on that account. In the Local division is another leading article of so formidable a kind that the conductors have deemed it necessary to anticipate criticism and whittle down their responsibility by labelling this portion of the paper "The Independent Section." This article is significantly headed "The Government of Bengal Defied, or Mr. Tweedie out-Tweedied by Himself." It is a bold and unsparing attack on the District Judge. Local journalism in this country, as a rule, is feeble journalism on matters local. It is usually the vehicle of the most fulsome flattery of local magnates and the powers generally. For the rest, its *role* is confined to advertising small projects of doubtful utility and obscure nobodies of doubtful ambitions. Local grievances it habitually ignores. We trust the *Kayastha Gazette* will steer clear of these liabilities.

The Kayastha organ charges Mr. Tweedie with going out of his way to arbitrate, in a private, irregular, or at least extra judicial way, in the differences of parties,—differences which may any day come before him in his official capacity of Judge. The *Gazette* quotes the Bengal Government Circular No. 25, dated February 20th, 1873, which lays down the "Rules of Arbitration by Public Officers" as following:—

- (a) No Public Officer shall act as an arbitrator unless authorized by his immediate superior or unless directed by a competent court.
- (b) No Public Officer *shall* act as an arbitrator in *any* case which is likely to come before him *in any shape* in virtue of *any* Judicial or Executive Office which he may be holding.

And with this circular before him, cries our contemporary:—

"And with this circular in existence, not only in existence, but in force, not only technically in force, but in universal application, Mr. Tweedie has chosen to constitute himself, or allowed himself to be named, an arbitrator in the division of the estate of the late Nawab Syed Lutf Alli Khan, C.I.E., of Patna city, between the surviving sons and daughters of the deceased, among whom there are disputes of various sorts as to succession and extent of shares; and for this purpose, Mr. Tweedie has during the past week, not infrequently even subtracted from his Court-hours to go to Patna City on his charitable errand. It is certain that the words of the circular in question do not admit of being quibbled into meaning anything in extenuation of Mr. Tweedie's conduct; it is also certain that Mr. Tweedie has not been 'authorized by his immediate superior' or 'directed by a competent Court' to act as an arbitrator in the matter, and it is more than certain—not only 'likely'—that the matter in question will come before Mr. Tweedie in *more than one shape* in his judicial capacity as Judge of Patna."

We hope the attention of Government and the High Court will be drawn to this new direction of judicial activity.

IN another column will be found a letter from a sufferer disclosing the insecurity of life and property still in the heart of Deltaic Bengal and the laxity of the administration of criminal justice.

THURSDAY se'nnight, in midday, the village of Sanko, in the Burdwan district, one mile south of the Kanoo Junction, was, in a few hours, laid in ruins, leaving an insignificant wreck behind. A disastrous fire broke out in Hazrapara, and spread until it entirely destroyed not only that quarter but also Babupara, Bamunpara, Pathukpara, Chooterpara and Baruiapara. Above 450 houses belonging to about 200 persons

have been completely burned down. Only the Raipara was saved, where the people took protection that night, for not a tree was left elsewhere to give any shelter.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1890.

### THE ICONOCLAST IN BEHAR.

THE present Administration of Bengal maintains its popularity. Notwithstanding certain adverse signs, the country on the whole is still disposed not simply to treat official measures with perfect fairness but even with extraordinary liberality. A crucial instance has just occurred. The press generally has received the Government orders on the Durbhungah Temple case in good spirit. Those orders were announced in this journal in due time. Mr. Beadon has been declared incapable of being retained in charge of the Durbhungah district and has been transferred. The Mahomedan Vice-Chairman has been condemned as unfit for his position, and as he is not a servant of Government, his resignation meets the case so far as he is concerned. The Government has announced that it lays no claim to the temple site, while the municipality have been advised to sanction the construction of a new temple.

These orders are characterised by Sir Steuart Bayley's usual amiability and some practical-mindedness. They evince tact to be sure, but no statesman-like grip of facts—no firm determination to do the right to the full measure. The Bengal office review of the proceedings is an elaborate painstaking document of considerable ability. The Government appreciated the difficulty of the subject, and the writer approaches it with great circumspection. But that hesitation itself had in it, unknown to him, a sinister element, which hampered his powers and led to an unsatisfactory result. There was doubtless a disposition to do justice. Unfortunately, it was a sense of justice handicapped with a lively wish to save a brother Civil Servant, high in the service and of high connections. The broad salient circumstances of the case were too plain for any Secretariat sophist to confuse and confound the public about them. The aggrieved Hindus had thoroughly proved the substantial nature of their grievance. A patient and protracted official inquiry had established a grave official outrage on the religious feelings of the people. All that remained for the Government reviewer was to whittle down its proportions, and no opportunity for this was lost. There is in the Government decision a visible leaning to lend ear to every excuse of the offending officer, and to put the victims in the wrong.

The aggrieved Hindus have just cause to complain that the Lieutenant-Governor has been rather too lenient with Mr. Beadon. Who will say that leniency is never a virtue in a ruler? The virtue may, however, be misplaced, or carried too far, and we do consider that it has been so in the present instance. The question had assumed a serious aspect from its connection with religion, and it behoved Government to deal with it frankly, without the slightest personal regards. What boots it to insist that the temple party endeavoured to make too much of this religious element, and spoilt their case by resorting to falsehood, as well as by violation of the municipal procedure. That when they received a notice from the municipality not to go on building the temple, they set up a false plea that an old temple was being merely repaired, in consequence of its being out of repairs and falling down, and that there was no new

construction. On this point, the evidence is declared to be altogether against them. We confess we are not prepared to go so far. But even at the worst, this is a minor matter, which does not affect the substantial merits of the case. The Government in fairness makes sufficient admission in favour of the people. The Lieutenant-Governor says that he "is satisfied that at the time when the new temple was commenced, there was not, and had not been any building in existence on the same site. Upon this point the evidence appears to be conclusive. Whether there had or had not been a temple at some previous period on approximately the same site is more doubtful. That there had at one time been a building there is certain, and it is equally certain that in recent years there had been a shrine or *asthan* with a sacred image kept by a devotee or holy man in charge." This had either fallen in decay or may have been carried away in the fall of a *pepul* tree. This as regards the religious aspect of the case. As to its legal aspect, the temple party were in the first instance fortunate in the Commissioner's finding in their favor. Mr. Boxwell held that the procedure laid down in section 175 of the Bengal Municipal Act not having been observed, the action of the Municipal authorities was illegal. But the Legal Remembrancer, with whom the Advocate-General concurs, differs from this view, and says that section 175 does not apply to cases coming under section 241. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts this view. We confess we incline to think with the Commissioner. The present case is no doubt governed by section 241 of Part VI. of the Act, but the procedure is laid down in section 175 of Part V.

For all that, Sir Steuart Bayley is satisfied that the action of the municipality was not strictly or technically illegal. He rightly thinks the question of legality of much less importance than the administrative questions involved. Considering these questions fully, he administers a sharp censure to Mr. Beadon. The following extracts from the Government letter express the better side of the Governmental consciousness:—

"Turning now to the administrative aspect of the question, the Lieutenant-Governor is constrained to remark first of all on the neglect of proper business precautions on the part of the Municipal authorities. Mr. Beadon had his attention called to the fact that the building was being begun without a license in October; yet for two months the work was allowed to go on without any effective action being taken to call the responsible persons to account. Under a proper administrative system this would not have occurred; the question would have been definitely settled one way or the other in October, and all subsequent difficulties would have been obviated. The proceedings, as Mr. Beadon himself says, show first extreme dilatoriness, and lastly undue haste; in other words, by neglecting to deal in the first instance in a business-like manner with a tolerably simple question, the Municipal authorities found themselves involved afterwards in very troublesome complications which they endeavoured to tear asunder without considering the consequence.

In considering the general question of Mr. Beadon's responsibility, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot hold him, as Chairman of the Municipality, free from blame for the slack system of administration adverted to in paragraph 2. It was in this that the whole trouble had its origin, and it is impossible to acquit Mr. Beadon on the plea that it was badly served. When the neglect of the first few months had led up in its natural course, to a state of things which required the most careful handling, an accurate enquiry into all the facts, deliberate judgment, and special clearness in the orders passed, Mr. Beadon's action was characterised by the conspicuous absence of all these requisites. In the concluding words of your letter, you justly observe: 'The falseness of the temple party, Mr. Beadon's rashness, and thoughtlessness about consequences with the nature of the subordinates through whom Mr. Beadon worked, led to the misfortune.' While concurring generally in this view, the Lieutenant-Governor must point out that to Mr. Beadon's heedless ignorance of the nature of his subordinates, and his placing undue confidence in a man whose antecedents could have indicated the necessity of the greatest vigilance is to be imputed a great portion of the trouble."

It was all to no purpose. As soon as the Lieutenant-Governor came to award punishment, his hand faltered. The outraging Magistrate has doubtless

had the benefit of astute advice from his brethren of the service. Unlike our own Surendra Nath Banerjee, who, on being caught in the act of tampering with the record, sought to browbeat his superiors into silence, Mr. Beadon candidly admitted the error he had committed, and threw himself on the mercy of the Government. He expressed his profound regret for what had happened, and protested in the most solemn manner that he did not mean that the temple should be so hastily demolished, although there was no denying that his orders were capable of that construction. He referred to his past career of 27 years as affording testimony of his usual conciliatory attitude towards the Hindoos or any other religious section of the community. After this appeal for mercy from an officer "of ripe experience and of unquestioned ability and industry," the Head of the Government was bound to come to the rescue, and appease the public as best he could, by pronouncing on him a tolerably severe wiggling, and relieving him of charge of a district where he had made himself so unpopular. Sir Steuart had to do justice not to the temple party alone. He had to do justice to Mr. Beadon also—yea, to maintain the prestige of the glorious Covenanted Service. Mr. Beadon's candid acknowledgment of error has been gratifying to the Lieutenant-Governor, who is fully convinced that Mr. Beadon is innocent of intending outrage or insult to the Hindoos. The truth is, in a case of this kind, the Lieutenant-Governor is necessarily an indifferent judge, and he allowed himself to be easily satisfied that Mr. Beadon's regret was sincere and candid. Any unbiassed man of the world could see the hollowness of the pretence set up. Such is the universal deference to the great, that we are surprised to see many of whom better might be expected lavishing encomiums upon Mr. Beadon's candour. These praises are as wasted upon this occasion as they were lately wasted in another quarter. To us, the British magistrate has not shown ordinary manliness. His attempt to make a scapegoat of his poor Mahomedan subordinate, is most mean. The stress laid on his long service only goes against him. Nor had he borne a good character during all the period. Altogether, it was a most unfortunate case, and, between the pressure of the Civil Service and the claims of the people, the Government had no small difficulty in regard to it. We now hope the decision which has been passed by Sir Steuart Bayley will serve to allay the excitement of feeling which still exists in Durbhungah. The practical objects of the temple party are secured by that decision, while the two executive officers of the municipality, through whose rash and inconsiderate conduct they have suffered insult and loss, have been brought to disgrace.

#### DISEASE, ACCIDENT, AND DEATH.

SINCE the beginning of the year, the public health of the city has been miserable. Cholera and small-pox have counted many victims, not a few have succumbed to chest complainis, while the Influenza has raged in every household. The provision markets were for some time deserted and business threatened to come to a dead lock. Of late, a favourable change has been distinctly visible.

There have been several deaths in respectable Hindu families in town. The most painful is that of a young member and prop of the Guho family. With a magnificent figure, 6 feet high, passionately attached to athletic games, who could have thought that Annada Churn Guho was hovering over his grave? But he caught the Influenza, got the pneumonia, and lingered on for thirty days, struggling against the heroic treatment of blind Medicine, and then confessed himself beaten.



It must have cost all the resources of science to kill him. He belonged to a long-lived family, his father and grandfather still living.

The death of poor Girija Sunker Sen, eldest son of Baboo Ram Sunker Sen, retired Deputy Magistrate, leaving, besides his sorrowing parents, six little children, is a heart-rending case. He went out in a dog-cart crammed with native Christian ladies to the Strand. He was stopped at the Eden Gardens for driving without lights. As in the absence of a syce he stooped to light the lamp leaving the reins to one of his fair companions, the horse shied and bolted. They were all thrown out with violence, Sen being taken up almost, if not quite, insensible, and one of the ladies fracturing her jawbone and losing some of her teeth. Instead of being sent to hospital or taken home, they were taken to the house of a native Christian at Bhowanipore as if to dine—for there was an engagement for the purpose at that house, where in fact the party were proceeding *via* the Strand. The reason more probably was that this gentleman was a doctor. Thence, late in the night, Sen was sent in a *huck* gari to Sen's house in town. He never regained consciousness and expired next day without receiving any medical treatment.

His life was as miserable as his end. He went to England clandestinely, without permission of his family who were afterwards obliged to support him there to the best of their power, and succeeded in getting himself called to the bar. He tarried there for many years—much too long for his good, we are afraid. Here, he did not succeed in his profession, his sole dependence for maintaining himself and family in the expensive European style of living. All the faults and misfortunes of his life were due to this single cause. Otherwise, he was not without parts and maintained to the last the habit of general reading. Latterly, he was getting into some practice in the interior, and it is much to be pitied that just at this point his life should close.

The most recent death is that of Babu Deno Nath Mallik, of Upper Circular Road. His constitution was enfeebled by diabetes, which he had kept under by dint of constant exercise. He might every day be seen running rather than walking in the Eaden Gardens. He went on Thursday on his usual drive. On Friday, however, he complained of a colic and by 10 at night he was no more, quietly expiring in his chair. He was a typical Calcutta Baboo of the worst species, without either the simplicity and humanity of the old school or the education and patriotism of the new. His family were not remarkable for grace or amiability, but in him all their worst peculiarities culminated. Though a Kulin Kayastha by birth, his mind was filled with the grovelling notions of the Shao *parvenu*. His very seat in his high lumbering barouche was that of the upstart. It was not even a decent attitude, and he has escaped by death from the liability to a whipping from some one of the European gentlemen who are accustomed to make use of the same evening drive for themselves and their families. Of course, it goes without saying that he was a snob of the first water. At school he used constantly to assert the new prosperity of his family and deride the waning opulence of the Sobhabazar Rajas, and through life he was the enemy of the respectable and happy families in the country whom he envied. Luckily, his knowledge did not extend beyond Calcutta and its suburbs. The only family who escaped his contemptuous denunciation were the Ghosal Rajas of Bhokoylas, Kidderpore. Indeed, at the time when they were somebodies, he used to mention them with extraordinary deference. The reason was that they kept open table at which he cheaply enjoyed his new taste for European delicacies. But this very family he, by persistent intrigue, got brought to disgrace, dismemberment and ruin. As an evil adviser to the members of our joint families, he was a public pest. He once seemed to meet his match in the Registrar of Calcutta—a gentleman otherwise his superior in every respect, whether for heart or brains. But he revenged himself on him by causing a separation between Babu Pratap Chandra Ghose and his brother, who was Deno Nath's son-in-law. It is strange that our Kayastha friends should have cared to form alliance with such a man, but mammon worshippers forgive everything to a man of wealth.

Without education or feeling, purse-proud, ostentatious of wealth without ever lapsing into charity, indeed a notorious miser, living only for himself according to his narrow ideas, superstitious without faith, he had but one quality, which, however, only served to make him more repulsive. Strangely enough, he had a capacity for a grotesque humour. Disease and difficulties with his tenantry for a time seemed to make him humble, but, with better times, his true character again reasserted itself. The death of his wife drove him to seek consolation in the mysteries of spiritualism, but he soon became himself again. He was not on speaking terms with his brothers and nephews, and passed a life

of lonely misery, barely in town but away from the haunts of men. His death is a relief to his household. We congratulate his sons and daughters-in-law whom he foully persecuted, on the possibility of comfort and happiness which at length opens on them.

We have gone into this analysis with great reluctance. But we do not believe in the irrational and immoral doctrine of sparing the dead. For the benefit of society, the strange individuality that has just passed out of our community is worth describing. No other opportunity can possibly occur.

#### OUTRAGE IN RURAL BENGAL AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Kartikpur, 15th May 1890.

On the 8th Falgoun 1296 B. S., corresponding with the 19th February last, some people, residents of the village of Kocaynagar, which is about half a mile off from here, attacked my house. This they did in the broad day light of morning. They were armed.

No sooner they appeared on our road than they made a horrible yell or *Hallah*, I mean a sort of war-cry. During this time I was also on the road taking a morning turn.

They attacked me but, though not at all prepared for defence, I stood firmly where I had been. One of the aggressors named Nakari Mondal perhaps aimed at my life with the Hashur in his hand, but his aim missed and I took courage to catch hold of it and succeeded in wresting it out of his hands, before Nakari could use it again. With that weapon in hand I defended myself, with a view to detain them at any risk on the road for some time, so that in the meantime my large family might escape. My fourth brother who was within came to my assistance, but I instructed him to manage the escape of our family. He instantly obeyed me. After struggling with the enemy for some time, I was so much pressed that I could not but shew them my back and run towards home. They followed me as far as the female apartments (*Andar Khanda*), where one named Ibrahim struck me on my head with a bamboo stick. I then fell down insensible. Blood gushed out in torrents which perhaps brought the aggressors to the sense of consequences which might befall them hereafter. They ran away.

My brother went to the *Thanah* of Palang about 5 miles off from here and gave the Police the information of this occurrence. The Police accordingly appeared on the place of occurrence, saw my wound and examined its depth, length and breadth, held local enquiries and subsequently sent the case as a Police cognizable one to the criminal court of the Sub-Division of Madaripore for trial. The said informant could name only twelve men out of the numerous accused. He became plaintiff and I myself a witness of the occurrence.

When the trial began, his worship the present Joint-Magistrate did not allow the complainant to name the rest of the accused, whom he could not name in the *Thanah* on account of his breathless condition and entire confusion as he knew not whether I was alive.

Sir, this is an old village. It has never seen such a horrible occurrence in broad day light even during the administration of Kazees under the Mogul Government. That is the opinion of the oldest men here. The neighbours are so much alarmed that some of them are ready to leave for ever their birthplace, if in this case the accused are not properly taught a lesson.

But to the surprise of all, the Joint Magistrate seems to take it for a slight occurrence, because the Doctor of the Hospital has remarked my wound to be a slight one—slight because it did not touch the bone. I would not care much for the report of the Doctor if the court would pay attention to the terms of sections 447 and 143. With regard to these charges made by the Police, the court seems indifferent. The court has not charged any of the five challenged by the Police nor has it asked any of them whether they are guilty or not. Only one has himself given answer (*Jabab*) and has cited some witnesses who are going to be examined. The trial has taken 2½ months and yet the case is not decided. The frequent change of dates has emptied the purse of the complainant, whereas the accused being forty in number, they subscribe and bear the cost of the case easily enough. They are the *rayyets* of the local *Mahomedan Zemindar*, and the *Hakim* is reported to be hand and glove with the *Zemindar*. Who knows what will be the end of it all!

A SUFFERER.

*Holloway's Pills*.—Enteabled Existence.—This medicine embraces every attribute required in a general and domestic remedy. It overturns the foundations of disease laid by defective food and impure air. In obstructions or congestions of the liver, lungs, bowels, or any other organs, these Pills are especially serviceable and eminently successful. They should be kept in readiness in every family, being a medicine of incomparable utility for young persons, especially those of feeble constitutions. They never cause pain or irritate the most sensitive nerves or most tender bowels. Holloway's Pills are the best known purifiers of the blood, the most active promoters of absorption and secretion, whereby all poisonous and obnoxious particles are removed from both solids and fluids.

## INCOME-TAX ON CONSIGNMENTS.

No. 1515, dated the 31st March, 1890.

From---J. F. Finlay, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce.

To---The Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,--I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 238-90, dated the 21st, March 1890, forwarding a letter from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce and enclosures, regarding the levy of Income Tax on the profits on consignments made to British India by persons not resident in British India, and requesting that the orders on the subject may be withdrawn.

2. I am to state that the Government of India will await the reports of the local authorities before further considering the decision arrived at on the subject in the Resolution No. 5441, dated 23rd October 1889.

Telegram, dated 25th April 1890.

From---Calcutta.

From---Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

To---Simla.

To---Secretary, Department of Finance and Commerce.

With reference to your No. 1515, dated 31st March, the Collector of Income Tax here has issued a circular to the commercial community of Calcutta calling upon them to send in a return showing names of persons, &c. who consign goods to them for sale, also a statement showing the profits made by consignors on the sale of their consignments. Committee understood from your letter referred to that the expediency of attempting to tax profits made by consignors on goods sold in India was under consideration of Government, and they respectfully request that the Income Tax Collector here be instructed to suspend action pending further orders.

The Circular referred to in the telegram is as follows :--

From S. J. Kilby, Esquire, Collector of Income-Tax, Calcutta.

I have the honor to invite your attention to sections 42 and 45, Act II. of 1886, and to request you to be good enough to furnish me within ten days from the receipt of this requisition, with a list of the persons, firms or companies who consign goods to you for sale.

2. I have further to request you under section 43 of the Act, to furnish me at the same time with a Return of the profits upon such consignments, which are taxable in India. In the event of the information at your disposal being insufficient to admit of your doing this, I have next to request you to furnish me with a Return showing the gross proceeds realised by you on account of each consignor during the financial year 1889-90, a percentage of which, varying according to the circumstances of each case, will be held to be profit.

3. In order to facilitate the work of assessment, as well as to enable me to make it as equitable as possible, may I ask you to give me a Return of the gross proceeds of the various descriptions of goods consigned to you, with your opinion as to what the percentage of profits may fairly be assumed to be on each description.

4. In future, it is desirable that consignors of goods should furnish their representatives in India with such information as will enable them to make a correct Return of profits, and I shall feel obliged by your making this known to them.

5. In due course I shall issue an assessment notice upon you under the provisions of section 21, and I would therefore refer you to section 23 which will explain your powers, and section 49 which indemnifies you for deducting and paying the tax in respect of income belonging to another person.

The reply of the Government of India runs thus:--

From Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, Nos. 2157, Simla, the 1st May 1890.

To the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

Sir,--I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, dated the 25th April 1890, and of your letter No. 345, dated the 26th April 1890, requesting, with reference to paragraph 2 of the letter from this Department No. 1515, dated the 31st March, 1890, that the Collector of Income Tax may be instructed not to proceed with the assessment to income tax of the profits on goods consigned for sale to an agent residing in British India.

2. I am to state that the purport of the letter quoted has been misapprehended. What the Government intended to convey was that its decision to assess to income tax the profits on goods consigned to agents would not be reconsidered at present. The local authorities had already been instructed some time previously to cause the profits to be assessed, and the Government of India proposed to defer further consideration of the matter, if further consideration should be found to be necessary, pending receipt from the local revenue authorities of reports on the operation of the orders.

I have, &amp;c.

(Sd.) E. J. SINKINSON,

Secy. to the Government of India.

The Chamber again asks for suspension of action pending consideration of memorials :

Private deferred Telegram, dated Calcutta, 9th May 1890.

From---Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

To---Secretary, Government of India.

Department of Finance and Commerce.

Your letter No. 2157 of first May has caused great discontent among all classes in Calcutta resulting in Meeting at Chamber's Rooms to-day at which were represented British India, Defence and Trades Associations, Chamber and National Chamber. Resolved to solicit Government to instruct Collector to suspend action under Resolution No. 5441 of 23rd October finding consideration of memorials to Viceroy in preparation. Kindly reply.

The Government of India at last agrees :--

Telegram, dated Simla, 15th May 1890.

From---Simla.

From---Finance.

To---Calcutta.

To---Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Your telegram, 9th May, Income Tax. Government has no doubt of the legality of its orders and as the information before it shows that similar profits are now liable to assessment in the United Kingdom, it cannot admit beforehand that the difficulties in the way of their assessment in India are insuperable. The Government, however, is willing to fully consider any arguments the Chambers may wish to put forward and will wait receipt of pending memorials. Local Governments have been instructed meanwhile to suspend action on orders of 23rd October last.

## PUBLIC OPINION AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

The following is the full text of the letter on the above subject, dated Calcutta, 19th March, 1890, addressed by the Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India :--

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce instruct me to address you upon a matter which they venture to consider is of very considerable public interest. It is generally admitted that it is to the advantage of Government that its measures especially its projects of Law should, to as large an extent as possible, have the support and sanction of public opinion. When the necessities of the State or the character and organisation of the administration preclude that thorough discussion by the Legislative body which is so marked a feature in the history of modern European enactments, it seems to the Committee that the very greatest care should be taken to ascertain the views, as well as the wants and requirements of those who may be interested in the labours of the various Indian Legislatures. The Government appears to some extent to recognise that this is a reasonable public expectation, since besides availing itself of official experience through the different local Governments and Administrations, it seeks from time to time to obtain expressions of opinion from the more important and permanent of the public bodies of the three presidencies. That its efforts in this direction are not more successful or encouraging appears to be due to the practice of not calling for outside opinions until suggestions for amending existing laws or enacting new ones, have assumed a definite form as Bills actually or about to be introduced into the Legislative Councils.

This system is open to two objections : the statement of objects and reasons is too meagre to sufficiently explain what has induced Government to cause the Bill to be prepared, and the Government by putting forward a Bill is too often in a position from which it finds it difficult to retire or even to make concessions. It is not to the advantage of Government that it should so often appear as contesting principles and even details against non-official opinion expressed either in the Legislature itself or through some public body interested. In the opinion of the Committee, the disadvantages and difficulties they have indicated might be lessened to an appreciable extent, if all proposals for alteration, in at least mercantile laws, were submitted when received by Government, to those who would be affected by them for their opinion. The experience of this Chamber is that under the present system, the time given for consideration of any project or measures is as a rule, too brief, and that too many projects are considered together within the space of any given sessions to be so effectually dealt with as might be desirable. A Bill the Committee are aware, represents a very considerable amount of correspondence and serious work on the part of the Departments and officials concerned with its inception and preparation, and may mean and often should mean a proportionate expenditure of time on the part of those to whom it may be referred. With men unmixed in business, it is not easy to secure the leisure required for thorough examination and criticism of a measure. Besides, it is not easy for those who are constantly occupied with the cares of business to follow with minute or special care the technical terminology of a proposal put in a form ready for legislation. They would find on the other hand no such difficulty in

dealing with proposals supported by arguments and reasons couched in familiar terms.

What has been said of projects of Legislation applies with equal or greater force to the Rules which, under the sanction of the Law, the Government is in so many instances left to frame as the machinery for working a particular law.

The Committee wanted therefore to suggest that the Government of India should take this matter into consideration with a view that when it is necessary or desirable to obtain non-official opinion upon proposals affecting existing laws or for prospective legislation, or upon any Rules or amendments of Rules already declared, the utmost care should be taken to obtain that opinion at as early a stage as possible.

### COCOANUT BUTTER IN GERMANY.

The following is an extract from the last report of the United States Consul at Mannheim on the subject of the manufacture of cocoa-nut butter in Germany :

German chemists discovered in the cocoanut a fatty substitute for butter. This discovery was made by a Dr. Schluck, practical chemist at Ludwigshafen, just over the Rhine from Mannheim. Shortly after the discovery was made a firm was established in this city under the "P. Müller and Söhne," which sank a large amount of capital in an enterprise having for its object the production of the new article, to which they gave the name of "cocoanut butter." The results achieved have more than justified their expectations. The firm is not able to meet the constant demands made upon it. Although in existence only one year, it employs 25 workmen, who get from 25 to 75 cents. a day, has a 40 horse-power engine, and produces daily 3,000 kilos. of butter, which retails at from 55 to 65 pfennigs, or from 13 to 15½ cents. per pound, or 25 to 30 cents. per kilogramme.

The nuts are obtained from almost all lands lying in the tropics, especially from the South Sea and Coral Islands, Arabia, the coast countries of Africa, and South America. Natives in countries where the nuts grow have for a long time used the milk of these nuts, instead of food oils. It contains 60 to 70 per cent. of fat, and 23 to 25 per cent. of organic substances, of which 9 to 10 per cent. is of albumen. Liebig and Fresenius had already discovered the value of the cocoanut oil, or fat, but did not succeed in its production as a substitute for butter. The new butter is of a clear, white colour, melts at from 26° to 28° Celsius, and contains 0.0008 per cent. water, 0.006 per cent. mineral stuffs, and 99.9932 per cent. fat.

It hardens at 19° Celsius. It is better adapted, however, for the kitchen than for the dinning-room, that is, for cooking purposes,

than for the uses to which butter is put on our tables. It is neither disagreeable to the taste nor smell. In a country where real butter runs all the way from 25 to 35 cents. per pound, and cocoanut butter costs but 15 cents., a great future must open up before the latter. At present it is chiefly used in hospitals and other State institutions, but is also rapidly finding its way into houses or homes where people are too poor to buy butter. The working classes are rapidly taking to it instead of the oleomargarines, against which so much had been said in the papers during the last two or three years.

The new butter is said to be singularly free from acids and other disturbing elements so often found in butter, especially that made from milk taken from cows diseased with tuberculosis. Here it is estimated that fully 10 per cent. of the milk-giving cows are so troubled. This absence of acids and other matter renders its digestion much easier, hence the preference already shown for the new article by hospitals and such institutions. There are those who do not hesitate to declare this new substitute as healthier, and infinitely preferable to the too often bad butter brought on the markets, and not to be named in the same breath with oleomargarines made too often from the diseased fat of horse and sheep flesh.

When it is remembered that Germany has already some 50 factories making oleomargarines and other artificial butters, and that some 180,000 centners are produced annually, it will be readily seen that regular butter will have hard work to hold its own in a hundred uses against its new rivals, and especially so since the oleomargarines and artificial butters of all kinds are placed under severe, careful, and watchful State inspectors. It is hoped, however, that no losses, but gains rather, will arise; for besides the profits resulting from the new substitutes more meat and milk, as such will come on the markets, and consequently into use. If, with König, we assume that the principal nutriments—albumen, fats, and carbon hydrates are paid for in the ratio of 5 : 3 : 1, i.e., a kilog. of albumen costs five times, and a kilog. of fat three times, as much as a kilog. of carbon hydrate, we arrive by comparison of the nutritiousness of milk with other articles of diet, at the following results:—If we pay for 1 kilog. of milk, 15 pfennigs, for a mark we get 21.33 per cent. of nutriment; for 1 kilog. lard (bacon), 172 pfennigs, 16.08 per cent.; for 1 kilog. fatty cheese, 162 pfennigs, 14.32 per cent.; for 1 kilog. pork, 131 pfennigs, 14.01 per cent.; for 1 kilog. veal, 112 pfennigs, 10.33 per cent.; for 1 kilog. beef, 128 pfennigs, 9.11 per cent.; for 1 kilog. eggs, 200 pfennigs, 4.97 per cent.

Now, if these facts are once known, milk as an article of diet will be more in demand, and the quantities no longer needed to make butter will find their way into the families where formerly pure butter was unknown, but where its substitute, cocoanut butter, has taken fast hold.

### BENGAL BONDED WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION

101st Dividend.

The Dividend for the Half-year ended 30th April 1890, of Rs. 16 per share, will be payable on and from the 17th instant.

S. E. J. CLARKE,  
Secretary.

CALCUTTA :  
14th May, 1890. }

### BENGAL BONDED WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION.

14TH MAY 1890.

The Half-yearly General Meeting of Proprietors was held this day.

PRESENT :—D. Cowie, Esq.; J. A. Crawford, Esq., by his Attorney, D. Cowie, Esq.; the Honorable Rajah Doorgachurn Law, C.I.E.; Shamchurn Law, Esq., and Joy Gobindo Law, Esq., by their Proxy, the Honorable Rajah Doorgachurn Law, C.I.E.; the Honorable H. Pratt; Shamachurn Dey, Esq., Executor to the Estate of Issur Chunder Dey; Sarodaprosad Mookerjee, Esq.; Surrut Commar Sen, Esq.; Atal Coomar Sen, Esq.; G. H. Kiernander, Esq.; G. H. Kiernander, Esq., Executor Estate of Mrs. M. Kiernander, Mrs. M. E. Fitzgerald, G. E. A. Kiernander, Esq., Miss M. S. Kiernander, Thomas H. Kiernander, Esq., Miss K. A. Kiernander, G. A. E. Kiernander, Esq., Miss F. J. Kiernander, J. Z. Kiernander, Esq., Mrs. M. A. Kiernander, E. T. Kiernander, Esq., and R. H. Kiernander, Esq., by their Proxy, G. H. Kiernander, Esq.

It was proposed by the Honorable Rajah Doorgachurn Law, C.I.E., and seconded by the Honorable H. Pratt,

That Mr. D. Cowie do take the Chair. The advertisement calling the Meeting having been read,—

It was *proposed* by the Chairman and *seconded* by Mr. Surrut Coomar Sen,

That the Report of the Directors be received and the Accounts passed as correct.

*Carried.*

*Proposed* by the Honorable H. Pratt, *seconded* by Mr. Atal Coomar Sen,—

That the divisible surplus of Rs. 37,096-6-9 be appropriated in terms of the 3rd and 6th paragraphs of the Directors' Report, and that a dividend be declared of Rs. 16 per share payable on and from the 17th instant.

An amendment proposed by Mr. Sarodaprosad Mookerjee and seconded by Mr. G. H. Kiernander,

That the Dividend be increased by one rupee per share and the amount carried forward proportionately reduced

was put to the Meeting and lost.

The resolution was then put to the Meeting and carried.

*Proposed* by the Honorable Rajah Doorgachurn Law, C.I.E. *seconded* by the Honorable H. Pratt,—

That Mr. Monymadhub Sain be re-elected a Director, and that Mr. George Irving be elected a Director in the room of Mr. A. E. Harriss who has left the Presidency.

*Carried.*

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Meeting separated.

DAVID COWIE,  
Chairman.

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

OF THE

### BENGAL BONDED WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

Half-year ended 30th April 1890.

1. Your Directors submit for examination and approval the accounts of the Association for the half-year ended 30th April 1890.

2. On the 31st October last, the uncollected rentbills amounted to Rs. 13,151-9-10; during the subsequent six months bills were issued for Rs. 64,294-0-5; of these two amounts Rs. 62,834-9-9 have been realised, leaving Rs. 14,611-0-6 outstanding.

3. The divisible surplus amounts to Rs. 37,096-6-9. Your Directors have set apart as usual the sum of Rs. 2,000 to the credit of the Repair and Building Fund.

4. Two of your Directors, Mr. Monymadhub Sain and Mr. A. E. Harriss, retire by rotation. Mr. Sain offers himself for re-election.

5. The Hydraulic Lifts continue to work well and satisfactorily.

6. After deducting the sum set apart under the Act for repairs, the divisible balance will be Rs. 35,096-6-9. Of this amount your Directors recommend that Rs. 32,000 be applied in payment of a dividend of Rs. 16 per share, and the balance Rs. 3,096-6-9 be carried to the next half-year's account.

D. C. LAW.  
DAVID COWIE.  
M. M. SAIN.  
W. J. M. McCAW.  
H. PRATT.

CALCUTTA :  
10th May 1890. }

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure

written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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ASSAM DESPATCH STEAMER SERVICE FROM GOALUNDO and

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A Daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. (Madras time) train from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

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L. A small neat watch suitable for Ladies ... " 13-0 each.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890.

} No. 425

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### ENGLAND: AN ODE.

BY ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE.

Far and near from the swan's nest here the storm-birds bred of her fair  
white breast,  
Sons whose home was the sea-wave's foam, have borne the fame of her  
east and west ;  
North and south has the storm-wind's mouth rung praise of England  
and England's quest.

Fame, wherever her flag flew, never forebore to fly with an equal wing ;  
France and Spain with their warrior train bowed down before her as  
thrall to king ;  
India knelt at her feet, and felt her sway more fruitful of than spring.

All the terror of time, where error and fear were lords of a world of  
slaves,  
Age on age in resurgent rage and anguish darkneing as waves on waves,  
Fell or fled from a face that shed such grace as quickens the dust of  
graves.

Music made of change and conquest, glory born of evil slain,  
Stilled the discord, slew the darkness, bade the lights of tempest wane,  
Where the deathless dawn of England rose in sign that right should  
reign.

Mercy, where the tiger wallowed mad and blind with blood and lust,  
Justice where the jackal yelped and fed, and slaves allowed it just,  
Rose as England's light on Asia rose, and smote them down to dust.

Where the footfall sounds of England, where the smile of England  
shines,  
Rings the tread and laughs the face of freedom, fair as hope divines  
Days to be, more brave than ours, and lit by lordlier stars for signs.

All our past acclaims our future : Shakespeare's voice and Nelson's  
hand,  
Milton's faith and Wordsworth's trust in this our chosen and chainless  
land,  
Bear us witness : come the world against her, England yet shall stand.

And loud as the sea's voice thunders applause of the land that is one  
with the sea  
Speaks Time, in the ear of the people that never at heart was not inly  
free,  
The word of command that assures us of life, if we will but that life  
shall be ;

If the race that is first of the races of men who behold unshamed  
the sun,  
Stand fast and forget not the sign that is given of the years and the  
wars that are done,  
The token that all who are born of its blood should in heart as in  
blood be one.

The word of remembrance that lightens as fire from the steeps of the  
stormlit past  
Bids only the faith of our fathers endure in us, firm as they held it fast :  
That the glory which was from the first upon England alone may  
endure to the last.

Change darkens and lightens around her, alternate in hope and in fear  
to be :  
Hope knows not if fear speak truth, nor fear whether hope be not  
blind as she :  
But the sun is in heaven that beholds her immortal, and girdled with  
life by the sea.

### THE LAST OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

"Twenty-four pounds represented the response, so far, of the British  
public to the appeal made by the Committee for funds to enable pro-  
vision to be made for the declining days of those of the survivors of  
the Balaclava Charge who are known to have come to misery and want,  
and whose number now scarcely exceeds twenty.....A few shillings  
weekly could be granted to the necessitous survivors,.....and there-  
by relieve the minds of the recipients from the fear of starvation and  
the dread of the workhouse."—*See Daily Papers.*

There were thirty million English who talked of England's might,  
There were twenty broken troopers who lacked a bed for the night ;  
They had neither food nor money, they had neither service nor trade —  
They were only shiftless soldiers—the last of the Light Brigade,

They felt that Life was fleeting ; they knew not Art was long,  
Or, though they were dying of famine, they lived in deathless song.  
They asked for a little money, to keep the wolf from the door ;  
And the thirty million English sent twenty pounds and four.

They laid their heads together that we scarred and lined and grey  
Keen were the Russian sabres, but want was keener than they ;  
And an old troop-sergeant muttered, " Let's go to the man who writes  
The things on Balaclava the kiddies at school recites."

They went without band or colours—a regiment ten-file strong—  
To look for the Master-Signer who had crowned them all in his song ;  
And, waiting his servant's order, by the garden-gate they stayed—  
A desolate little cluster, the last of the Light Brigade.

They strove to stand to attention, to straighten the toil-bowed back—  
They drilled on an empty stomach—the loose-knit files fell slack ;  
With stooping of weary shoulders, in garments tattered and frayed,  
They shambled into his presence—the last of the Light Brigade.

The old troop-sergeant was spokesman, and, " Beggin' your pardon,"  
he said,  
" You wrote o' the Light Brigade, sir. Here's all that isn't dead.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

"An' it's all come true what you wrote, sir, regardin' the mouth of Hell ;  
"For we're all of us nigh to the workhouse, an' we thought we'd call  
an' tell.

"No, thank you ; we don't want food, sir ; but couldn't you take an'  
write

"A sort of 'to be continued,' and 'see next page' o' th' fight ?

"We think that some one has blundered, an' couldn't you tell 'em how ?

"You wrote we were heroes once, sir. Please write, we are starving  
now."

The poor little army departed, limping and lean and forlorn,  
And the heart of the Master-Singer grew hot with "the scorn of scorn";  
And he wrote for them wondrous verses that swept the land like a  
flame,  
Till the fatted souls of the English were scourged with the thing called  
Shame.

They sent a cheque to the felon that sprang from an Irish bog,  
They healed the spavined cab horse ; they housed the homeless dog ;  
And they sent (you may call me a liar), when rebel and beast were  
paid,  
A cheque for—enough to live on, to the last of the Light Brigade.

O thirty million English that babble of England's might,  
Behold, there are twenty heroes who lack their food to-night ;  
Our children's children are lisping to "honour the charge they made,"  
And we leave to the streets and the workhouse the charge of the Light  
Brigade.

—Rudyard Kipling, in the *St. James's Gazette*.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE *Deccan Times* has opened a fund for the relief of the Last of the  
Light Brigade. Benevolence may be absurd and officious. But is it  
the genuine article, or mere advertising ?

THE *Salvation War Cry* recently reviewed "*The Gospel According to  
the World*." Revised and authorised edition. Edited by the Devil and  
published in Hell."

THE Vernacular papers of the Western Presidency are forcing them-  
selves into unenviable prominence. They are no longer too low for  
notice. Prosecutions are becoming commoner. The Assistant Poli-  
tical Agent at Kathiawar has sued a native Bombay paper for  
criminal defamation in the City Magistracy of Ahmedabad. The  
editor was arrested on a warrant, but bailed out.

A TELEGRAM was recently wired to the Australasian Colonies an-  
nouncing the fact that Mr. Vanderbilt had given £20,000 for Turner's  
"Canal in Venice." Thereupon, a New Zealand paper, with sense  
of the Fine Arts befitting the community of European adventurers  
in the Southern Ocean, thus comments :—"By cable we learn that  
Mr. Vanderbilt has brought a canal in Venice. The astute Yankee  
millionaire doubtless sees in the canal a source of revenue present  
and prospective."

WE have received some metrical trifles called "Calcutta University  
Melodies." We can print only one by way of sample. *Apropos* to the  
complaint in the papers, about the value of University degrees in the  
native marriage market, out of all proportion to their importance in the  
world, the following may be taken as expressing the genuine under-  
graduate view :—

Come o'er to me,  
B. A. degree,  
Mine by all means, fair or foul ;  
Times may alter,  
'Tis no matter,  
B. A.'s are B. A.'s, by my soul.  
Let fools growl, B. A.'s are society's shame,  
Earn shall we rupees thirty *per mensem*.

Then come o'er to me,  
B. A. degree,  
Mine 'from Indus to the pole' ;  
Times may alter,  
'Tis no matter,  
B. A.'s are B. A.'s, by my soul.

The piece is not unworthy of the *alumni* of a University which shows  
a wonderful instinct for selecting notorious ignoramuses, worthless  
intriguers and mere tuft-hunters for the honour of its Fellowship.

THE following diamond paragraph is going the round :—

"The estimated value of the total display of diamonds at the Paris  
Exposition was about \$40,000,000. The wonder of the display was a  
model of the Eiffel tower, 3½ feet high, composed entirely of diamonds.  
The Koh-i-noor is now out-ranked by several others. The Koh-i-noor  
weighs 103½ carats, but the Imperial displayed at the Exposition,  
weighs 180 carats, and is valued at \$200,000 ; and one is still larger.  
The largest in the world weighs 228½ carats, and is valued at \$500,000.  
The largest diamond mines in the world are the Kimberley, in South  
Africa. From 1871 to 1885 these mines yielded diamonds to the value  
of \$130,000,000, weighing as precious stones three and a half tons.  
To obtain them 20,000,000 tons of earth and rock were excavated.  
During the past eighteen years the African mines have produced more  
than 40,000,000 carats or eight tons of diamonds, valued at  
\$280,000,000."

HERE is a gold and silver calculation :—

"The quantity of gold in the world is not so large as it is commonly  
considered to be. There is not more than the worth of £7,000,000,000,  
which is about half pure gold and half silver. The annual production  
is about £100,000,000 worth, and the production has decreased 44 per  
cent. during the last thirty years. The production of silver, however,  
has increased 100 per cent., and now equals that of gold. One-third  
of the gold goes to wear and tear, one-third goes into circulation, and  
one-third into the arts and manufactures. All the gold in the world  
would make a pile only 25 feet wide, 45 feet long, and 25 feet high."

It is one of the mysteries of poor human nature, how the most strug-  
gling of us feel a vague and not unpleasurable interest in reading  
these bewildering details of fabulous wealth. The figures ought to  
humble the richest.

HERE, from an unexpected quarter, is the genesis of the diversity of the  
human race from original unity :—

"The Seminole Indians have a singular tradition regarding the  
white man's origin and superiority. They say when the Great Spirit  
made the earth he also created three men, all of whom were fair-com-  
plexioned. He then led them to a small lake and bade them jump in.  
One immediately obeyed the command and came out purer and fairer  
than before ; the second hesitated awhile, by which time the water  
became muddled, and when he came up he was copper-colored ; the  
third did not leap until the water became black with mud, and he  
came out with his own color. After this the Great Spirit laid before  
them three sealed packages, and gave the black man the first choice,  
so that he might have a chance to amend his former misfortune. He  
closely examined each package, and having felt their weight, chose the  
heaviest in preference to the rest believing it to be the best and most  
valuable. The copper-colored man chose the next heaviest, leaving  
the white man the lightest. When the packages were opened the  
first contained spades, hoes and other implements of labor ; and the  
second unfolded fishing tackle, and hunting and warlike weapons ; the  
third gave the white man pens, ink and paper—the means of mental  
improvement, social ink of humanity, the foundation of the white man's  
superiority."—*Christian Gleaner*.

That is a charming explanation at once poetical and instructive. It  
is certainly better than the explanation of many phenomena given in  
the religious records of many of the proudest races.

UNDER the eye of the Political Agent at Cambay, the enquiry into the  
attempted murder of Mr. Shamrao Narayan Laud, the Nawab's Dewan,  
has been concluded. One of the persons implicated is Ruttonchand,  
a mehta in the employ of the Nawab's brother. An application was  
made to get him out on bail on the ground of a marriage about to  
take place in his family, but refused by the Nawab. This man with two  
others were committed to the Sessions. One of them has been acquit-  
ted and two sentenced to seven years' imprisonment each.

THE Mahajans of Bhownugger met last week at the Mahajan Dhurma-  
sala, under the presidency of Nugger Sett Bhagwanbhai, and passed re-  
solutions expressive of great sympathy with the Maharaja Saheb "for  
the undeserved annoyance caused to him of late by foul and mendacious  
aspersions cast on him by ungrateful persons," of confidence in the pre-  
sent form of government by the Council, against which the attacks were  
aimed, and of sorrow at the collapse of the Brahmachari commission  
which, in consequence, did not allow the witnesses to depose to their

"loyal and grateful feelings towards their popular ruler." The meeting was unanimous in showing "its unqualified abhorrence and contempt for the foul attacks made on His Highness and his present advisers." The utmost enthusiasm of loyalty prevailed among the assembled bankers and merchants.

KAISER Wilhelm is laying himself out for popularity. Lately, he attended a dinner on board the *Fulda* where he spoke thus:—

"I thank you, and express my pleasure that I am enabled to make myself acquainted with the work and objects of the North German Lloyd. Every success of the Company fills me with pride, for its ships, which go to all points of the compass from the great emporium, are the subject not only of our own, but also of foreign admiration, examples of the efficiency of the builders of the merchant navy, and able to show themselves everywhere without misgiving. Of course, my efforts are directed to the maintenance of peace. Commerce and trade can flourish only when the safe conduct of business is guaranteed by peace. As a friend of maritime affairs, I follow the phenomena of Nature. When I sailed the Baltic with a squadron for the first time the question of a change of course arose. The change was made, but the ships were separated in the fog in consequence. Suddenly the German flag emerged from the mist high above the clouds—a surprising sight, which filled all of us with admiration. Later, the whole squadron, accurately steering its new course, emerged after the fog had blown off. This seemed to me a sign. Whatever dark hours may come to our Fatherland, we shall reach our goal by dint of pushing forward, according to the grand watchword, 'We Germans fear God, and nothing else in this world.' If, in the Press and in public life, symptoms of danger appear, one must console oneself with the thought that matters are not nearly so bad as they seem. Trust in me to preserve peace, and if the Press sometimes interprets my remarks differently, think of the old saying of another Emperor, 'An Emperor's words are not to be turned and twisted and quibbled over.' I ask all present to join me in cheers for Lloyd's continued progress and prosperity."

The Empire is Peace and good will to all men.

It is not likely that the Delhi-Kotri scheme will be approved by Government. Mr. Croudace has completed the survey, and estimates the cost at four millions sterling, or about £6,000 a mile.

THE North-Western Railway is in for a considerable reduction in the establishment, specially in the Traffic and Local Departments. The immediate cause is given out to be the slackness of traffic, on account of small crop. That cause is temporary, but the men will be thrown out permanently.

IN July, last year, a passenger boat sank while crossing the ferry on the Indus at Attock, at one of the most dangerous spots where the river is narrow and the rush of water great. Some of the boatmen, at the risk of their own lives, rescued 31 of the passengers. These boatmen have now been awarded Rs. 120. Rather too niggardly a reward for imperilling even water-men's lives.

THE Madras Railway Company have agreed to admit passed students from the Madras College of Engineering to the Perambore Workshops, for a course of practical instruction in mechanical engineering, for two years, on a premium of Rs. 500. Government will bear each year half the cost of the best student passed by the College. Students desirous of learning mechanical engineering will be trained free at the Public Works Workshops.

SIXTEEN municipalities in the Belgaum district and two in Surat have been disfranchised. The Governor declares the municipal Acts unsuitable to these municipalities, for want of interest on the part of the inhabitants in municipal administration. Government has taken upon itself the nomination of Commissioners. But will that improve matters? If the so called townships are supremely rural, it is too early to force municipalities on them. The original mistake lies there, we are afraid.

THE Port Commissioners have obtained permission of the Lieutenant-Governor to expend Rs. 15,653, for certain improvements at the Petroleum Dépôt at Budge-Budge.

FOR raising the embankment and rails between 116th and 121½ miles on the Eastern Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, about 100 bigahs of land, in the villages of Khoord Durgapur, Sherkandee, Batkamara, Duree Batkamara, Buhonoor Mohubutpur, Mysokala, Sudkee Mohomudpur, Nischindabaree and Sumuspur, pergunnahs Berahimpur, Jangirabad and Sudkee, zilla Nuddea, have been declared under the Act (X of 1870).

FOR improvement of the drainage of a portion of the Serampore municipality, the Government is willing to advance a loan of Rs. 30,000, repayable in 20 years with interest at 4½ per cent, or Rs. 2,306-4-8 on the first of every year commencing from 1891, till it has paid off Rs. 46,125-13-4. The advance will be made, unless good reasons are shown to the contrary within one month. Recently, the municipality was condemned as very unhealthy. The native Chairman explained, complained of funds and resigned. A European now guides the deliberations of the Commissioners, and the Government is prepared to assist them in the sanitary improvement of the town. In due course, it will go down to posterity how the natives were content to wallow in dirt until a white man came to the rescue and converted the old Danish town—the scene of the labours of Carey, Marshman and Ward, and of Mack, Marshman, Townsend, Smith, Routledge, Jennings, and Hooley—into a healthy and savoury place.

IT is announced that Mr. Bradlaugh has determined to enter the Theosophical Society. India is slowly getting into the head of the great Secularist.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE blustering Boulanger has been played out. He has made up his mind for retirement to private life. Not a day too soon. There is no more chance for an opening for him. France is tired of him. His countrymen's passion is for meteorological politics. No Fabius for them! They cannot endure a rebel who is not always ready to risk his neck.

THEY have managed the Cleveland-street scandal in their usual neat way and hanged—metaphorically—their understrapper, thus preserving at once their virtue and their connections. The righteous indignation of England has been appeased by the conviction of Solicitor Newton, on a minor charge to which he pleaded guilty. He has been acquitted on five counts and sentenced on the sixth to six weeks' imprisonment. The big scapegraces were sent out of harm's way betimes.

THE Brussels miners have, at a Conference in Jolimont, declared for the eight hours' movement.

In the Indian Civil Service examinations, it is probable that science will be better recognized by additional marks.

Sir James Fergusson has denied in the House of Commons in the Committee of Supply that England was making sacrifices to Germany in East Africa. Negotiations between the two Powers are proceeding amicably, and England's rights and interests will be maintained. Her Britannic Majesty's Government has, of course, protested—proudly and persistently—to Portugal against foreign interference in the British settlements in Nyassaland and Shiré region.

At the Merchant Taylors' banquet on the 22nd, the Premier took up the parable with energy. Lord Salisbury contradicted the insinuations of Mr. Stanley that the British Government had ceded to Germany large tracts of country in Africa. His Lordship further denied that any agreement was concluded between the two countries or that there was any possibility of one. Elsewhere he declared that the Zambesi and Shiré rivers were international highways, and that there was no question of negotiating with Portugal as regards the stoppage of vessels.

A Portuguese scientific expedition will start for Mozambique in July next. The British Government has already ordered the despatch there of two gun-boats of light draught.

The German East African Company worked last year at a loss of eighteen thousand pounds.

THERE is a Russian difficulty for Turkey which may lead to grave results. It is reported that five Turkish officers at Constantinople committed indecent assault on the wife and daughter of M. Ivanoff, Chief Dragoman to the Russian Embassy. Whilst they were out on a walk at Buyukdere, they were seized and kissed. Some Russian sailors went to their rescue and secured four of the assailants who are now lodged in the Embassy. The Ambassador, M. Nelidoff, refuses to



make over the men to Turkish authorities, he having no faith in Turkish justice. The same Ambassador immediately before had firmly demanded of the Porte the payment still due of the last war indemnity out of the new loan, and threatened, in the event of refusal, to follow up with adequate measures for recovering the same. The impetuous State may be compelled to yield its rights in the other matter in exchange for grace to pay its dues.

IN maintenance of Armed Peace, the German army is to be reorganised with an addition of fifty-three thousand men over and above the eighteen thousand already provided for. Under orders of the British Admiralty, the torpedo depôt ship *Hecla* is to be transformed into a cable ship, to accompany squadrons during manœuvres, and during war as a means of communication with home. She will be made to carry two thousand miles of cable on board.

In the House of Lords, at the instance of Lord Wemyss, there was a debate on Socialism. Lord Salisbury remarked that it was a great mistake and implied the State taking upon itself the duties of an individual. Yet the agitation indicated existence of evils which Government could not well afford to ignore.

On the 19th, the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the Duke of Cambridge, Mr. Stanhope and Lord Wolseley, unveiled the Royal Engineers' memorial statue of General Gordon at the School of Military Engineering at Chatham.

THE latest report of the Congress agitation in England is

"The delegates were entertained on the 19th by the Manchester Reform Club at a banquet. Mr. Jacob Bright, who presided, said that he thought the claims of the Congress moderate, and that it was desirable that they should be conceded. Mr. Mudholkar described in detail why India needed representation, and quoted Mr. Maclean in support of his argument. Mr. Banerjee, in replying to Mr. Goschen's recent charge that the Indian reformers were in correspondence with the Irish American League, declared the assertion to be absolutely baseless. Only one Indian, he said, had been known to correspond with the Fenians, and he was an anti-Congress-wallah, and was recently quoted in the *Times* as such. Sir W. Wedderburn also spoke, and all the speakers gratefully referred to the late Mr. John Bright's services to India."

WE summarise the following items from the news by the latest Australian mail :—

The committee of the London Mineral exhibition think it only right that they should make special reference to the splendid collection of minerals sent by New South Wales, which has been quite a feature of the exhibition.

CHARLES CALDERHOOD, Rose Calderhood, and Daniel Coughlin, are under trial for conspiring to defraud the Australian Widows' Insurance Company of £1,000.

MR. Cosmo Newbery, after examination of the ore, is unable to give a decided opinion regarding the alleged discovery of platinum near Colac.

THE anti-Christians and infidels have got a grievance. ON April 18, a contingent of the party of Freethought, as they love to call themselves, with a camp following of members of Parliament and others, besieged Postmaster-General Powers on the refusal to transmit free through the post as a newspaper, the freethought organ, the *Stockwhip*. Mr. Powers was not to be bullied however. He made vigorous reply, exposing the pretensions of the *Stockwhip* to rank as a newspaper. It was not even registered as such. Finally, he showed the mischievousness of its contents, giving point to his remark by reading extracts from it. He had no hesitation in thinking that in the interest of the majority of the people that paper should not be sent through the post at the public expense.

THE tanners and curriers at Hindmarsh on strike in furtherance of the eight hours' principle, had made an offer of a concession, but the masters declined to accept it, insisting on the Victorian system, but paying flushers 50s. instead of 45s. The masters are obliged to take up that position on the ground of severe competition with the manufacturers in Victoria and New South Wales, and other handicaps by the South Australian tanners.

The Electric Light Commission have recommended the incandescent circuit for Parliament House and the railway station.

THE Australian Federal Council having, on the 10th February, recommended an increase in the number of representatives for each Colony on the said Council, according to population, the Legislatures of several of the Colonies adopted addresses to the Queen praying for an Order in Council granting the proposed increase. The Attorney-General of Tasmania, however, doubted whether an Order in Council could issue. The Secretary of State consulted the law officers of the Crown, and they without being able to give a decisive opinion, were of the same mind. Under the circumstances, Her Majesty could not accede to the prayer. At any rate, all the Legislatures concerned must send in a request before even an order for specific increase (that is, irrespective of the numbers of population) could be made. A letter to this effect from Lord Knutsford to the Governor of Tasmania has just appeared in the Colony. Similar answers have doubtless been sent to the addresses from other Colonies.

THE question of the appointment of an Englishman as Tutor to the young Scindhia against the dying request, duly accepted, of his father the late ruler of Gwalior, has been raised in Parliament. There never was a more shocking piece of business transacted even in the Foreign Office. The financial aspect of this high-handed arrangement is of a piece with its general character. Here it is, put in stubborn arithmetical array ; one may run and see :—

"The late Scindhia's arrangement cost the State Rs. 4,000 nearly as under :—

	Monthly. Rs.	Yearly. Rs.
Pandit Ramkissen.....	200	
" Anandi Lall.....	125	

Total...325 × 12 = 3,900

Then Sir Lepel Griffin introduced a new scale by which the cost was raised to Rs. 15,000 yearly :—

Pandit Dharam Narayan.....	1,000
" Pran Kissen.....	250

Total...1,250 × 12 = 15,000

The Present arrangement introduced by the Government of India more than doubles the cost :—

Mr. Johnstone.....	1,500
Pandit Dharam Narayan.....	1,000
" Prankissen.....	200
Principal, Maharaja's College.....	250

Total...2,950 × 12 = 35,400 "

Thus bravely goes on the exploitation of the Native States under British auspices.

KHUSHAL CHAND, a wealthy jeweller of Indore, slipped out of the State to defeat his creditors. Travelling with a prodigious retinue and baggage, he was arrested, on suspicion, by the Opium Inspector at Khandwa who, receiving no satisfactory explanation from the man, informed the Indore Durbar, and sent his jewel boxes back to Indore under police guard. One of the creditors of Khushal Chand now filed a suit in the Indore Court for the recovery of his dues amounting to half a lac of Rupees. He was advised to prosecute Khushal Chand criminally under section 206, I. P. C. The Chief Justice of Indore, on affidavits filed before him, ordered the Magistrate to try Khushal Chand. The Dewan of Indore, however, stepped in and quashed the order and prevented the prosecution. Of course, there is a great outcry against the administration, specially from the enemies of Khushal Chand, and their lawyers. The courts of Indore are declared to be a farce, the Dewan has himself superseded them, and the Maharaja is said to be at the bottom of all. We are not prepared to endorse the view. As yet, we have the *ex parte* account, but the circumstances have a bad look.

THERE is some chance of some justice from the public to the Holkar. Hitherto the case has gone *ex parte*, His Highness, ignorant of the power of repetition to damage any reputation however exalted or well fortified, having disdained to vindicate himself through his friends. But a champion has at last started up. One J. A. Manuel, who describes himself as "Late Pleader High Court, Calcutta," is persistently attacking the public ear through the columns of the *Eastern Herald*, in favour of Maharaja Sivaji Rao. For, if we mistake not, we remember reading Mr. Manuel's present communication in the same journal before. The revival thereof shows determination. In a long rambling and confused letter, Mr. Mannel points to Sir Kashi Rao Holkar, uncle of the ruling Holkar Bahadoor, and his *factotum* Martand Rao,

as the root of all mischief and cause of all the differences in the Maharaja's family and of all his bad name, and denounces them as intriguers of the first water and almost rebels. We dare say they will have something to say to these heavy charges. Or the Residency will compel them to notice them. The public can only gain by an obstinate campaign without quarter between the parties.

Rai Bahadr Jai Prokash Lal, Dewan of the Maharaja of Dumraon, late member of the Bengal Legislative Council, Honorary Magistrate and President of the Independent Bench at Dumraon, in the district of Shahabad, has, at length, with tardy liberality, been vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class. In an independent raj, he would have ruled the Courts, both civil and criminal, and Dumraon with a clear income of ten lacs a year is materially more important than many a minor political chiefship.

BABOO Janaki Ballav Sen, Zemindar of Dimla, in the district of Rungpore, a far more respectable person, by the way, than his fellows who have won titles—has subscribed Rs. 20,000 in aid of the drainage scheme for Rungpore, and another Rs. 20,000 for a building to be named the Janaki Ballav House, to be attached to the native sanitarium at Darjeeling, for the exclusive accommodation of Hindu patients. Rungpore—thanks to Dr. K. D. Ghose, and other sanitary reformers—is now a decently healthy town, but a good supply of water is still a crying want, and we are glad to see the landlords of the District so alive on the subject. We congratulate the good Commissioner, Mr. Lewis, on the success which is attending his zealous efforts in behalf of the native sanitarium at Darjeeling, which we owe to him and to the devotion to the cause of his Personal Assistant Baboo Hari Mohun Chandra. Of course, the zeal would have come to nought, unless the Maharaja of Cooch Behar had come forward to grant the ground, or Baboo Gobind Lal Roy had, in view of title, placed the magnificent sum of Rs. 80,000 at the disposal of the Commissioner. And now the liberality of Baboo Janaki Ballav Sen has substantially enhanced the usefulness and dignity of the new Native Sanitarium by a splendid gift. All honour to him.

HINDUISM is far from defunct, even in go-a-head Bombay. It is like the Sick Man of European politics—always dying, by account of the enemy, but never allowing them the full satisfaction of burying him and dividing his estate. Caste though, as befits a conservative, slow in its operations, is pretty sure in its vengeance. Thus, in January last at Bombay, there was a dinner at Dr. Atmaram Pandurang's house, attended by Hindoos of different castes. There were also a European lady, Dr. Emma Brainerd Ryder, and the well-known Pandita Ramabai who, after her unfortunate attachment for a Bengali Shao and a brief stay in Brahmoism, has found a refuge for body and soul in the bosom of the Church and the Christian community. It is now announced that Hindu society has called the defiant transgressors of the Hindu scheme of purity to account, and they are understood to be, one by one, clearing themselves by eating the very humble and far from savoury or odoriferous pie prescribed for such offenders. They are required to perform *prayaschit* and renew the ceremony of regeneration for the twice-born and take to the symbolic sacred thread anew. Among those involved, the *Rast Gofar* names Mr. Nursingrao Bholanath, Civil Servant at Sholapore, and his brother, and Ramanbhai, son of Mr. Mahipatram Rupram. Mr. Ramanbhai at any rate will be able to partake with a good face of the sanctifying refreshments, which are no new delicacies in his family.

THE Calcutta University could not bungle and bungle and not make known the results of the examinations for ever. To-day it publishes the Entrance results, namely, 347 in the first, 1185 in the second and 1106 in the third division. The First Arts is not yet.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Old Wounds, Sores and Ulcers.—Daily experience confirms the fact which has triumphed over all opposition for more than forty years, viz., that no means are known equal to Holloway's remedies for curing bad legs, bad breasts, sores, wounds, diseases of the skin, erysipelas, abscesses, burns, scalds, and, in truth, all maladies where the skin is broken. To cure these infirmities quickly is of primary importance, as compulsory confinement indoors weakens the general health. The ready means of cure are found in Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which heal the sores and expel their cause. In the very worst cases the Ointment has succeeded in effecting a perfect cure after every other means had failed in giving adequate relief.

OF the four engines working at the Tallah water station, through which the whole supply for the town passes, one has suddenly been found out of order and needing repairs. That means restricted supply of water, but the Engineer to the Corporation thinks that the remaining three are able to give the present daily supply equally distributed over the 24 hours. In the absence of the fourth pump, the water, however, cannot be raised to the required height. It will be necessary therefore for the inhabitants to economize the supply. Much water is usually allowed to waste, through the carelessness of servants and want of supervision of owners of houses. That must be checked. Indeed, house-owners themselves are inviting measures which cannot be palatable to them. If they mean to avoid forced restriction, their conduct at this or similar occasions will hasten or postpone the evil day.

THE Bengal Secretariat press establishment are far from a happy and contented body. For a long time past, there appears to have prevailed amongst them a spirit of deep rankling discontent with the management of Mr. Lewis, accompanied at times with a spirit of resistance to his authority. A number of the compositors, smarting under real or supposed injuries, seem to have at last hit upon the usual device of such like folk of addressing anonymous complaints to the Government, and setting up a newspaper agitation against Mr. Lewis's treatment of his hands. For these indiscretions, a dozen of them have been dismissed after an enquiry held by Mr. Secretary Cotton. One of these is not satisfied with the finding of Mr. Cotton, and has appealed to the Government of India. We do not know what the chances of an appeal from such a poor person against a Local Government are, but it is pitiable that there should arise any cause for such a state of disorder in a Secretariat department.

WE following is the list of honours on the Queen's Birth-Day :—

#### STAR OF INDIA.

His Excellency the Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India is pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India has been graciously pleased to make the following appointments to the said Order :—

#### To be Knights Commanders.

The Hon. Andrew Richard Scoble, C. S. I., Q. C., Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General  
Dennis Fitzpatrick, Esq., C. S. I., Bengal Civil Service, Resident at Hyderabad and lately Chief Commissioner of Assam.

#### To be Companions

Colonel Charles Kenneth Mackenzie Walter, Bengal Staff Corps, lately Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana and Chief Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara.

Frederick Barnes Peacock, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, retired, lately a Member of the Board of Revenue, Bengal, and Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

James Richard Naylor, Esq., Bombay Civil Service, Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, Bombay.

Frederick William Richards Fryer, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, Financial Commissioner in Burma.

The Hon'ble Robert Joseph Crosthwaite, Bengal Civil Service, Judicial Commissioner in the Central Provinces, and Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations.

Surgeon-Major Alfred Swaine Lethbridge, M.D., Indian Medical Service, Inspector-General of Jails, Bengal.

#### INDIAN EMPIRE.

His Excellency the Grand Master of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire is pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India has been graciously pleased to make the following appointments to the said Order :—

#### To be Knights Grand Commanders.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble George Robert Canning, Baron Harris, Governor of Bombay.

His Highness Bahadur Khanji, Mahabat Khanji, Nawab of Junagarh, in Kathiwar.

His Highness Amin-ud-Daulah Wazir-ul-Mulk Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan Bahadur Saulat Jang, of Tonk, in Rajputana.

Ihtisham-ul-Mulk Rais-ud-Daulah Amir-ul-Umara Nawab Sir Saiyid Hassan Ali Khan Bahadur Mahabat Jang, K. C. I. E., of Murshidabad Bengal.

#### To be a Knight Commander.

James Bellot Richey, Esq., C. S. I., Bombay Civil Service, retired, lately Member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay.

#### To be Companions.

James Robert Reid, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, a Member of the Board of Revenue, North-Western Provinces.

Raja Protap Narayan Singh Deo Bahadur, of Jashpur, Chota Nagpore.

Colonel Samuel Swinton Jacob, Bombay Staff Corps, Executive Engineer of the State of Jaipur, in Rajputana.

Rai Bahadur Pundit Suraj Kaul, Member of the Kashmir State Council.

John David Rees, Esq., Madras Civil Service, Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Hafiz Abdul Karim, of Meerut.

The Hon'ble Alexander McHinch, Additional Member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay for making Laws and Regulations, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Sind Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Rao Bahadur Kesri Singh, Thakur of Kuchawan, in Marwar, Rajputana.

Robert Turnbull, Esq., late Secretary to the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta.

James Buckingham, Esq., Major Commanding the Sibsagar Mounted Rifles.

Jeremiah Garnett Horsfall, Esq., Madras Civil Service, retired, lately Collector, District Magistrate, and Agent to the Governor in Ganjam, Madras Presidency.

James George Henry Glass, Esq., Superintending Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces in the Public Works Department.

Edmund Neel, Esq., Assistant Secretary in the Political and Secret Department of the India Office.

Captain George Lindsay Holford, 1st Life Guards, Equerry to H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor of Wales.

#### NATIVE TITLES.

##### *Dewan Bahadur.*

P. Rajarathna Mudaliyar, Rai Bahadur, Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture in the Madras Presidency.

##### *Shams-ul-Ulema.*

Moulvi Abdur Rauf of Patna.

##### *Khan Bahadur.*

Nanabhai Kavasji, Inspector of Police, in the Bombay Presidency.

Burjorji Rustomji Mistry, Contractor, of Bombay.

Lakhat Husain, Tahsildar of Meerut in the North-Western Provinces.

Muhammad Amir, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, and Commandant of the Peshawar Border Military Police.

Azim Khan, Kundi, of Gul Miani, near Tank, in the Dera Ismail Khan District.

Karim-ud-din Ahmed of Kotana, in the Meerut District, Tahsildar of Susa, in the Hissar District.

Khoda Buksh Khan, Ushtarana, Deputy Inspector of Police in the Punjab.

Ghulam Kadir Khan, Superintendent of the Detective Police, Gwalior, in Central India.

Yar Muhammad Khan, Assistant Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and Minister of the State of Jaora, in Central India.

Moulvi Muhammad Unwar-ul-Huq, Mir Munshi of the Rajputana Agency.

Shauk Abdur Rahim, Senior Hospital Assistant, Subordinate Medical Department, Bengal.

##### *Rao Bahadur.*

R. Smitiya Rao Nayudu, Deputy Collector in the Kistna District, in the Madras Presidency.

Chadasing Kansing Shahani, late Mukhtyarkar of Mehar, in the Province of Sind.

Thakur Jewan Singh of Jakhnoda, Alirajpur, in Central India.

Gajanan Krishna Bhatavadekar, Subordinate Judge in the Bombay Presidency, Settlement and Giras Commissioner in the Baroda State.

Dhakji Cashmathji, Personal Assistant to the Commissary-General of Bombay.

##### *Rai Bahadur.*

Babu Nalinaksha Bose, Honorary Magistrate and Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality.

Sobha Ram, Assistant District Superintendent of Police in the Punjab.

Thandi Ram, late Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab.

Amar Singh, Inspector of Police in the Punjab.

Thakur Maharaj Singh, Honorary Magistrate of Saugor, in the Central Provinces.

Rai Seth Samir Mull, Vice-President of the Ajmere Municipality.

##### *Rao Sahib.*

Antaji Narayan Kotnis, Vice-President of the Taluka Local Board of Vingurla and Member of the Vingurla Municipality, in the Bombay Presidency.

Damodar Narayan, late Honorary Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department of the Government of Bombay.

Balwant Rao Bhuskute, Honorary Magistrate and Honorary Extra-Assistant Commissioner of Nimar, in the Central Provinces.

##### *Rai Sahib.*

Raja Lal, late a Supervisor in the Military Works Department.

Lalla Jowahir Lal, Supervisor in the Military Works Department.

Bhola Ram, Supervisor in the Military Works Department.

Babu Malak Raj, Station Master at Sabarmati Junction, Bombay-Baroda and Rajputana-Malwa Railway.

##### *Rai.*

Diwan Chand, of Sialkote, in the Punjab.

Isri Pershad Tewari, Contractor, in the Central Provinces.

##### *Thuye gaung Ngwe Da Ya Min.*

Maung Kyaw Gaung, Shwehmeu or Myothugyi of Seinnan, Ye-u district.

Maung Dun, Myothugyi of Moda, Katha district.

Maung Man, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Paungdè, Promé district.

Maung Shwe Thin, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Yandoon.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890.

### THE INDIGO CRISIS IN JESSORE.

It seems time enough the Government of Bengal should allay the public feeling on the subject of the long continued indigo disputes in Jhenida and Magura, by publishing its own statement on the subject. We have refrained so far from noticing the subject, although we have not ceased in our private efforts towards pacification of the difficulty. But there appears to be no indication of an approaching settlement. The facts of the subject have indeed been considerably obscured by misrepresentation on both sides. Even the correspondent specially deputed by the *Statesman* to the spot, is unable to make any better case for the planters than to harp on the fact that Mr. Sheriff keeps schools for the education of the tenantry. But often school-starting, with natives as with Europeans, is a dodge of charity to cover a multitude of sins, or to gain selfish, sordid ends. We have really been not a little amused by reading some of the despatches of this writer. Evidently, Mr. Sheriff's hospitality has proved too much for faithful discharge of duty, but no sensible man will be favourably impressed for his clients by his playing on the one string of the so-called planter educational philanthropy. It is the old story—the plea of collateral advantages of Indigo manufacture finally urged at the famous Indigo Commission of Sir John Peter Grant, to save the then doomed industry. Our contemporary, however, has made amends for the one-sided statements of his special correspondent, by freely throwing open his columns to writers on the other side. One of these writers, not exactly on the other side, is Babu Dharendra Nath Pal, the pet of Anglo-India. He has written some clever letters on the subject which we have read with great interest. In fact, his letters are up to this time the best unofficial presentment of the subject. Babu D. N. Pal is an indigo-planter himself and a Zemindar, and his leanings are not likely to be overmuch towards the rayyets. Yet, he seems to have succeeded in producing on the whole a fair and impartial statement of the case. He does not spare the rayyets where they are in his view in fault, nor their "advocates." But at the same time, he lays thick on the other side. He shows conclusively that, in spite of the material benefits accruing to the district from the presence of the indigo business, the business itself is propped up by *zoolm*. There is a great degree of personal violence and oppression committed by the planters or by their myrmidons. For the rest, Mr. Luson would appear to be about the worst man the Government could select for the delicate task of evolving harmony from the complications and disorders that are prevailing in the districts. Babu Pal gives a vivid account of almost military raid by Mr. Luson in a market, which ought to have at once led to his removal from his duty. No doubt, the Government is closely watching his conduct, and we expect to see it every day rise to the height of the situation. Perhaps the light of Parliamentary agitation will quicken its conscience. People have been sent to jail in batches, and quite a reign of terror instituted. In the market scene, Mr. Luson headed almost a regiment of *quasi* military force, and fire arms were freely opened indiscriminately upon those assembled there for buying and selling, without the least compunction. All this, however, seems to have failed of

its object of cowing down the peasantry. No signs of the restoration of order are visible, nor does the Government give any hint to show that it is alive to the gravity of the situation. On the contrary, its sufferance of Mr. Luson's extraordinarily wild proceedings is far from being of a reassuring character.

Another correspondent of the *Statesman*, P. N. M., shows, by facts and figures, that indigo cultivation is anything but profitable to the tenants. Indeed, the chronic tyranny of indigo planters over their rayyets, both in past and present times, lends some colour to this view. At any rate, the rayyets seem to be allowed very little margin for profit by the grasping avarice of their European employers. This is more or less the case in all relations between Capital and Labor, and is at the root of the strained state of feelings between them. How far this is the case in regard to indigo cultivation, and whether or not it is forced on an unwilling peasantry by a system of force overtly or covertly countenanced by officers of Mr. Luson's type, are fair questions for the decision of another Indigo-Commission. Anyhow, the silence of the Government, while things are drifting to an anarchy, is sure to be interpreted into support of the cause of the industry and the abnormal conditions on which it is maintained.

The attitude of the Government has led friends of the aggrieved party to carry the matter to the House of Commons.

On Monday, the 28th April, Mr. Bradlaugh was to have put the following questions in the House, to wit :

"To ask the Under-Secretary of State for India, whether the Secretary of State is aware that grave disaffection exists in Jessore, Bengal, in consequence of the action of Mr. Luson, a member of the Civil Service, towards certain rayyets in indigo cultivation tracts :

Whether certain Hindoo magistrates have been removed from the subdivisions of Jhenidah and Magurah, Jessore district, to other subdivisions, at the instance of the indigo planters of the district :

Whether Mr. Luson was appointed to take charge of these subdivisions :

Whether such an arrangement is in accordance with the practice in Indian administration :

Whether he is aware that Mr. Luson was formerly in charge of the neighbouring sub-division of Meherpore, and, while so in charge, ordered fifty villagers to be whipped for fishing, which conduct was characterised by Sir Comer Petheram, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta, as violent and illegal :

Whether the rayyets of the sub-divisions of Jhenidah and Magurah have addressed a petition to Mr. Luson alleging various illegalities and oppressive conduct in his magisterial capacity :

Whether Mr. Luson, for alleged misdemeanors in reference to indigo cultivation, summarily tried, is now sending cultivators to gaol in batches, and imposing heavy fines :

And, whether, if these circumstances have not been brought to his notice, the Secretary of State will, without delay, inquire into the facts.

That question was duly asked, and answered by Sir John Gorst with ministerial evasion, as follows :—

"The Secretary of State has no ground for supposing that grave disaffection exists in Jessore district, but he is aware that certain Native newspapers have made statements similar to those indicated in the question. The Secretary of State has no official information on the points raised except as to the conviction of villagers by Mr. Luson for illegal fishing. The convictions were quashed, but the Secretary of State is not aware that the Chief Justice stated Mr. Luson's conduct to be violent and illegal. The Secretary of State has no reason to interfere with the vigilance which the local Government always exercises in matters between indigo planters and rayyets.

Mr. Bradlaugh : May I ask the right hon. gentleman if he is aware from the newspaper reports that such facts are alleged, and if they are not sufficiently grave to require an answer ?

Sir J. Gorst : The Secretary of State is not in the habit of addressing inquiries to the Local Government of India in regard to statements in the local newspapers. If the hon. member will make a proper complaint no doubt it will be made the subject of a report to the Secretary of State."

We are now informed that—

"Mr. Bradlaugh gave notice that on the 15th May he will present a petition from the Jessore indigo rayyets respecting the urgent necessity of transferring Mr. Luson from the indigo sub-divisions, and holding an immediate enquiry into their grievances. Sir John Gorst having refused enquiry Mr. Bradlaugh asks the House to discuss the subject-matter of the petition forthwith."

The petition of the rayyets referred to is in the following terms :—

The Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled :—

The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the villages situated in the District of Jessore in the Presidency of Bengal ;

Respectfully Sheweth :—

1. That your humble petitioners are the cultivating rayyets of the European Indigo planters of the Bijulia concern in the Sub-division of Jhenidah in the district of Jessore.

2. That they have been for years oppressed in various ways and forced to cultivate indigo against their will by the said planters.

3. That failing to obtain justice in the ordinary Courts of law they submitted petitions to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, and the District Magistrate of Jessore praying for the redress of their grievances in September 1889.

4. That the then District Magistrate of Jessore held an enquiry into the subject matter of their said petitions in the middle of October 1889, and found that the allegations against the planters were substantially true and reported accordingly to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

5. That after the said District Magistrate had submitted his report and the rayyets refused to cultivate indigo against their will, the indigo planters began to harass your humble petitioners by instituting a large number of vexatious civil and criminal suits against them, with the object of binding your humble petitioners to their will.

6. That, in the meantime, the Government of Bengal transferred the then Sub-Divisional Officer of Jhenidah, a Hindoo, to another place, although there was no allegation of bias and partiality against him by the planters, and placed Mr. Hewling Luson, C.S., in charge of Jhenidah, as well as Magurah, the adjoining sub-division, where too the rayyets had petitioned the local Government and refused to cultivate indigo.

7. That the said Mr. Luson was only about three years ago severely censured by the Calcutta High Court for having "brought the administration of justice into contempt," to use the language of the Chief Justice, in connection with the Meherpore fishing case, in which he had caused about fifty rayyets to be illegally whipped for no other offence than that of fishing in a lake.

8. That Mr. Luson took charge of Jhenidah on the 7th January last, and from that day up to the 9th April, he has convicted 153 persons, of whom 123 have been fined Rs. 1,097, 30 sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, whereas his predecessor on title had occasion to convict six men only in the course of four months from among the indigo rayyets.

9. That there are still criminal cases pending against 348 persons before Mr. Luson and the police officers under him.

10. That Mr. Luson is openly siding with the planters and punishing the rayyets with the object of coercing them into indigo cultivation.

11. That of the adult male population of about two thousand men, about 1,400 persons have been sued against by the planters, 900 in the Civil and 500 in the Criminal Courts.

12. That if Mr. Luson brought the justice into contempt while at Meherpore, he has brought it into greater contempt here at Magurah and Jhenidah, where the rayyets charge him to his face with being partial, and where he is being petitioned by them not to try their cases on the ground of his being biased in favour of the planters who are his countrymen and with whom he is on friendly and intimate terms.

13. That your humble petitioners have submitted several petitions to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, but have received no redress of their grievances, nor even replies to their petitions.

Your humble petitioners, therefore, pray that the Government in India be directed to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to enquire into their grievances and to transfer Mr. Luson from the Sub-divisions of Jhenidah and Magurah."

The petition embodies the extraordinary state of things that has been prevailing under Mr. Luson's reign of terror all these weary months. If the appeal to Parliament has even the effect of inspiring the Government here with a due sense of the nature of the crisis, which its own indifference in regard to these indigo disputes has precipitated, it shall not have been made in vain.

#### THE DEAD AND THE LIVING.

WE do not look into the *Hindoo Patriot* or the *Indian Mirror*, though we thereby lose a treat. There is always something or other in them. And the latter is positively amusing. For that matter, to give the clown his due, we confess the former is running close on the other's heels. Opening the last issue of the *Hindoo Patriot* we find the editor writing, or at least publishing, on the 19th May, as follows :—

"Great preparations are being made in Europe and America for the labour demonstration on the 1st of May. The outlook is serious in Austria, where the labour agitation is intense. Everywhere in Austria the cry is raised for higher wages and shorter hours. Military precautions make Vienna like a city preparing for a siege. M. Zola, the novelist, believes that whether by pacific or violent means the present social state of the world is about to disappear. He regards the May day demonstrations as a premonitory sign of the universal crisis. The realistic instincts of M. Zola see evils which do not affect the social order one way or another."

That is the whole paragraph and all that our contemporary has on the subject. There is not a word about America after the opening sentence, unless Austria may be taken for an American country. Certainly, Zola is either Austrian or American—or the paragraph is an incoherent strain. But what on earth has the "realistic instincts" of the notorious novelist got to do in the business, is what "no fellah can understand."



Turning to the Indian matter, we are arrested by an obituary notice. The same paper records with sorrow the death of Baboo Deno Nath Mallik. This is the expression of the true milk-of—assinine kindness. The very relations who as in duty bound visit the sons of the deceased, make no secret of congratulating them on their emancipation from the truculent yoke of an imperious, self-willed, abnormally conceited, utterly inconsiderate parent. Does this Proser Laureate to Calcutta Baboodom know that when the sister of Denonath, living with another brother, on receiving the news of death, attempted a feeble demonstration of grief in the customary way, she was stopped *instantly* by the other lady relatives and rebuked for wasting breath on such an object? And the *Hindoo Patriot* forsooth is sorry! Has the writer—we cannot say editor, for the paper has scarcely any editor—lost his appetite?

The whole is couched in the same vein of unreality. The notice is so rich that we quote it entire.

"His wealth and his culture commanded respect from all classes of the people. He was passionately fond of metaphysical study, and was a firm believer in the truths of Hinduism. He was of a quiet disposition, but he felt deeply, and where occasion required it, he boldly spoke out his sentiments. He was for many years a member of the Managing Committee of the British Indian Association and though he never took an active part in public movements, he evinced a deep interest in the political welfare of his countrymen."

His wealth may be admitted, though he was vain of it out of all proportion. But it was by no means stunning. Many obscure widows in town may be found to possess as much or more. He owned only a fourth of the estate of the Pataldanga Malliks. Yet he was wont to compare himself with "Jotindro"—as he used to call the Maharaja—a preposterous pretension. The respected head of the Tagore family is not perfection, but to use one of Macaulay's striking comparisons, the difference between the soaring angel and the creeping snake is a type of the difference between the accomplished Sir J. Tagore and the unspeakable Baboo Mallik just gone to his final rest. It is an insult to the country to say that the wealth of this braggart miser commanded the respect of all classes. What! have our countrymen declined so far that the mere possession of wealth, unaccompanied by the capacity to employ it to any purpose, constitutes a claim on their respect? Great as is our degeneracy, we hope our people cannot feel aught but contempt for an intellectual and moral eunuch who brandishes at them a tightly gripped and carefully stringed purse. Whatever the degradation reached by many individuals, the nation is still free from this grovelling fetishism. His culture was an unknown quantity—an unsuspected possession. We can positively assert that he could not tell the meaning of the word. We really doubt whether this eulogist knows it. His hero certainly knew the alphabet, and indeed was versed in all knowledge short of the grammar. And to talk of metaphysics because he lent himself to charlatans who showed him ghosts! and of his firm faith in the truths of Hinduism because he sacrificed his life in a weak adhesion to another charlatan who pretended to teach him Yoga! why this is worthy of George Robins! As for his connection with the British Indian Association, he would not pay unless they put him on the Committee, and he paid for the bagatelle because, like a genuine snob, he thought the connection gave him status. But did he ever take part in any subject? He did not pretend to understand any public question, wisest of mankind as he roundly asserted himself to be. The whole is fulsome to nausea.

The *Mirror* outHerods Herod. We hear this unique journal, besides the usual obituary falsehoods of the other, has praised the deceased for his liberality. He

Did good by stealth and blushed to find it fame!

Yes, it was a remarkable case. Not only did his right hand not know what heart's blood was extracted from his left, but he was not himself conscious of his loss. And well for him and his people that it was so. The knowledge would only have made him restless and them miserable too. He would not have rested till he had recouped himself. His charity was a profound secret beyond men and gods—unless he made a timely provision for elegiacs and epitaphs in a struggling press.

The panegyrists have ignored his character as a Zemindar. He was a bloated absentee. He was not without merit, however. He was sober and continent.

The only people who affect to be indignant with us for telling the truth, if not to sympathise with him, are those who love not this paper for its unamiable weakness, and the upstarts and hypocrites

and pretenders of all kinds who have cause to be afraid of its outspokenness. We have received from all sides expressions of satisfaction at our courage and devotion to duty in a thankless and thoroughly unpleasant cause, from persons whose opinion is valuable. One young person only has taken the trouble to write in protest. As he is wellknown to be afflicted with the *cacoethes scribendi*, we need not care. We will not humour him with printing his unmannerly abuse, without facts or argument. The more so as his communication appears to have been rejected in other quarters for which it was expressly composed.

Still less do we care the beasts who are openly trying to minimise the moral of our lay sermon, by assuring the boys that their father was quite within his right to ride his own carriage in an indecent posture in a public drive. What can we feel but contempt for the officious men—beggars on horseback at last—who are ostentatiously going about trying to put us in court for writing which they are not able to parse.

### CIVIL COURTS REFORM.

In India during the time of Hindu Rajas the administration of justice was considered to be a bounden duty of sovereigns, and subjects were allowed to have their dissensions decided without having their pockets touched. But now we find that litigation has increased beyond all proportions and its cost does not know any bounds. If any person desires to ascertain the present impecunious circumstances of this country, I believe he will take the cost of litigation to be one of the principal causes. The cost which the party pays does not go to maintain the civil establishment, but increases the revenue of the state. Sir Richard Garth, late Chief Justice of Bengal, has censured the Government for selling justice. The establishment is maintained by the Government at a nominal cost. No party can obtain from his sovereign redress of his grievances or even approach the courts without a preliminary paying, more or less. Suppose a person institutes a suit for Rs. 1,000 and the case is decreed *ex parte*. It does not take the Judge's time more than five minutes and the plaintiff should pay the entire cost when he instituted the suit. Now a person who is incapable of repaying his just debt is saddled with an enormous cost for which he could not accuse the plaintiff. The Government shows the greatest solicitude for the welfare of its subjects by disallowing appeals in Small Cause Court cases and other petty suits. When the Court Fees Act was formulated it was said by the Government, in my memory serves me right, that the litigants should pay one-third and the Government the remaining part of the cost of judicial establishment. But now we find that quite the reverse is the case. It commonly happens that a person drawing a salary ranging between Rs. 200 and Rs. 400 is appointed Munsif and to help him there are one Sheristadar, drawing a pay of Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, and three Mohorurs drawing Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 each per month, one Nazir and Accountant drawing Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 and Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 respectively, and comparing clerk drawing Rs. 20 to Rs. 30, besides a few peons. These officers are entrusted with most responsible business, but their pittance is no better than that of an ordinary menial of a gentleman. They are men of good birth and of good education. Their hours of business are not from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. as in all Government offices, but they are compelled to transact all business however enormous it be no matter whether it be Sabbath or holiday. They have no fixed office hours. They come at dawn in court, return home at 10 A.M. and taking breakfast within half an hour, like a saddled horse, repair to the court before the Munsif takes his seat and labour till dusk. Your readers may well conceive how the constitution of these officers is undermined by such over work; and you may well imagine that it is not unnatural for men drawing such a poor pay to fall into temptations, with families at home to support, children to educate, daughters to marry and their own expenses to defray. These officers are not to be blamed for the charge of corruption which is always levelled against them. It is the Government which compelled them to resort to such mean acquisitions. The people pay heavily for the litigation, the officers having charge of it are insufficiently paid, and our Christian Government makes capital out of it. Now what more preposterous can there be? The litigants do not get speedy relief. A simple case of small value takes almost a year for disposal and a good many adjournments are made for no fault of the parties; and the cost incurred outweighs the relief granted. If the case goes up to the High Court it takes another two years for final adjudication, and the parties have to sell their properties to meet the expenses. Such cases are not isolated but are of ordinary occurrence. The present business of the Civil Court is more than enough, and the Calcutta Municipal Act has enjoined that the owners of holdings should pay rates and realize them from the occupiers by help of the Civil Courts, unlike the former procedure. The establishment of the Civil Court is quite inadequate to meet the demands of the people. A chowkee consisting of two, three, or of four Munsifs has only one Nazir, one accountant and one comparing

clerk. Now if the disposal of the file of the chowkee referred to above requires more munsifs than one, it is difficult to understand why the Government appoints a single officer on such slender pay for transacting business of such enormous magnitude. The Legislature is theoretically wise, but does not care how the law is administered. When the present Rent law was enacted it was the aim of the Government to have the rent cases decided speedily; but now we find that even in *ex parte* cases, adjournments are granted for want of time.

Lately Mr. Stevens was appointed a Commissioner for the reform of the Civil Courts; but Heaven knows what has become of his report. Most probably it has been pigeon-holed in the Secretariat. Does it not speak ill of the Government that it derives an income of Rs. 35,00,000 per annum after covering all expenditure in Bengal?

People pay handsomely for relief and yet they do not get it. The officers draw miserable pay. They are even denied the casual leave to which they are entitled, and the State derives a sovereign income by these means. Some members of the Subordinate Judicial Service applied for privilege leave on the occasion of their daughters' marriage, mothers' *sradh*, &c., and the Hon'ble High Court did not think it proper to grant the leave even on such solemn business which every Hindu even at the risk of his life is enjoined by religion to celebrate. Europeans of the celestial Civil Service are allowed furlough even on slightest occasions. The Indians are born to serve, no matter if their health be shattered, religious scruples wounded and social duties neglected. This is a serious question and there is very little hope of redress at the hands of our bureaucratic administration. But we have profound respect towards the British public, and as they are always kindly disposed for the weak and helpless, we hope the above will attract their attention and relieve the helpless British subjects from these unspeakable grievances.

RAKHAL CHANDER TEWARY,  
*Plender.*

## Public Papers.

REVENUE, No. 25.

India Office, London, 27th March, 1890.

*To His Excellency the Most Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council.*

MY LORD MARQUIS,---I have considered in Council Your Excellency's letter No. 29 (Separate Revenue), dated the 4th February, with enclosures, concerning the Excise Administration in different parts of India. When I forwarded a copy of the Resolution passed by the House of Commons on the 30th April 1889, I expressed my belief that the Government of India and the Local Governments accepted and were carrying out the principles recited in my Despatches, and approved by the House of Commons, for the guidance of all authorities concerned with Excise affairs in India. The full and interesting accounts contained in your present letter, and in the enclosed papers, confirm the view taken in my Despatch of the 16th May 1889. The detailed information now furnished places, in important particulars, a different complexion on some of the matters mentioned during the debate in the House of Commons on the 30th April; and steps have already been taken to procure the presentation of these papers to Parliament.

2. I shall not trouble Your Excellency with a detailed review of all the many topics discussed in your comprehensive letter, which affords valuable evidence of the careful consideration given, both recently and in past times, by the Government of India and by the subordinate Governments to the intricate problems of Indian Excise Administration. I consider these papers demonstrate among other things---

- (1) that total prohibition of all traffic in intoxicating spirits and liquors is not possible in India;
- (2) that while absolute local option in Excise matters is not feasible, weight can be, should be, and is given to local opinion in regard to licensing liquor shops;
- (3) that the only practicable way of repressing intemperance among the drinking classes of India is to restrict opportunities for drinking, and to levy on intoxicants as high a revenue as may be possible without promoting smuggling;
- (4) that by reason of the circumstances of the country, and according to actual experience in many parts, illicit dealings in and consumption of liquor occur when vigilance is relaxed, or when restrictions on lawful trade are pressed too far;
- (5) that diversities of circumstances and of tastes in the many countries which compose India render differences of practice and of results in the several Provinces unavoidable, even though the same principles are everywhere followed;
- (6) that, so far as information is available, the Excise system or practice of Native States is less stringent, and tends less

to check intemperance than the system and practice of adjacent British districts with similar inhabitants;

- (7) that the increase of the Excise revenue during the past twenty years, though in part due to enhanced consumption caused by the growth of population and by the general increase of earnings, is yet largely, and in some localities mainly, the result of improved Excise administration, which doubled or trebled the rates of liquor duty, and has at the same time restricted the use of illicit intoxicants;
- (8) that there has been of late years much reduction in the number of licensed liquor shops, notably in Bengal, where there are now 4,539 licensed spirit shops as compared with 8,937 licensed in the year 1871-72, but that there is room for further reduction in some Provinces;
- (9) that the action of Indian public servants in Excise affairs is not warped, and their evidence on such topics is not vitiated by the duty which lies upon them to administer the public revenue to the best advantage on the principles and under the rules laid down for their guidance.

3. I fully accept the general principles stated at the 103rd paragraph of Your Excellency's letter as those which should guide the Local Governments and their revenue officers in administering Excise affairs. I consider that, save under very exceptional circumstances and in strictly limited areas, the central distillery system of Excise management should be preferred to the farming system or the outstill system. The former system provides that all licit spirit shall pay a still-head duty per gallon proportionate to its alcoholic strength, whereas the other two systems permit, if they do not stimulate, the production and sale of large quantities of comparatively cheap spirit, even when effort is made to limit the capacity of stills, and to prescribe a minimum retail price.

4. I am confident that, as I stated in May 1889, Your Excellency's Government and the Local Governments are fully as desirous as I am, or as the House of Commons can be, to prevent the increase of drinking habits and of intemperance among the people of India; and I anticipate that the discussions of the past two years,---even though aspersions, which I believe to be incorrect, have fallen upon Indian Excise arrangements,---will have done good by strengthening the hands of your officers, and of the people themselves, in their efforts to restrict within the narrowest limits the evils that are unhappily inseparable from the popular use of intoxicating liquors and drugs.

I have, &c.,  
CROSS.

## TRANSFER RULES FOR COLLEGES AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT---EDUCATION.

*Calcutta, the 20th May, 1890.*

RESOLUTION.

Read again the following papers :---

Resolution recorded by the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 6/371-383, dated the 17th August 1889.

Letter to the Director of Public Instruction, No. 76T---G, dated the 7th October 1889.

Transfer rules for colleges and schools appended to the Resolution recorded by this Government, dated the 13th September 1887.

Read also---

Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, No. 1995, dated 16th April 1890.

In the Resolution of the Home Department cited in the preamble, the Government of India suggested that inter-school rules, defining the conditions under which pupils should be allowed to pass from one school to another, should be extended to all schools aided by public funds, as a condition of the continuance of such aid; and that the Senates of the Universities should be invited to use their influence to procure the adoption of this system in schools and colleges which do not receive aid from Government. The essential points which it is necessary to secure by the inter-school rules were further stated to be, that without the consent of the Educational authorities a boy shall not be taken into a school who has been dismissed from another school for misconduct; that failing to pay his school fees in his former school shall debar a boy from admission to another school, except under similar consent of the Educational authorities; and that, if received into another school, a boy shall not be placed in a higher class than the class he was in before leaving the other school, except at the beginning of a new term.

2. In accordance with the above views, the Director of Public Instruction has submitted revised inter-school rules, as appended to this Resolution, and has suggested that Circle Inspectors should be authorised to issue simplified rules based upon them to govern the transfer of pupils in middle and primary schools. The Lieutenant-Governor approves the rules and the suggestion of the Director of Public Instruction.

3. The Syndicate of the Calcutta University have expressed their desire to co-operate fully with the Education Department in the maintenance of discipline, and are prepared to give their careful attention to any case of infringement of the rules that may be reported to them.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the Resolution and of the Rules be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for information and guidance.

Ordered also, that a copy of the Resolution, as well as of the Rules, be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

By Order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,  
P. NOLAN,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

#### TRANSFER RULES FOR COLLEGES.

I.—A student, before he is admitted to a college, shall be required to produce a transfer certificate from the Principal of the college in which he has last been reading. But if he applies at the beginning of a session, without having joined any other college, for admission to the first-year or to the third-year class, the certificate of having passed the last Entrance or First Arts Examination respectively shall be accepted in lieu of such certificate. A student who has failed at the First Arts or the B. A. Examination, and has not meanwhile joined any other college, may be admitted in the following session to the second or fourth-year class of the college, on production of the Registrar's receipt. The fact of his admission, with the date, should be written across the face of the receipt.

II.—The certificate shall run as follows :

Certified that \_\_\_\_\_ son of \_\_\_\_\_, an inhabitant of \_\_\_\_\_ has been a student in the \_\_\_\_\_ class of the \_\_\_\_\_ College from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_. His character and conduct have been \_\_\_\_\_. All sums due by him to the College have been paid, including college fees up to \_\_\_\_\_. His scholarship of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ per mensem has been drawn and paid to him in this college up to \_\_\_\_\_. His attendance in each course of lectures is given below :—

Subject. Number of lectures delivered. Number of lectures attended.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Principal.

III.—Application for a transfer certificate must be made, either personally or by letter (registered, if necessary) to the Principal of the college; and when so made the certificate is to be given without any avoidable delay. The only grounds on which it can be refused are (1) gross misconduct; (2) failure to pay the sums due to the college, including tuition fees and fines and transfer fee (if any). If a certificate is refused, the cause of refusal shall be notified in writing to the applicant.

IV.—Any instance of "gross misconduct" on the part of a student, whether followed by expulsion or not, must be at once notified to the Department, failing which no future action can be taken on it. A student expelled for misconduct cannot be admitted to another college without the express sanction of the Director of Public Instruction.

V.—For the purposes of the transfer certificate, the date on which a student presents his application for transfer, or the date of receipt of the letter (Rule III), shall be regarded as the date upon which his connection with a college ceased, and no fee shall be charged to him for any subsequent month. But if the student does not pay the sums due from him to the college within three days of his receiving intimation of their amount, he shall be treated as "absent without notice" until such sums are paid, subject (as regards any further sums so accruing) to the limit stated in Rule VI.

VI.—A student quitting a college without notice shall be liable to pay fees, together with fines for absence, for one month subsequent to that in which he last attended the college, after which his connection with the college shall be considered to have ceased.

VII.—A student quitting a college, except at the close of a session, shall be liable to pay a transfer fee before obtaining his certificate. The transfer fee shall not (except under special orders of the Department in the case of free colleges) exceed the ordinary monthly fee of the class.

VIII.—For students sent up to the First Examination in Arts or to the B. A. Examination, the session ends in May; for other students it ends in February, the month preceding that in which the new second and fourth-year classes are formed.

IX.—If a student withdraws from a college after the Durga Puja Vacation, he shall be liable to pay fees in that college up to the end of the session.

X.—A student shall not be sent up to the University examination until he has paid all sums due to the institution in which he has been reading, including fees up to the end of the session in May.

XI.—When a student has held a scholarship, free studentship, or half-pay studentship, under express stipulation in writing, signed by himself, that the whole or a portion of the sum drawn by or remitted to him shall be refunded to the college in case of withdrawal from it within a certain period, the transfer certificate may be withheld until the sums so due have been repaid, provided that the amount so claimed shall not exceed the amount actually drawn or remitted.

XII.—The transfer of Government scholarship-holders shall be subject to the previous sanction of the Director of Public Instruction, which will be withheld unless satisfactory reasons are assigned for the transfer.

XIII.—A student who has failed at the test examination (if any is held) of his college shall not be sent up to the University examination as a student of any other college.

XIV.—All questions arising between one Principal and another respecting the enforcement of these rules shall be referred as soon as possible to the Director of Public Instruction.

XV.—If a student be found producing a false document or making a false statement as to his attendance at any college, he shall be liable to expulsion and shall be reported to the Department.

XVI.—Wilful transgression or colourable evasion of any of the foregoing rules will render a college liable to forfeit the right of sending up candidates for senior scholarships and to be reported to the University for further penalties.

#### THE CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

##### LOAN NOTIFICATION.

1. The Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, given under Section 404 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 20,00,000 on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act 1888.

2. The Debentures will have a currency of thirty years from the 1st October 1890, and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st April and 1st October of each year.

3. The form of Debenture-bonds will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.

4. No Debentures will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for even sums of Rs. 100.

5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above loan will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M. of Thursday, the 19th June 1890.

6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1890-91."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government Promissory Notes, Currency Notes

or Cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted the deposit, when made in currency notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from the 19th June 1890, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed, but no debenture will be issued for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits or tenders which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made, must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas; a tender in which the rate is not so specified, will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments :—

One third on 19th July 1890, one-third on 19th August 1890 and one-third on 19th September 1890.

Parties whose tenders are accepted will have the option of paying all or any of the instal-

ments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 30th September 1890.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, tenders will then be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2-30 P. M., on Thursday, the 19th June 1890, at the Municipal Office.

JOHN COLEMAN,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

Municipal Office,  
Calcutta, 17th May 1890.

#### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURE.

I hereby tender for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Municipal five per cent. Loan for 1890-91, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rupees \_\_\_\_\_ annas \_\_\_\_\_ for every one hundred rupees allotted to me.

I enclose Government Promissory Notes, Currency Notes or a Cheque for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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JOGENDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE.

HARRINGTON STREET,  
Calcutta, 19th May 1890.

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little broch-

ure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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R. W. Fusi. Regt., Lucknow, says:—"Some valued  
it at Rs. 15 and were completely surprised when  
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Candian Gold Chains, Lockets, Pencils, complete  
shirt Studs and Rings set with scientific  
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A. Yelmore, Satur, says:—"The best goldsmith  
of this place values the chain for Rs. 7 and the locket for Rs. 10." Mr. G.  
Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutla, says:—"A  
German valued the diamond ring at Rs. 50 and  
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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1890.

No. 426

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### HOME.

HOME! in that word how many hopes are hidden,  
How many hours of joy serene and fair;  
How many golden visions rise unbidden,  
And blend their hues into a rainbow there!

Round home what images of beauty cluster,  
Links which unite the living with the dead,  
Glimpses of scenes of most surpassing lustre,  
Echoes of melody whose voice is fled!

Home is the place where we have ever blended  
Our hopes and happiness, our tears and sighs,  
Whence our united worship hath ascended,  
As grateful incense to the listening skies.

Where we have nourished bright thoughts while beholding  
Some sun-eyed flower, the centre of our love;  
And while we watched its gradual unfolding,  
The angels came and carried it above.

Scenes gay and glad some at the golden glory  
Which decks the death-bed of departing day,  
And many an old and spirit-stirring story,  
Whose memory is fading fast away.

Flash o'er the spirit as the oft repeated  
And never to be forgotten accent, Home!  
Friends whom a thousand times our love has greeted,  
With whom our merry boyhood loved to roam.

A father's joy, a mother's deep devotion,  
Untiring energy and constant care,  
The reverential love, the pure emotion,  
The evening hymn, the heavenward wafted prayer;

The Sabbath bells, whose glad and gentle pealing,  
Falls on the spirit like the early dew,  
Evoking every high and holy feeling,  
All that hath "power to chasten and subdue!"

Sisters and brothers fondly loved and cherished,  
Our comrades then in the stern march of life,  
The early called who fought and fighting perished,  
And left us single-handed in the strife;

The woods and waters where our childhood flourished,  
The hoary hills our wandering footsteps trod,  
The fairy prospects which our fancy nourished,  
The old church spire which pointed us to God;

Such are the visions which are ever stealing  
Around our spirits wheresoe'er we roam,  
Full fraught with beautiful and hallowed feeling,  
Evoked like phantoms by the spell of home.

Needs there a beautiful ancestral mansion  
To mark the spot where household joys abide,  
Bounded on all sides by a broad expansion  
Of lawns and level meads and woodlands wide?

Need there be sunny slopes and pastures sweeping,  
In glad and verdant beauty far away,  
Old forest trees and crystal waters sleeping  
In tranquil silence in the sunset's ray?

Need there be twilight groves and orchards shedding  
Their purple plenty on the fertile ground;  
Brooks flashing back the noontide beam while threading  
Gardens and meads with many a merry round?

No! home is not confined to halls of pleasure,  
To regal pomp and dwellings of the great;  
It is not meted to us by the measure  
Which appertains to things of low estate.

Where'er we find warm hearts and fond affection,  
Whether in straw-thatched hut or gilded dome,  
We find what claims our notice and reflection,  
We find the primal elements of home.

On Alpine mountains where the hunter buildeth  
His fragile dwelling like an eagle's lair;  
In southern climates where the sun-light gildeth  
The vine-clad hills with colors ever fair.

In Arctic regions where the winter heapeth,  
In hoary piles, the everlasting snows;  
Where the poor persecuted negro weepeth  
His kidnapped kindred and his country's woes;

Where'er of fellow-men we find the traces,  
Where'er a wanderer hath his footsteps bent,  
In populous cities and in desert places,  
The Indian's wigwam and the Arab's tent;

In far-off islands where the savage roameth,  
The untutored lord of many a scene sublime,  
In groves and glens and where the ocean foameth,  
In every country and in every clime;

Mankind, however fettered and benighted,  
Howe'er oppressed by penury and care,  
Have their existence by one beacon lighted,  
Have still one bliss which all may freely share.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

Home ! cries the world-sick wanderer as he wendeth,  
With baffled footsteps, o'er his weary way ;  
Home ! sighs the wretched outcast as he sendeth  
A longing look, whence once he longed to stray.

- Home ! says the toil-worn rustic when returning  
From daily labor at the fall of night ;  
Home ! sings the emancipated soul as spurning  
This world of woe, it plumes its wings for flight.

Home like the burning lens collects together  
Into one point affection's scattered rays,  
And in the sternest storm, the wildest weather,  
Kindles a bright and spirit-cheering blaze.

Home is the watchword firing with emotion  
The patriot's heart, and nerving him to fight ;  
Home is the pole star, o'er the storm-swept ocean,  
Guiding the sailor through the gloomy night.

Home cheers the solitary student, burning  
With high and heavenward hopes till he has furl'd  
His wings of fire upon the heights of learning ;  
• Home is the lever that can lift the world.

A never-failing source of consolation,  
A fountain sealed with hidden virtue fraught,  
The pilgrim's prayer, the poet's inspiration,  
The nurse of every noble deed and thought.

Home is a boon to erring mortals given,  
To knit us closer in the bonds of love,  
To lead our spirits gently up to heaven,  
To shadow forth the brighter home above.

J. W. FLETCHER.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

A GOOD book has appeared in England under the name of *Impressions of Russia*. Translated from the Danish of Dr. George Brandes, by Samuel C. Eastman. A keen observer, Dr. Brandes had great opportunities for understanding Russian character and institutions. The condition of Russian society is sad indeed. One fact is better than a dozen speculations. Dr. Brandes reports that, in 1887, at the height of hostile feeling between Germany and Russia, when war was expected to break out every moment, the most intelligent and patriotic Russians, in every part of the country, prayed for defeat, as the only way of escape from a hated crushing incubus. God save the Queen ! May the British Power endure at Home and abroad ! And may we remain out of the range of the Great Bear's paw, and free from all Continental contagion, autocratic or constitutional !

OUR native readers will please take note that tomorrow is the anniversary of the death of that friend of native education—David Hare. The place is Dr. Sircar's Science Association, and the hour 5-30 in the afternoon. The Secretary, Mr. N. N. Ghose, will lead the discussion with an address quaintly entitled, "Our Educational News." It will be worth listening to, we are sure. Mr. Ghose bears a headpiece on his shoulders, and he is besides thoroughly acquainted with his subject. Admission free.

NEWS gains shape and volume as it travels from mouth to mouth or newspaper to newspaper. The *People's Friend* of Madras ascribes the death of Mr. Macaulay, the Bengal Secretary, at Calcutta, to Influenza.

THE income tax will not be levied on fines. That is, the pay of a Government servant for purposes of the tax will be less the fine inflicted. That is hardly a concession. The amount deducted as fine is not an earning. But it has cost not a little discussion to the Government to arrive at this elementary conclusion.

LORD Rayleigh recently read a paper on "Foam" at the Royal Institution in London. He said the liquids which foamed were essentially

impure, contaminated—in fact, dirty. Sea water foamed not for the salt, but for the weeds and the destruction they underwent from breakers in rough weather.

FUMIGATION of sulphur as a destructive of disease germs is considered out of date in the New World, and is to give way to currents of steam. Dr. J. G. Johnson read a paper before the King's County Medical Society, shewing that the fumes of burning sulphur did not penetrate woollens as do disease germs. He further emphasised his verdict by relating that he had propagated diphtheria from the clippings of blankets after they had undergone thorough orthodox fumigation. The experience of Dr. Prudden, of the New York City Board of Health, tends to the same conclusion against the efficacy of sulphur fumigation.

THE French sub-marine boat *Goubet* has again been tried at Cherbourg, with unprecedented success. The usual evolutions over, she was lowered to a depth of two mètres under water, and thus passed under five torpedoes, representing a torpedo-depôt attached to an English ship. Afterwards she plunged down and worked for two hours, severing one after another the attachments of five buoys, wedging with an iron bar the screw of the *Korigan*, and placing under a raft a false torpedo of 102 kilogrammes. There were many gentlemen, officials, military officers, and independent men, including the officers and crew of a Russian ironclad anchored in the harbour, present. They all seemed greatly impressed.

ACCORDING to the *New York Times*, the pneumatic dynamite gun which will be shipped to England for test at Shoeburyness, is the design of Captain Rapiéff. The English Board will decide whether preference is to be given to the electrical fuze invented by Captain Zalinski or the mechanical fuze of Mr. H. F. Merriam. A second mechanical fuze, the invention of Captain Rapiéff himself, will be submitted to the English Board. The speciality of this fuze is that it is placed in the rear of the projectile instead of the head.

THE Calcutta Mahomedan Literary Society's petition to the House of Commons having been presented, was communicated to the press in this country and received a fair share of attention. By this week's mail we see that it is attracting notice in England. The *Overland Mail* of the 9th May devotes its only leading article to it. As it is short, we quote it entire :—

"The last report of the House of Commons' Committee on petitions contains a petition from the Committee of Management of the Mahomedan Literary Society at Calcutta, which we reprint. It was presented by Sir R. Temple, and makes a strong protest on behalf of the Indian Moslems against the proposal to introduce into India the elective principle. It also expresses satisfaction with the Indian Councils Bill in the form in which it passed the House of Lords. This influential exponent of Mahomedan opinion declares that, 'owing to the peculiar religious and social circumstances of India the country is not yet fit for the exercise of such privileges, and it is their firm belief that, should election form the basis of any portion of the contemplated legislation on the subject of Indian Councils, the Mahomedan community, though numbering some fifty millions, will be at the mercy of a strong and compact Hindoo majority, whose notions of right and expediency are so different in many vital points from those entertained by the Mahomedans.' This is not only the opinion of the bulk of intelligent Mahomedans throughout India, but it is a warning of the consequences that would ensue upon any attempt to hasten the development, however desirable in theory, of representative institutions in a congeries of vast provinces and various classes so wholly unfitted for such institutions as the Indian Empire. Indeed, as yet, as is shown in the letter we print to-day from the most distinguished of the advocates of Indian political reform, on whose letter to the *Times* we lately commented, no practical scheme of representation for India has really been propounded. He entirely throws over the rash and raw scheme which Mr. Bradlaugh, much against his own judgment, if we are correctly informed, has been induced by the extreme Congress people to submit to Parliament ; but he pronounces in favour of the election by public bodies. We reiterated in our recent article the objections to this proposal, which some time since were advanced in a series of leaders in these columns, and as yet we have seen no satisfactory reply. In fact, of the two schemes we cannot help thinking that that of Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill is fairer and more reasonable than the proposal to create such a limited and sham electorate as one composed of a few municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, and Universities. With what possible justice could the elected of such an oligarchy be granted an influential voice in legislation for the whole Indian Empire ? We have the highest respect for the writer of the letter, and believe that he and his friends are sincerely anxious to offer counsels of moderation to the extremer spirits of the Congress party, but we confess we cannot understand how any Radical reformers can advocate a scheme for handing over the election of independent members of the Legislative Councils to bodies which are so imperfectly representative of the interests and wishes of the general body of the vast and various populations of India."

Mr. James Naughty, the inventor of the hammer bearing his name, died last month in London. He was born in 1808, in Edinburgh. He died of no illness but of old age. At the age of 48, he retired from business and then devoted his time and attention to astronomy.

It has been ruled in the United States that every man who enters the navy must be either a born or a naturalized American. Just so. The young Republic is growing wiser with experience.

Mr. P. C. Sen, barrister-at-law, will officiate as Official Assignee, Rangoon, from the beginning of June. He is a native of Chittagong and has been at Rangoon for some years, since he returned from Europe after being called to the bar.

THE United Service Institution's gold medal has this year been obtained by Captain Macguire, Hyderabad Cavalry, for his essay on the "Organization and Employment in War of Native Cavalry." The MacGregor memorial medal has gone to Captain Younghusband for his explorations in Kanjut last year.

ON the 26th April last, the *Madura Mail* published the news that "Nawab Khurshed Jah Bahadr of Hyderabad arrived at Madura on the morning of the 23rd instant on his way to Rameswaram. He was putting up at the Venkatasami Naiker's chatram and left Madura yesterday morning at 9 O'clock." This palpably wrong news was corrected in the next issue of the paper. But M. V. Appasami Naidu, son of the deceased founder of the chatram and present manager of the institution for the accommodation of Hindu travellers and pilgrims, considers that the original paragraph was maliciously put in in that newspaper to injure the prestige and reputation of the chatram, to annoy the present manager, to blacken and defame the memory of the founder, and to stir up the hatred and evil will of the people against his family, and has accordingly sued the paper for damages fixing his loss at Rs. 100.

THE system of payment of land revenue by postal money orders proving successful here and elsewhere, is to be tried for one year in Madras from 1st August 1890. The districts selected are Chingleput, Tanjore, South Arcot, Madura and Tinnevely.

MADAME Patti is said to have sued an American for reproducing without authority her voice in a phonograph.

THE new Fire Temple of the Mehtas was consecrated last week.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Russian difficulty of Turkey has been tided over. The Sick Man—and bankrupt into the bargain—stood upon his rights. The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople made over the five Turkish officers who were detained by him for indecently assaulting the wife and daughter of the Chief Dragoman to the Russian Embassy. These five officers have since been courtmartialled to six months' imprisonment. They will be afterwards banished for life to Tripoli. The Russian Ambassador has expressed himself satisfied. We hope no private assurance was previously given him as to how the courtmartial would deal with the five prisoners.

PARLIAMENT has gone into Whitsuntide holidays. It meets on the 2nd June.

How are the mighty fallen! The Empréss Eugénie has sunk into common humanity.

Fallen, fallen, fallen, fallen,  
Fallen from her high estate,

the poor lady was insulted in a railway train at Liege and compelled to move to another compartment. But yesterday as it were—a few short years back—the greatest would have been flattered at being looked at by her. Now roams she over the earth, and none

so poor to do her reverence! The incident recalls the fate of another French sovereign lady and Burke's lament on the decay of chivalry.

PRINCE Albert will be henceforth known as Duke of Clarence and Avondale and Earl of Athlone.

THERE is excitement in Newfoundland over the fisheries. A French war vessel ordered the Colonial fishermen at St. George's Bay to remove their nets. The people there demand compensation and have agreed among themselves not to pay the taxes before receiving satisfaction. A British cruiser has been ordered there.

EMPEROR William is confined to bed. While driving at Potsdam on the 25th, the carriage was upset, and he fell twisting his foot which is much swollen.

A MEETING at Tipperary was proclaimed. Notwithstanding, it was held. The Police charged and several persons were injured. At another proscribed meeting at Cashel on the outskirts of the village of Boherlahin, Messrs. O'Brien and Dillon made speeches. Here too the Police charged, and struck Mr. Dillon with a baton. The struggle was fiercer than in Tipperary, and cavalry were called up to disperse the crowd. Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien were chased by the Police to Cashel.

FROM first August next, Sebastopol will be a purely military port, its commerce being diverted to Theodosia.

A Nihilist plot to murder the Czar has been detected in Paris. Fourteen men and three women have been arrested with bombs and explosives.

THE Bulgarian plot to murder the Prince has been unearthed and the plotters brought to book. Major Panitza has been Courtmartialled to be shot, with recommendation to mercy. M. Kaloubkoff, the Russian, suffers nine years' imprisonment. Six other officers undergo terms of from three to six years' imprisonment. Six have been acquitted.

THE Directors of the Comptoir D'Escompte and Société Des Métaux have been tried for fraud and infringement of the law of companies. Three have been found guilty and sentenced, M. Secretan to six months' imprisonment with a fine of ten thousand francs, M. Laveissière to three months' with three thousand francs, and M. Hentsch to a fine of only three thousand.

IN a lecture on India at Edinburgh, Mr. Childers said that the great object of England should be to secure the sympathies of the people and thus continue in possession of India.

THE petition to Parliament from the rayyets of Jhenida and Magura has begun to bear fruit. Mr. Luson will be withdrawn from the subdivisions. If it were only done earlier! Of course, every effort will be made to sweeten the pill for the brother Civilian. It is understood that he will be promoted to the office of Magistrate in Moorshedabad. At any rate, after the strong terms which we were compelled to use in our leader of last week in reference to the official proceedings in Jessore, we sincerely rejoice to learn so soon that the notorious Magistrate is to be transferred from a scene which requires an officer of known judgment and tact.

THE Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, is to be amended. The *Calcutta Gazette* of the week publishes the papers on the subject and invites representations till the 1st July, 1890. Is this previous publication due to the recent representations of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce?

THE following Notification appears in the *Calcutta Gazette*, Part IB., May 28, 1890, page 178 :—

"The 25th May 1890.—It is hereby notified that, under section 33, Act II (B.C.) of 1888, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to appoint Surgeon-Major R. Cobb to be a Commissioner of Calcutta, vice Mr. H. Lee, C.S., appointed Chairman of the Municipality.

H. J. S. COTTON,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal."



The section of the law alluded to runs thus :—

"In case of the death, resignation or disqualification of any Commissioner, a person shall forthwith be appointed or elected in his stead....., and such person shall remain a Commissioner for the residue only of the term for which the Commissioner in whose stead he was appointed or elected was originally appointed or elected: Provided that no act of the Commissioners, their officers, or of the Commissioners in meeting, shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of the fact that the number of the Commissioners at the time did not amount to seventy-five; or that a disqualified person has continued to act as a Commissioner; or that any Commissioner has taken part in any proceedings in contravention of the provisions of section thirty-two."

Number seventy-five is the full complement of the Commissioners besides the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and section thirty-two treats of disqualifications of a Commissioner. Mr. Lee was nominated a Commissioner in place of another Government Commissioner who had resigned. But Mr. Lee has not resigned his place on the Board as a Commissioner, and he is not disqualified under the Act by virtue of his elevation to the head of the Corporation. So there was no legal vacancy, whether by death, resignation or disqualification, to fill, and the appointment of the Surgeon-Major is a superfluity. He has therefore no place in the Corporation, and his presence there will expose the Corporation to illegality and will, we are afraid, nullify the action of the Corporation or its officers.

ANOTHER Notification in the same *Gazette* is as follows :—

"The 27th May 1890.—The main stream of the river Ganges (or Pudda) having shifted to the north of mouzah Mirchadiar, that mouzah is now separated from the district of Rajshahye, and has become attached to the district of Nadiya. The Lieutenant-Governor accordingly sanctions the transfer of that mouzah, together with its subordinate villages or hamlets....., from the Civil, Criminal and Revenue Jurisdiction of Rajshahye to that of Nadiya, with effect from the 1st April 1890.

C. C. STEVENS,  
Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

Which District officer then exercised jurisdiction in the mouzah in April and up to 27th May? The mouzah is now declared to be included in the District of Nadiya from the 1st April. Up to the 27th May it had not been declared to have ceased to be part of Rajshahye. Any proceedings by the Rajshahye officers during the period are now declared invalid, while the Nadiya officers had not acquired any such jurisdiction. Mouzah Mirchadiar had therefore no Civil, Criminal, and Revenue District Administration from 1st April to 27th May 1890, and had ceased to be the Queen's dominion.

MR. Derry sued the Secretary of State for eight lacs of rupees, for breach of contract in connection with the construction of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway. The Madras High Court dismissed the suit, in a judgment of 16 printed pages foolscap delivered by Mr. Justice Shephard. The issues were—

"(1) Did the plaintiff and defendant enter into a contract in January and February 1884 for the construction of a railway between Nandiacama tunnel and Cumbum? (4) Did plaintiff proceed with due diligence; was he impeded in his work by the defendant's servants, and if so, is defendant responsible and to what extent? (5) Was there a contract on the 15th December 1884 in respect to the extension to the Gundalacama river? (6) Was there a further contract for a further extension referred to in the plaint? (10) What were the terms of the provisional adjustment referred to in the plaint and has the plaintiff committed any breach thereof? (15) Was there an agreement to submit to arbitration; was there a breach thereof; if so, by whom; if the breach was committed by the defendant, is the plaintiff entitled to any and what damages? (17) Is the plaintiff's claim or any and what portion thereof barred by limitation?"

Nos. 12, 13 and 14 were struck out in the course of the hearing, 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 15 and 17 were found for the defendant, the rest were not dealt with. The Judge holds there was no contract in law. The agreement to enter into a future contract without naming the terms was void, and each party was free to back out of the bargain. The plaintiff was entitled to no relief except to the remuneration for work actually done as contended for by the defence. In plain language, Derry was a fool to believe that he had the entire contract for the work. This may be good law, but we have not the least doubt that it is bad government. It is vain to talk of generosity, for officials seem to regard that as their own privilege. Still there is a justice beyond the four corners of the statute-book or of judicial precedents. Nor can it conduce to administrative efficiency, if Government stoops to take every advantage of the simplicity or trustfulness of those with whom it has dealings, whether *employés* or contractors. The State finds alike its honour and interest best in being above pettifogging as above peddling.

THE Cochin correspondent of the *Travancore Times* supplies some interesting items of news and gup :—

"The Kist arrears collected by the Tehsildar at Chittoor, was, I am told, escorted to the Head Quarter Treasury at Ernacollam under the additional guard of a Christian constable. The constable abusing the trust imposed on him exchanged the money Dubbi for that containing stones and sealed it by the badge of his Police coat. This took place on the way at Trichoor. This opportunity was offered him when the revenue peon and the bandy-driver were away from the spot for refreshment and nature's call. On their return hue and cry was raised and the constable was searched. The money Dubbi was found in a Theen's house near Trichoor but not the constable. The amount recovered was Rs. 1,500 less than the sum of Rs. 30. The case is under enquiry before the Trichoor Tahr. Magte."

Then comes something more piquant :—

"I hear that a mango tree in the garden compound of Badake Mottam Samuham was struck by lightning and the mango tree which was the abode of a huge serpent since died, was cut by a Mopha contractor for rafters, a big manikum was found in the body of the tree and was sold to one Govinda Pandithan, a merchant, for Rs. 40: some requires [sic] between the parties were complained of and subsequently I learn a regular complaint was filed before the Magistrate. I think the right of claiming the emerald belongs to the Cochin Government and will be claimed for accordingly."

We wish our contemporary's writer could procure the plaint and lay it before the public. It would be interesting too to read the precise terms in which the Cochin Durbar might lay its claim. The suggestion, of course, is that the serpent was a true Nag Raj or Yaksha, and that the royal jewel (*manikum*) belonged to him. The emerald is all right, we dare say, and may be of the finest water to boot. But then the snake—aye, there's the rub. We are anxious for the fate of the genius of the garden. Enquiry, we are afraid, will reduce the land monster, the huge tree serpent, to the level of the Great Sea Serpent.

The next news probably supplies a clue to the marvel. Trees down that coast seem to have the valuable property of crystallising into mineral matter. At any rate, we read in the same letter of another "find" :—

"At Vadadaley about 10 miles from Cochin, a Christian cooly while cutting a mango tree, found when digging the roots a big copper vessel containing numberless pure gold coins. I am told the owner of the tree found nearly 100 coins on the spot and the cooly hooked away with the vessel and was not heard of any more."

That is a more vulgar experience. Still it is not essentially different from the preceding one. The jewel was found in the body of one tree and the coins at the root of another. In both cases, they were deposited by human agency, and the story of the huge serpent killed by lightning in the case of the former is merely the surplusage of local superstition. Such deposits are customary in India in border districts.

THE *Pioneer* lately had a generously appreciative notice of native efforts in the cause of science in the Southern Presidency. Speaking of Mr. A. V. Nursingh Rao, F.R.A.S. and F. G. S., of the Vizagapatam Observatory, it says :—

"Mr. Nursingh Rao has for many years given himself up to observations and original research in astronomy and meteorology, while he has every year presented to Government and the public a volume of the results of his work in both these branches of science. But praiseworthy as these labours are, no one is less disposed than their author to take more than a share of the credit of them, for equal to his devotion to science is his regard for the name and fame of the original founder of the Observatory—the late highly-esteemed Mr. G. V. Jagga Rao, a wealthy zemindar of former days. This gifted Hindu gentleman, who had an absorbing passion for scientific pursuits, and who invented several meteorological instruments to this day the best of their kind, built in 1841 the Observatory which bears his name. The link between the living and the deceased astronomer is the daughter of the latter and the wife of the former, Sri Ankitham Achayamma Garu. This public-spirited lady resolved that the good work begun by her father should not cease with him, and instigated her husband to continue it, with the result already noticed. But science does not stand still, and the original Observatory had soon to give place to the present large and noble structure which is stocked with the most modern instruments and appliances. To give perpetuity to this institution this lady has further assigned by deed of trust and set apart for its maintenance and management the munificent sum of three lacs of rupees, and has asked the Government of Madras after her death to take over all the buildings. But wealth can do more than endow observatories or contribute to the advancement of science: it can feed the hungry and relieve the distressed, and this use of it has not been forgotten by the heiress of her father's riches. In times of famine and of scarcity the portals of Daba Gardens fly open, and as many hundreds as can be ministered to are daily saved from the pangs of hunger or have other wants supplied. No wonder then that the poor, the needy and the tenantry of this generous benefactress know her only by the name of 'the Rani,' which, it is hoped, may only foreshadow a real title of the same nature by the powers that be."

It is strange nobody has yet thought of recommending these modest worthies to the notice of Government. We hope Lord Lansdowne, as a hereditary patron of genius, will call for a report from the local Government of the services of the good gentleman and the still better lady.

WE owe an apology to Babu Haridas Sastri, Director of Public Instruction, Jeypore State, for omitting to notice his interesting report on education in Jeypore for the last year. It is a record of considerable progress in several directions. For all the trumpeting in previous annual reports, it would now appear that Babu Haridas's predecessors left him a great deal to do as well to undo. Even proper and reliable statistics of education were not in existence when he joined his office, while the methods of instruction followed were susceptible of great improvement. In primary schools, the system of learning by rote was much too prevalent, and useful subjects like arithmetic, history and geography received little or no attention. These things had to be changed, and Babu Haridas had to contend with the old prejudices of the people who were wedded to the system in vogue, in order to carry out the reforms that were needed. A large measure of success appears now to have been attained, and we have great pleasure in congratulating the Director of Education in Jeypore and his officers on the good work they have done in the face of all their difficulties. There has been a marked increase in the number of pupils under all sorts of instruction from ten to sixteen thousand, which fact alone testifies to the energy which has been infused into the education department. As regards higher education, the progress made is equally creditable. The success of the students at the University examinations is remarkable, the percentage of *passes* having risen very much since the reorganization, under Babu Sastri's direction, of the higher schools and colleges. Two boys of the Maharaja's College have graduated with honors, being the first who obtained any University degree in Rajputana. Altogether, the great and arduous work of education in Jeypore has fallen in good hands, and Babu Haridas and his Inspectors have deserved well of the State.

A PRODIGIOUS blue-stocking is said to be in our midst under the name and style of Mrs. C. Mountford that was before Miss Von Finkelstein. She was lately in Madras, and must be now somewhere in Bengal, so that some of our Baboos may, one of these days, feed an angel unawares. An accomplished Orientalist, specially strong in the life and costumes of the Lands of the Bible, she is now taking in the peoples of the Farther East, in order, doubtless, to augment her capacity of usefulness in her profession, which is that of popular lecturer. She has abandoned her intention of giving a course in India. We hope she might be prevailed upon to alter her mind. If she could here draw houses by tickets paid for, we would cordially vote her the most charming of charmers. For such a conquest she would be remembered with gratitude by all thoughtful friends of India. It would be no common service to the country to persuade our people to pay for instruction and enjoyment orally given out of school or college. They have no idea that lectures and discourses, recitations and readings, are, and ought to be, paid for. Hence the extreme inequality, not to say contemptible character, of the discourses usually delivered. It does not do to look a gift horse in the mouth, and accordingly every public bore, after his hour or two's infatuation on his audience, is sure of a vote of thanks duly proposed, seconded, maybe *thirded*—as at a meeting some years ago by a light of the Congress of this city—and carried *nem con*. Hence, there is here no profession of public lecturing. This important function is entirely left to the cruel mercy of wordy sciolists, fussy ignoramuses, and pretenders of all kinds. Readings and recitations are absolutely unknown. Our most enlightened men have no idea of such delightful entertainments as those of the Matheweses, of Albert Smith, or of Artemus Ward. Nor would they go to any such, even for half prices. We have yet many things to learn, and not the least important of them is to pay for such instruction and refined pleasure conveyed face to face by experts.

MR. Stanley's return has caused a *furore* throughout Europe. He has caused in England more than a royal interest and received an unprecedented reception. The Royal Geographical Society held a special *seance* in his honour. The late Governor of Madras, Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, presided, with the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh on either side of him. There was no end of magnates and notables on the scene, the front seats in the auditorium being occupied by the Princess of Wales, Princesses Victoria and Maud, the Duchess of Teck and the Princess Victoria of Teck. The chairman introduced the traveller, who delivered his address which was frequently cheered. At its conclusion, the vote of thanks to him was moved by the Prince of Wales in a neat speech. He said Mr. Stanley's name would

go down to posterity as that of one of our greatest travellers and philanthropists. He recapitulated his career. Fifteen years ago, under the auspices of the *New York Herald*, Mr. Stanley went out to look for the great traveller Livingstone, and succeeded in finding him. He discovered the Congo, which had become now a great free State; and last, not least, he was sent by some philanthropic gentlemen to find and release Emin Pasha, the last of the lieutenants of [the ever-to-be-regretted Gordon. He asked the meeting to pass a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Stanley for his interesting address, and also to extend to him a hearty welcome on his return and to embrace in that welcome those brave and distinguished gentlemen who accompanied him.

The motion, seconded by the Duke of Edinburgh, was carried by acclamation.

The Prince of Wales now presented Mr. Stanley with the Society's gold medal specially struck for the occasion and bronze copies of it to the explorer's European staff—Lieutenant Stairs, Dr. Parke, Captain Nelson, Mr. Jephson, and Mr. W. Bonny.

Mr. Stanley returned thanks for himself and his officers, and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Prince of Wales.

MR. Stanley's latest journey for the relief and rescue of Emin Pasha, the Governor of Equatorial Africa, occupied 987 days and extended over 6,000 miles. Of the 987 days, 500 were spent in the Central African forest and 487 in journeying through grasslands. He calculates the forest to be 621 miles long with an average breadth of 517 miles. He found this space with a compact area of 321,057 square miles covered with palm trees varying from 20ft in height, so close and interlaced as to form a

...thick shelter of black shades embower'd.

During the day, the sun is nowhere, and at night Chaos reigns

In double night of darkness and of shades.

Calculating the forest at 224,000,000 acres and allowing each tree thirty feet, the total number gives 10,752 millions of trees, leaving out of calculation the saplings and the undergrowth.

Mr. Stanley's next discovery was the pigmy race who have outlived the Pharaohs of Egypt and the empires of Nineveh, Persia, Rome and Macedon, holding their lands for over fifty centuries. The first man he named Adam and the first woman Eve. They were found in the midst of a wild Eden, peeling plantains. The man was four feet and the woman a little less high, only one of the 50 pigmies captured was 54 inches. The man might have weighed 85lbs. Their colour was of a half-baked brick. These people planted bananas amidst the prostrate forest trees, and an acre of bananas produced more food than an acre of wheat in England.

The other discoveries were the connection between Lake Albert Edward and Lake Albert, the famous Mountains of the Moon and the extension of Lake Victoria to the South-West. To the thoughtless question of many, What good had been derived from the expedition Mr. Stanley answers

"to humanity the gain had been great. The world was richer by the knowledge that there were 10,000,000 more trees in it than they knew of before; that there were exhaustless quantities of gum and rubber; that there was navigation furnished by nature by which those interested in these articles could proceed to collect them; and by means of these vegetable products the millions of degraded human beings within that great forest would, in process of time, learn that their fellow-creatures had far vaster value than the value of their flesh. As a Christian nation also England should rejoice that the few thousand pounds devoted to the expedition had rescued over 400 men, women, and children from slavery, had returned 290 people to their homes in Egypt, and had restored an experienced African governor to active service. Then, as geographers, they must be gratified with the extension of their knowledge. That classical river, the Nile, they knew to its fountain-head; those lofty Mountains of the Moon, which had been anxiously sought for since Homer's time, had been located; the most glorious portion of inner Africa had been traversed for the first time, and they knew that there was scarcely an acre which was not a decided gain to our earth. Every mile of new land traversed by them would serve in coming time to stimulate British commerce and civilising industry. Finally, they had extended British possessions to the Eastern limits of the Congo. Their promise on setting out on this expedition was to do as little harm and as much good as possible."

WE find the subject of address at the Hare Anniversary tomorrow is "Our Educational Needs" *not* "News" as we were first led to suppose

LAST week, the result of the Entrance Examination was out. This week, the Calcutta University gives the names of the passed candidates

in the B. A., the B. A. Honours, and the B. L. Examinations. In the B. A., the total successful number is 345. Honours have been won by 6 in the first division and 53 in the second in English; 2 in the first and 5 in the second in Mathematics; 3 in the first and 15 in the second in Philosophy; 2 in the first and 9 in the second in Physics; one in the first and 3 in the second in History; 2 in the first and 14 in the 2nd Sanskrit, 2 in the first and 2 in the second Latin; and 1 in the first and 5 in the second division in Persian. The B. L. results give 33 in the first, and 223 in the second division.

WE are glad that the Maharaja of Tipperah was able to conquer his misgivings and hesitation and make up his mind to accept Baboo Umakanta Das, of the Subordinate Executive Service of the Government of Bengal, for Minister to the Raj. He made formal application for the services of that officer for his administration. The request was complied with as a matter of course. The more so as it offered Government a fine opportunity for a little saving in these days without detriment to British interests. The office of Political Agent at Agartala was at best a sinecure from the first, and subsequent events have reduced the remnant thereof to an anachronism. Accordingly, the Agency at the capital of Tipperah with its Assistant is abolished, the Magistrate of the British District of Tipperah continuing as before Political Agent *ex officio*.

We sincerely congratulate the Maharaja on the new arrangement. Under all the circumstances of his character, his habits and occupations, his *entourage*, and the pass to which the administration has been reduced under his well-meaning, mild and amiable rule, it was the best possible thing for him and his people. A minister supported by the British Government and carrying the prestige of one who has long held the office of Assistant Political Agent at the court, is not only a guarantee for reform, but the only resource against bankruptcy and dismemberment—maybe the only safety for the old principality. Nor must we omit to congratulate, as we cordially do, Rai Umakanta Bahadour on the glorious career—worthy of the highest Bengali ambition—that opens to him. God grant him success!

A PETITION has gone up to the Governor for mercy to the Mohunt of Tripathy and for his release from jail. The universal sympathy for this Fuar Tuck is most discreditable to the native public of the South. It is positively sickening to see the gyrations of the writers on the press in stress of argument for the robber saint. But if the special pleading is specially feeble and contemptible, there is no lack of kindness and zeal for the holy convict. This Mohunt must be a true miracle worker, to have caused such a sudden and extraordinary change in the minds and consciences of all Hindu Madras. The spectacle of so many of the foremost in the land apologising for the bold bad man and desperate bully, and actively exerting themselves to stay the course of the Law's justice in his favour, is truly mournful. The entire Hindu community cuts a sorry figure before the Mahomedans, Jews, Christians and Parsees. These several communities will not be slow to point the moral of this public immorality to which the Hindus are pledged. With such an example of moral recklessness and infirmity of purpose before them, they have excuse enough to doubt the reality of the new-born pretensions to political freedom and social advancement of our brethren in the South. We can only hope that the Government will prove more firm than the governed. We confess we are not sorry that the convict's hard labour has been commuted to simple imprisonment. That was the utmost stretch of consideration which the Mercy of Justice could, without sacrificing herself, grant him. For the rest, his fate is of his own persistent in-

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Travellers to and from distant climes would do well to bear in mind that these changes and the altered diet and surroundings of their lives entail manifold risks to health. Occasions are sure to arise in which they will need a remedy such as these renowned Pills and Ointment, and no traveller by land or sea should ever fail to have a supply at hand. Then he may truly be said to have a physician always at his call for the various emergencies of travel. Chills and fevers should be promptly treated, and the printed directions should be carefully studied at the commencement of any illness, or Holloway's remedies can be safely used in all climates.

vitiation. The demonstrations in his behalf by the public are simply wasted. There should be but one language from all honest souls to priests like the Mohunt of Tripathy—a *religieuse* without the slightest tincture of true religion :—

Feed fat, ye locusts, feed !  
And, in your *lofty temples*, thank the Lord  
That, from the *faithful Hindoo's* utter need,  
Ye pile your own full board.

How long, O Lord ! how long  
Shall such a priesthood barter truth away,  
And in thy name, for robbery and wrong  
At thy own altars pray ?

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1890.

### THE PROPOSED DEGRADATION OF THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

CONSIDERING the pressure put upon the Calcutta University, resulting in the unprecedented number of candidates passed at this year's Entrance Examination, we are not surprised at the movement set on foot in the Punjab for lowering the standard of the local University. The strength of the movement is demonstrated by the alarm of the true friends of the Higher Education in the Land of the Five Waters. No one is, or ought to be, more anxious on the subject than the head of the University himself. His anxiety is not, thank God, the nervousness of a weak soul trembling before a danger and at his wits' end how to determine upon what to do. The Vice-Chancellor is a scholar and a public man with formed ideas and used to difficulties. He is not only not sleeping at his post, but is equal to, and ready for, the occasion. He called for the statistics of his department, and collected those of the sister Universities. Having with the zeal of an enthusiast obtained all available information, he compared and analysed his facts and figures with the acumen of a practised lawyer and controversialist. Thus well equipped and armed at all points, he has repulsed the enemy with great slaughter. The intending innovators, beaten at every step, have been left not a leg to stand upon.

The movement against the existing standards came to a head at the recent Educational Conference in the Province. In a long and elaborate Minute brimming over with ability, Dr. Rattigan has replied to the proposals formulated by that Conference to lower the standard of the examinations. The reply is pervaded throughout by a charming courtesy, but his reasoning loses not a jot of force for the studied moderation of his expression. We for one are in perfect accord with him, and we need only add that we have every reason to hope that the various arguments which he brings in support of his view will carry conviction to the Senate before which the question now lies. The recommendations of the Conference are opposed to every sound principle of University education. The existing standard of pass marks has been in operation since the University was created, and the Conference has yet to show that it has been felt a practical hardship. Of course, to be entitled to relief, that hardship must be of a character to command the sympathy of those who appreciate the functions of a University. To us, judging from a distance, these proposals come with a suspicious leer, directly on the heels of the recent disclosures of Mr. Larpent's corrupt adminis-

tration of the University. A University is an institution for the advancement of culture. It is an organ for the discovery of those who have been best prosecuting their studies. It offers a sort of hall-mark, which carries a recognised value in public estimation. Any attempt to reduce the standard is to confound the character of the machinery and upset the essential prestige of the University. The remarks made by Lord Lansdowne in his remarkable Convocation Address last year at Lahore on this subject, ought to be our guide. How in view of the Viceroy's strong opinion against a reduction of the standard, any such proposals could be made is, indeed, surprising. We have never been much in favor of the creation and multiplication of Universities. When the question of giving a University to the Punjab was first mooted, we felt some hesitation in supporting the movement. Our hesitation, however, was to a great extent removed by the fact that it was proposed to give the University a distinctly Oriental character. Still we were not altogether without misgivings as to whether the field was as yet fit for the experiment, and we find that these proposals for tinkering the rules of the University before they have been sufficiently long in operation, coupled with the discreditable revelations of the management of the Punjab University, show that our misgivings were not altogether imaginary.

#### THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, GRAPES, AND HEROES.

THE long, long search for the philosopher's stone, vain for mankind in general, has at length been crowned with success for our countrymen. Our patriots are rich in the possession of the miracle-working instrument which converts everything to gold. Every belonging of the Congress is precious—man, beast, or thing. All its cocks are hens—its crows are simply nightingales. Mr. Hume is of course the Maharshi—the Saint. Its very reporter is a light of the world. Mr. Reed, who came out with Mr. Bradlaugh to take notes of the last Congress at Bombay, and is now, in pursuance of the same employment, following the orators of the movement now in England, having said that the native Indian speakers at Bombay spoke as if English were their mother-tongue, our good friends are in ecstasies. And poor Mr. Reed, who is really a clever shorthand writer, is forthwith raised to the seventh heaven of the Congress's own. We are told,

"The testimony of so great a man is undoubtedly valuable and encouraging to our public speakers."

Fiddlesticks! The testimony of an educated man of experience in eloquence of the senate, the bar, and the platform, may be quite as valuable as even a professional reporter's, and the testimony of a practised speaker is, we conceive, far more valuable than that of a mere shorthand expert.

Our papers are complaining of the want of appreciation by Government of Bengali genius, virtue, and public spirit. Even the leaders of the Congress are left to pine in the cold shade of bureaucratic neglect. Speaking of the List of Honors on Her Majesty's late Birthday, one journal says:—

"But the names of the Bengalis are conspicuous by their absence in these big alphabetical titles."

After the first burst of querulousness, however, our contemporary recovers its composure and tries to be grand and virtuous. Says the editor:—

"Knowing as we do the manner in which titles are distributed in this country by our paternal Government, we have no reason to regret the paucity of Bengali names in the list."

Just so. Hang the grapes, they are so indisputably sour, if so tempting-looking! Let them hang on, or drop on the lap of the mean wretches that care for them! That is a wise reflection, if not particularly original. The writer finally clinches the point with an interrogation:—

"Are not Raja Sivaprasad and Printer Newolkishor recipients of such Government titles?"

Which tempts us to answer with another. And do you really think that these men do not deserve the consideration and honour shown them by Government? If you do, have you satisfied yourself on the point? No doubt, they have set their faces against the Congress. But is that a sufficient reason for their exclusion from the favour of their sovereign? Apart from the single crime of not joining the standard of the Congress, have they not many claims to respect? We do not insist on all the perfections in their behalf. But we believe they can fairly meet the tests of respectability of their respective classes of society in the country, though that is not saying much. At any rate, they do not starve their mothers or swindle their brothers, or trick their servants out of their just wages. Can as much be said for all your loudest and most eloquent patriots? Whatever the deficiencies of Raja Siva Prasad and Moonshee Newulkishore, we believe they have presented a better example for the country to profit by than the patent flesh and blood engines for the production of literary platitudes and political commonplaces. Both the Benaresi and the Agrawalla (now of Lucknow) were originally poor and obscure, but, by dint of hard and patient effort and ingenuity, they have risen to the pinnacle of wealth, influence and honour. How different your orators! They have been shamed at every step, and even found themselves within the four walls of a jail. What a life of noble enterprise, and successful too, has been that of each of our two fellow countrymen of Upper India! Nearly all enterprise is a public service, from its inspiring influence on the minds of the community. Some are, however, of a peculiarly public character, and of these were the enterprises of Siva Prasad and Newulkishore. Their work, while it advanced them in the world, reacted for the benefit of their nation. The former is more of a scholar, but the latter has promoted scholarship far more. The Caxton of Upper India, Newulkishore has, for the last thirty-five years, from his establishment at Lucknow, deluged India with literature of every pretension, new and old, and printed matter of every calibre, from voluminous encyclopædic works of solid worth like the *Ayeeen Akberi* and indeed the whole *Akbernama* and the most famous Epics and Masnavis and Kulliyats and Dewans down to *dewana* ghazels and *thhoongris* and ephemeral fly leaves. It is impossible to overestimate the work of this "unspeakable" printer. What the combined intellects and resources of many eminent men have done in Europe itself, has been achieved more quickly and without the least ostentation by this single Indian. And not in quest of fame or pompous parade of public good, has he done it, but in the far from sublime, though not disreputable, struggle for pence in which almost all mankind are madly engaged. Not in pursuit of pure philanthropy to be sure, but to thorough philanthropic purpose, nonetheless. And if honour comes to such a man, is that a public grievance? Should we not rather delight to honour such a man and pardon some faults in a great public benefactor? So of Siva Prasad. He has doubtless played his cards successfully in the game of life, like better men. That can form no excuse for public fret. It were more to the point to laugh at the simplicity of the magnates who could be so cheaply bamboozled. For the rest, the Jain is not the contemptible fellow that so many who know him not deem him. It was not simply by humouring the officials that he could rise from a common clerk or schoolmaster to the highest office in the Education Department open to a native in the North-Western Provinces. His service indeed commenced in the camp in the Panjab War. Transferred to the Education Department, he was of great help towards the spread of instruction in the Upper Provinces. He was enabled to do good work in a far more important way as an author. He was early struck by the literary destitution of his country, and the impossibility of advancing popular education without a body of sound elementary literature was felt by him every hour of his office and he strove to supply the want. He prepared himself for the purpose by considerable reading and meditation, and wrote book after book, from the most elementary primers to works of higher pretensions, which were adopted into the educational institutions of the country and formed the *nucleus* of the modern Hindi literature. Is such a man, because he happens to have political opinions of his own not in accord with raw fire-eaters, or other faults of manner and method, to be trampled under foot and made the mark for undying hostility?



## THE NEW CALCUTTA PORT ACT.

THE Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Port of Calcutta and to the appointment of Commissioners for the said Port, otherwise called the Calcutta Port Act, 1890, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council and assented to by His Honor, received the assent of the Viceroy on the 15th May 1890. It repeals all the seven previous laws on the subject, and comes into operation from the first day of June 1890.

The Port Trust, under this law, will consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and thirteen Commissioners to be known as Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. The Local Government is given the power of appointing the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and five of the thirteen Commissioners. The other eight Commissioners will be elected—five by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, one by the Calcutta Trades' Association, one by the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta, and one by such body or bodies or firms as the Local Government shall, from time to time, select as best representing the interests of the native mercantile community. The Government would not openly recognize the native Chamber of Commerce,

*That half-form'd insect on the bank of Nile—*

we mean the Ganges, or rather the Hoogly—which seems ushered into nebulous existence with the object of whitewashing a condemned criminal and smuggling him into society. "The election shall be made in such manner as may be determined by the electing bodies, subject to the approval of the Local Government." Is it the election or the manner of election that must be sanctioned by Government? All the Commissioners, elected or nominated, must go out on the expiration of two years, but are eligible for re-election or re-appointment. The remuneration, when any, of the two chief executives and of the Commissioners will be at the absolute discretion of Government under conditions and restrictions that may be attached. We hope Government will not sanction the appropriation of the fee of any absent Commissioner at a meeting. The objects of the Trust or rather the works to be constructed and carried out by the Commissioners are

"(1) Docks, wharves, quays, stages, jetties and piers within the port, with all necessary and convenient arches, drains, landing-places, stairs, fences and approaches; and quarters and buildings necessary for the residence of the officers employed therefor.

(2) Tramways, warehouse, sheds, engines and other appliances for conveying, receiving and storing goods landed or to be shipped, or carried, and accommodation for the sampling and selling of such goods. Such tramways, with the previous sanction of the Local Government, to be worked by locomotive engines or other motive power, drawing or propelling carriages and wagons, for the conveyance of goods therein.

(3) Laying down moorings for carrying out the purposes of this Act; and the erection of cranes, scales, and all other necessary means and appliances, for loading and unloading vessels.

(4) Reclaiming, enclosing and raising any part of the river bank or the river bed within the port, which may be necessary for the execution of the works authorised by this Act, or otherwise for the purposes of this Act.

(5) The construction and application of dredges and other machines for cleaning, deepening and improving the river bed within the port.

(6) The building of steam-vessels required for the purpose of towing vessels in the port.

(7) The construction of such works, without the limits of the port, as shall be necessary for the protection of works executed under this Act; and all such other works and appliances as may, in the opinion of the Commissioners in meeting, be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act."

Government, however, does not absolutely resign itself to the Port Commissioners for the improvement or maintenance of the Port. As in the Calcutta Municipal Act, it reserves to itself the power of enforcing the works it thinks necessary. Thus

"If, at any time, it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Local Government that the works intended to be accomplished under this Act have not been, and are not likely to be, properly carried out, or (if carried out) have not been, and are not likely to be, properly maintained by the Commissioners, it shall be lawful for the Local Government, by a notification to be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, to declare that if, within a period of six months from the date of such notification, the Commissioners fail to take measures to the satisfaction of the Local Government for the carrying out or proper maintenance of the said works, the powers by this Act conferred on the Commissioners will, at the end of such period, be withdrawn and revoked.

By such last-mentioned order, and without the necessity of any conveyance, all immovable and moveable property, all rights of levying and recovering tolls, dues and rates, all benefit of contracts and all rights of suit, which at the time may be vested in the Commissioners under this Act, shall be transferred to, and vested in, Her Majesty; and the rights of all creditors of the Commissioners, under this Act, shall continue as against the Secretary of State for India in Council to the extent of the property so transferred to, and vested in, Her Majesty."

Upon these terms, a question suggests itself. Can the Local Govern-

ment, under the Act, order new works which the Commissioners do not consider necessary?

## Law.

## SUPREME COURT,—FEBRUARY 8, 1856.

(Before the full Court.)

In the matter of the Commissioners for the Improvement of the Town of Calcutta, and Denobundo Mullick and Brijobundo Mullick, Executors and Trustees of the last Will and Testament of Bustumdos Mullick, deceased.

In this matter, Mr. Peterson, on behalf of the Executors, had obtained a *rule nisi* calling upon the above Commissioners to show cause why an inquisition taken by the late Sheriff pursuant to a warrant issued by them should not be quashed.

The Advocate General and Mr. Cuvie appeared for the Commissioners.

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Doyne in support of the rule.

The Court after hearing the arguments reserved its decision, which was delivered by the Chief Justice as follows.

His Lordship said :—

This is an application by the executors of Bustumdos Mullick, deceased, to quash an inquisition taken by the late Sheriff of Calcutta on the 11th of December last for the purpose of ascertaining the price for compensation to be paid for certain lands belonging to the estate of Bustumdos Mullick and sought to be taken by the Commissioners under the provisions of Acts XII of 1852 and XXII. of 1847. A special jury empanelled according to the directions of the latter Act has assessed the price and compensation at the sum of Co.'s Rs. 31,369, and the Sheriff has adjudged that sum to be paid by the Commissioners.

The inquisition, however, is assailed on three grounds,—1st, that neither the inquisition nor the warrant of the Commissioners which is annexed to it states that the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor to the taking of these lands by the Commissioners had been given, or facts from which by necessary intendment the giving of that consent can be inferred; 2ndly, that no such consent as is contemplated by the Acts in question had in fact been given; and lastly, that no such consent could be regularly given, inasmuch as the Commissioners, in taking these lands for the purpose of dealing as they propose to deal with them, are acting in excess of the powers vested in them by these Acts.

Upon the first question many authorities have been cited, but they are all or nearly all collected in the reports of *Taylor vs. Churson* in the Exchequer Chamber 2 Q. B. 978; and of the same case in the House of Lords 11 *Clarke and Finnely* 610. With the exception of certain dicta to which I will presently advert, they all seem to admit that a statutory power to take lands for public purposes, when it is exercised adversely and not by consent, is an authority to be carried into effect by means unknown to the common law; that it must be strictly pursued; and that subject to the following justification those exercising it are subject to the rule which applies to all Courts of inferior and limited jurisdiction, viz., that they must show on the face of the proceedings that they have jurisdiction. The qualification which must be taken to be conclusively established by *Taylor vs. Churson* is this—that the circumstances which are essential to the existence of the jurisdiction need not be expressly stated on the face of the inquisition; it is sufficient if by fair and necessary intendment they can be inferred either from the Inquisition or the warrant or any other document annexed to and made part of the proceeding. The principal dictum that can be opposed to this view of the law is contained in the observations of Lord Cottenham at page 651 of *Clarke and Finnely's Report*. But those were not necessary for the decision of the case; and if they are to be understood to import that it is unnecessary that proceedings should show either the circumstances out of which the jurisdiction arises, or facts from which the existence of those circumstances may legitimately be inferred, or that the proceedings need not state or show anything which is not cognizable by the Sheriff and his jury, then Lord Cottenham certainly went beyond Lord Brougham in the same case, and the judgment of the Exchequer Chamber which was under review. But though he certainly intimated a doubt of the correctness of the view taken by Lords Mansfield and Denman in the cases to which he was referring, I do not understand him to have expressly overruled those authorities to which may be added that of Mr. Baron Parke in *Doe dem Payne vs. The Bristol and Exeter Railway Company*, 6 *M. and W.* and others. Again in the observations made by Lord Abinger in the course of the argument in *Taylor vs. Churson* to which Lord Cottenham refers, he expressly guards himself against the inference that he thought the statement of the preliminary matter unnecessary. He says—"I do not, however, state this as shewing conclusively that the preliminary matter ought not to appear on the face of the inquisition." And he ultimately concurred in the judgment of the Court as delivered by Chief Justice Tindal. In truth had either the House of Lords or the Court below intended to affirm broadly that it was unneces-

sary or improper to state the preliminary matter, the case of *Taylor vs. Churson* might have been decided on a far shorter and simpler ground than that on which the decision rests.

It remains to notice some of the objections urged on the other side. It is said that if this preliminary matter which the Sheriff and his Jury have no power to try were stated on the face of the inquisition, it would be conclusive; and that the party whose land is taken would be injured rather than benefited by the rule. I do not know that this consequence would justify our dispensing with the rule if it exists; though no doubt it may be used as an argument against the existence of such a rule if otherwise doubtful. But would such a consequence flow from the statement even in the inquisition of this preliminary matter not as matter adjudicated upon by the Sheriff and his Jury; but by way of recital or narration as facts are stated in a caption? All that was decided in *Bastin vs. Carrow, 3 B. and C.*, was that the record of certain proceedings before two Magistrates was conclusive evidence in an action of trespass against three Magistrates. But it appears from Mr Justice Holroyd's judgment, citing the earlier case of *Strickland vs. Ward* that the principle is that the record of the judgment or the proceeding in the nature of a judgment of an inferior Court is conclusive, until that judgment or proceeding is reversed or quashed. Therefore if it be admitted that in any proceeding on the inquisition stating the preliminary matters, the matters so stated could not be controverted, it does not follow that the truth of those matters could not be inquired into on an application to quash the inquisition. Lord Denman, in the *Queen vs. Bolton, 1 Q.B. 66*, very clearly distinguishes between the cases on which extensive evidence is receivable to show that the inferior tribunal acted without jurisdiction, and those in which it is not receivable, the test being whether the facts on which the question of jurisdiction or no jurisdiction turns, were those which the tribunal in question had on inquiry regularly commenced to try. Here the argument assumes that the Sheriff and his Jury had no power to try such preliminary matters on the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor or the like. The case of the *Queen vs. the Justices of Cheshire, 8 Ad. and Ellis*, is one in which affidavits to prove that the Justices acted without jurisdiction were received.

Another point taken by Mr. Advocate-General was that there is a distinction between an inquisition under these acts, and an inquisition under the English Railway Acts, the latter being expressly made a document of title whereas here a further conveyance is necessary. But all the cases turn not on the effect of the inquisition or the title of the party taking the lands; but on the nature of the tribunal before which it is had.

Again, Mr. Advocate-General distinguished between the inquisition under those acts which are returnable into and become quasi records of this Court; and inquisitions which under particular Acts of Parliament are returnable into and become quasi records of the inferior Courts of Quarter Sessions. That circumstance may give us a form of amendment which is not possessed by the superior Courts at home in like cases; but the reason of the rule appears from *Taylor vs. Churson* and most of the authorities to be the character of the tribunal before which the proceeding is had (the Sheriff and his Jury); not the character of the Court to which the inquisition is returnable. The only authority which so far as I have seen gives any color to the argument is an *obiter dictum* of Mr. Justice Littledale in the *Queen vs. the Masters of Swansea Harbour*; and he is there stating the contention of one of the parties rather than expressing an opinion of his own. On the whole, then, I have come not very willingly to the conclusion that upon the authorities the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, if it be a circumstance necessary to give the Sheriff jurisdiction, ought either to be stated on the form of the proceedings, or be capable of being legitimately inferred from what is there stated.

Then is the existence of such a consent or sanction necessary to give the Sheriff and his Jury jurisdiction? Under the 4th section of Act XII of 1852 the Commissioners have no power to make or alter streets except with the consent of the Governor of Bengal; under the 6th section of the same Act, which is that which perhaps bears most directly on the question, they have no power to take land for any purpose authorized by either that Act or Act X of 1852 except by and with the consent of the Governor of Bengal. The 2d section of Act XXII of 1847 is still stronger, for by that the Commissioners when they think it necessary to purchase lands are to represent the same to the Governor of Bengal, and if he shall consent thereto but not otherwise, are in certain events to apply to the Sheriff to summon a jury. This is one of the provisions which by the 6th section of Act XII of 1852 is incorporated in that Act. It is therefore impossible we think to doubt that in the absence of the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal the warrant of the Commissioners directing the Sheriff to summon a jury would be irregular; and the subsequent proceedings before the Sheriff would be *coram non iudice*. It is no answer to say that the Sheriff's authority is the warrant of the Commissioners if that consent is irregular; the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor under these Acts seems to be at least as essential to the jurisdiction of the Sheriff as the disagreement of the parties was in the case of *Taylor vs. Churson*.

Then is the giving of this consent stated on these proceedings, or can it be inferred from what is there stated by necessary intendment? It is said that although not stated in the injunction or in the warrant it was stated in the notice to the parties which is inserted in the warrant, and also though more briefly in the inquisition. But the notice is made no part of the proceedings before the Sheriff; it is not in any way annexed to, or incorporated in the injunction; and the recital of it in either document omits to mention the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor. Then how far from what is stated can the existence of that consent be inferred? In *Taylor vs. Churson* the fact of the disagreement was legitimately inferred from the act of summoning a jury; for it was irrational to suppose that the parties if agreed would go before a jury. But were you can only infer the consent by supposing that the Commissioners would not act in excess of their authority; in other words by presuming *omnia rite acta fuisse*, which is just the presumption which in the case of an inferior or extraordinary tribunal the law forbids you to make on a question of jurisdiction. We are therefore reluctantly brought to the conclusion that these proceedings are defective. We should most unwillingly yield to such an objection if we saw that the proceedings had been regular in fact; and that the party who was dissatisfied with the verdict of the former jury was seeking in this way to obtain a new trial. In such a case we should consider whether as the Act makes the injunction a quasi record of our own Court we could not direct it to be amended.

But we are unfortunately unable to satisfy ourselves that in this case there has been in fact such a consent of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to the proceedings of the Commissioners as is contemplated by the Acts. It is admitted that the first letter of the Commissioners and the answer signed by Mr. Hodgson Pratt do not import such a consent. The Commissioners were seeking to do what they were afterwards advised, and as we think correctly advised implied a taking of land for other purposes than those authorized by the Acts; and acting under that advice they treated the consent evidenced by that correspondence as null. We cannot read the letter of the 17th of March as conveying to the Lieutenant-Governor any proposition but the old proposition in a new shape. It states the objection that has been suggested to the taking of lands with the avowed object of selling them at a profit, and admits the sufficiency of that objection. But it proceeds to argue the desirableness of not merely opening up a new and broad thoroughfare; but of building on each side of it houses and shops of superior order arranged with a view to the sanitary condition of the inhabitants; and the consequent necessity of taking a moderate space on either side of the new street. It further states that the quantities of surplus land stated in the previous report are not precisely those which the Commissioners would now demand of a jury; claims the right of the Commissioners to resell or relet for improved houses or compounds only; and comes to this conclusion "The Commissioners have undoubtedly a *bona fide* intention of taking such portions of land in excess of the actual width of the street for public purposes only either themselves to build upon it, or to resell to others to build such houses or shops only as will add to the appearance and improvement of the Town." But the letter does not show what definite portion of land the Commissioners proposed to take for those purposes. On the contrary, though the passage already stated implied that they required less than that indicated by their June letter and this letter ends by "soliciting the sanction of His Honor to the Commissioners abiding by their requisition for the larger quantities of land as advised by Mr. Thomas being in reality required for the public improvement of the Town in connection with the new proposed street," Mr. Thomas' letter is not set out in the affidavit, but I entirely understand this letter of the Commissioners as asking the sanction of Government to the taking of all the land specified in the former application if they should see fit; although all was not required for the purposes contemplated.

I am confirmed in this view by the answer to the proposal which was conveyed in the letter signed by Mr. Russell as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal which limits the outlay to be made by the Commissioners to the precise sum previously sanctioned, viz. Rs. 1,08,298.

It is true that Mr. Rowe swore that before the Commissioners sent their second letter to the Government of Bengal he had prepared for them the plan annexed to his affidavit and marked C, shewing that what was required was 50 feet on either side of the road. But it is not stated that that plan was submitted to Government, and the correspondence leads us to the contrary conclusion. It is impossible to conceive a more general consent than is given in the letter signed by Mr. Russell.

The only limits imposed on the discretion of the Commissioners are that the land taken shall be necessary for the general sanitary improvements contemplated in connection with the new thoroughfare; and that their expenses shall not exceed the former estimation of Rs. 1,08,298.

Now it appears to us that when the Legislature made the consent of the Governor of Bengal a condition precedent to the taking of land by the Commissioners it intended not only to check the expenditure of the Commissioners, but to protect the proprietors of

land against any arbitrary exercise of the powers vested in the Commissioners. It follows we think that whenever the Commissioners do take land under these Acts they ought to submit a proposal definite as to the quantity and locality of the land to be taken, and as to the purpose for which it is taken; and to obtain the sanction of Government to that definite proposal. We cannot say that that course has been here pursued. No doubt it may often happen that either from the impossibility of estimating precisely the quantity required, or from the necessity of taking some land in order to carry on the operations by which the permanent work is to be effected, more may be taken than is ultimately used for the purpose contemplated, so that no valid objection could be raised. But here the Commissioners seem to have asked for and obtained a consent which conveys more land than that which they admit they require and thus to have obtained a discretion which the Legislature never intended to give them.

It may be premature to give a decided opinion on the question which the Advocate General and Mr. Cowie have hardly had an opportunity of fully arguing. But we cannot refrain from intimating the very grave doubts which we entertain whether the purpose announced by the Commissioners even in the second letter is one of the purposes authorized by the Act. It is perhaps difficult to limit the power to build streets given by the 4th section, as the learned Counsel for the Mullicks would have us limit it to the making of the thoroughfare and its appendages as drains or the like. The words "to build a street" certainly seem to imply the right to build the lines of houses on either side of the road which with the road constitute what in common parlance is called "the street." But if this were intended one should have expected the Legislature to have imposed some limit as to the nature of the buildings to be erected on either side, and the quantity of ground to be taken on either side for that purpose. It cannot have intended to authorize the construction on

the land of others of a line of palaces yielding a profit. And it is not easy to see where the line which is to limit their operations is to be drawn. But even if the power given to the Commissioners is taken in its largest sense, they and they only are authorised to build streets. They are not authorised to take land for the purpose of letting it on building leases; or to speculate in the sale of it to other persons for building purposes according to their plans. Yet some such operations as these are contemplated even in their second communication to Government, and the distinction is important because, as was well observed by I think Mr. Doyne, the power of the Commissioners in building for themselves are limited by the funds at their disposal; whereas they would be increased to an extent to which it is difficult to assign a limit if they were thus permitted to work through others and to speculate in land.

Upon the whole, then, we are of opinion that the formal objection taken to these proceedings is valid; and that as we are not satisfied either that a sufficient consent of the Lieutenant Governor was obtained in fact; or that the purpose contemplated by the Commissioners is one authorised by the Act, we cannot exercise in this case such power as we may have to amend the record. We are most unwilling to throw obstacles in the way of anything which tends to the sanitary improvement of this city which is so much in need of it. The plan proposed may be an excellent one. If not within the powers now possessed by the Commissioners it may be one which might be fitly authorized by a special Act of the Legislature. But if that were done, new conditions in aid and protection of the proprietors of land might possibly be imposed. We must not allow a desire for improvement to interfere with the duty which is cast upon us of protecting the rights of property, by confining those who are intrusted with extraordinary powers over the property of others within the strict limits of their authority. The inquisition must be quashed.

*Rule Absolute.*

*The 3rd Ordinary Monthly Meeting  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CALCUTTA,  
under Act II. (B. C.) of 1888 for the year  
1890-91,*

WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL,  
on Thursday next, the 5th June 1890,  
at 4 P.M.

**BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.**

1. To confirm the proceedings of the Complaints Committee, at Meetings held on the 30th April and 14th May 1890.
2. To confirm the proceedings of the General Committee, at Meetings held on the 26th April, 3rd and 10th May 1890.
3. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee at a Meeting held on the 9th May 1890.
4. To confirm the proceedings of the Loan Committee, at Meetings held on the 10th April and 15th May 1890.
5. To confirm the proceedings of the Suburban Improvement Committee, at a Meeting held on the 25th April 1890.
6. To confirm the proceedings of the Market Committee, at a Meeting held on the 12th May 1890.
7. To confirm the following resolutions of the Bustee Committee, held on the 2nd April 1890.

Items Nos. 8 and 10 to pass orders under Section 257 of Act. II (B. C.) of 1888, in respect of:—

- (a) Machhooa Bazar, Khalaseetola Bustee.
  - (b) No. 100 Lower Chitpore Road, 94 Lower Chitpore Road, 15, 25 and 27 Armenian Street, 4, 5, 7 and 14 Roop Chand Roy's Street, 6 and 7 Baboo Lal's Lane.
  8. To confirm generally the proceedings of the Bustee and Town Improvement Committee, at their Meetings held on the 2nd and 7th April 1890.
  9. Vital statistics for the month of March 1890.
  10. Mr. Osmond to ask for the following information, viz.,:—
- (a) The number of flushing chambers now actually constructed and in use in connection with the public sewers with details of locality, size and construction of such sewers.
  - (b) The number (with similar details) of flushing chambers now in course of construction but not yet in use.
  - (c) The number (with similar details) of flushing chambers which are proposed to be constructed in future in order to complete flushing arrangements to the whole of the sewers now in use.
  - (d) The number and locality of air-shafts now constructed and in use in connection with the drainage system whether through chimneys

as at Halliday Street or otherwise (the answer not to include small ventilating pipes) and how many, if any, of these are connected with chimneys that are the property of private individuals or companies.

(c) Whether it is in contemplation to continue to construct surface ventilators from public sewers in narrow streets and lanes, or are any of the existing ones to be closed.

JOHN COWIE,

*Secretary to the Corporation.*

30th May 1890.

THE  
CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

**LOAN NOTIFICATION.**

1. The Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, given under Section 404 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 20,00,000 on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act 1888.

2. The Debentures will have a currency of thirty years from the 1st October 1890, and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st April and 1st October of each year.

3. The form of Debenture-bonds will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.

4. No Debentures will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for even sums of Rs. 100.

5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above loan will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M. of Thursday, the 19th June 1890.

6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1890-91."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government Promissory Notes, Currency Notes or Cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted the deposit, when made in currency notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from the 19th June 1890, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed, but no debenture will be issued for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits or tenders which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made, must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas: a tender in which the rate is not so specified, will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments:—

One third on 19th July 1890, one-third on 19th August 1890 and one-third on 19th September 1890.

Parties whose tenders are accepted will have the option of paying all or any of the instalments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 30th September 1890.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, tenders will then be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2.30 P.M., on Thursday, the 19th June 1890, at the Municipal Office.

JOHN COWIE,

*Secretary to the Corporation.*

Municipal Office,  
Calcutta, 17th May 1890.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURE.**

I hereby tender for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Municipal five per cent. Loan for 1890-91, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rupees annas \_\_\_\_\_ for every one hundred rupees allotted to me.

I enclose Government Promissory Notes, Currency Notes or a Cheque for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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*NAWAB FARIDDOON JAH BAHADOOR,*

*(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)*

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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CALCUTTA.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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and maintains to this day  
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and

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Calcutta, the 27th May, 1890.

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(**PRINCE AND PEASANT**)

**WEEKLY (ENGLISH) NEWSPAPER**

AND

*Review of Politics, Literature, and Society*

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**OFFICE:** 1, *Uchoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.*

DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1890.

} No. 427

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### I WOULD NOT HAVE THEE YOUNG AGAIN.

I would not have thee young again,  
Since I myself am old ;  
Not that thy youth was ever vain,  
Or that my age is cold ;  
• But when upon thy gentle face  
• I see the shades of time,  
• A thousand memories replace  
The beauties of thy prime.

Though from thine eyes of softest blue  
Some light hath passed away,  
Love looketh forth as warm and true  
As on our bridal day.  
I hear thy song, and though in part  
'Tis fainter in its tone,  
I heed it not, for still thy heart  
Seems singing to my own.

### RAIN ON THE ROOF.

When the humid showers gather  
Over all the starry spheres,  
• And the melancholy darkness  
• Gently weeps in rainy tears,  
'T is a joy to press the pillow  
Of a cottage chamber bed,  
And to listen to the patter  
Of the soft rain overhead.

Every tinkle on the shingles  
Has an echo in the heart,  
• And a thousand dreary fancies  
• Into busy being start ;  
• And a thousand recollections  
Weave their bright hues into woof,  
As I listen to the patter  
Of the soft rain on the roof.

• There in fancy comes my mother,  
• As she used to years ago,  
To survey the infant sleepers  
Ere she left them till the dawn.  
I can see her bending o'er me,  
As I listen to the strain  
Which is played upon the shingles  
By the patter of the rain.

Then my little seraph sister,  
With her wings and waving hair,  
And her bright-eyed cherub brother,  
As serene angelic pair,

Glide around my wakeful pillow  
With their praise or mild reproof,  
As I listen to the murmur  
Of the soft rain on the roof.

• And another comes to thrill me  
• With her eyes' delicious blue ;  
I forget, as gazing on her,  
That her heart was all untrue ;  
I remember that I loved her  
As I ne'er may love again,  
• And my heart's quick pulses vibrate  
• To the patter of the rain.

There is nought in art's bravuras  
That can work with such a spell,  
In the spirit's pure, deep fountains,  
Whence the holy passions swell,  
As that melody of nature—  
That subdued, subduing strain,  
Which is played upon the shingles  
By the patter of the rain.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THERE will be an annular eclipse of the sun on June 17, in the afternoon. Calcutta will miss the astronomical *tamasha*. The ring will not be visible here.

\*\*\*

THE advice of Sir Morell Mackenzie to singers is—Avoid tobacco, alcohol and fiery condiments. Hot spices and specially spirits have immediately a clearing and strengthening effect on the voice and the breath. Probably their long continued use is hurtful. Tobacco, however, is not understood in India to do any harm. Opium-smoking seems somehow prejudicial, though the drug itself is a powerful subduer of phlegm. But there is a decidedly injurious practice much in vogue among our singers—the Hashish.

\*\*\*

IN favour of the fragrant weed—

Bacchus' black servant, Negro fine—

it has been remarked that in Switzerland, not a single person employed in any of the cigar and tobacco manufactories was attacked by influenza, while around them it was raging high.

\*\*\*

A LONDON society paper tells an anecdote of a young man, not a hundred degrees removed from succession to the throne. He was taking part in one of those mild intellectual games that drawing-room misses dearly love, and being asked to write down the name of some heroine in history, was at a loss. A young lady near him came to his rescue. She prompted him, suggesting Jeanne d'Arc. The name was written and handed in. It was written "Jane Dark."

This carries us back to the times of the earliest Princes in England of the dynasty. At this day, it is a worse libel on Royalty than the *Examiner's* on the "Adonis of fifty."

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

THE Viceroy has permitted Sir Steuart Bayley to appoint Mr. H. J. S. Cotton a member of the Bengal Legislative Council in place of Mr. F. B. Peacock, retired. When will the Hon'ble Cotton have the C.I.E. and the C.S.I. of the gentlemen whom he has now replaced in the Secretariat and the Council? He is a man of undoubted ability and energy, and if he flitted with the genius of the *pave* it was time for him to recover caste by jilting her before she definitely discovers him to be fat and passed forty. Be that as it may, we welcome him as a distinct accession to the strength of the local Council. The death of Mr. Macaulay left the chamber visibly weak. Except Sir Henry Harrison, we do not know the officer who can fill the vacancy better than Mr. Cotton. If Sir Henry is a veteran and unrivalled in debate, Mr. Cotton is far from a bad speaker and he will soon come up to the mark.

By a fresh order dated Simla, the 29th May 1890, the Hon'ble F. M. Halliday of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, is restricted to the exercise of the duties, powers and authority in the Department of Land Revenue. That includes revenue, survey and settlement, land registration, land improvements, the sale or lease of waste land and Government estates, the management of wards and attached estates, the collection of cesses, the realization of arrears of revenue, and the recovery of public demands, rent suits, embankments, pensions, the examination, enrolment, &c., of revenue agents, putni sales, and the supply of provisions for troops. Sir Henry Harrison has, with retrospective effect from the 15th April 1890, charge of the Departments of Miscellaneous Revenue, including excise, assessed taxes, salt, opium, customs, stamps and stationery, tolls and canals, the partition of estates, and the acquisition of land for public purposes. Could not the order be made when Sir Henry took charge?

THE order for exchange of services between Mr. M. Macauliffe of the Punjab and Mr. F. J. G. Campbell of Bengal has been cancelled.

LIEUTENANT S. H. Pollen, Wiltshire Regiment, has been added as an Extra Aid-de-Camp to the Viceroy's Personal Staff.

THE *Deccan Times* learns on what it calls reliable authority that Sir Steuart Bayley intends taking six months' leave preparatory to retirement.

THE historical painter who painted "A Scene at the Massacre of St. Bartholomew," Mr. Robert Fleury, ex-Director of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, is dead. He died at the age of 94, at the Villa de Medici, at Rome.

THE May number of *Blackwood* contains a good Indian article by a rising member of the Bengal Civil Service, Mr. H. H. Risley. His subject is Sikkim. According to him, the struggle of races and creeds there will gradually end in that little Himalayan State being completely Nepalised. He contemplates the prospect with pleasure, as it means ascendancy of Hinduism and the extinction of Thibetian influence. Already, the influx of Nepalese threatens the Thibetian interest. As matters stand, we believe Mr. Risley is quite right. But he makes no allowance for possibilities. A strong personality on any side may change the circumstances and, of course, falsify all calculations.

DURING the past year, about twenty thousand persons, representing thirty-nine nationalities, paid for admission to Shakespeare's house in Stratford-on-Avon.

THE editor of a vernacular newspaper printed in Meerut—*Jalwa-i-Ezdi*—has been fined rupees ten, under section 292, I. P. C., for publishing an advertisement for the sale of aphrodisiacs in obscene terms.

ON May 31, Mr. Luximonrao Jagannathjee Vaidya made over and Dewan Bahadur Manbhai Jushbai assumed charge as Dewan of Baroda. The same afternoon Jagannathjee left Baroda on a visit to the Gaekwad at Umrat.

THE Collector of Moorshedabad assessed a Prem Chand Roy Chand scholar for the income tax for the scholarship he draws. The scholar thought it hard and appealed to the Presidency Commissioner. Mr.

Smith looked differently on the matter and has decided against the Collector.

THE *People's Friend* of Madras has information that

"Retention in the service until the 31st March 1891" has been sanctioned in reference to the lowing officers who have attained the age of 55 years or who will attain that age during the year 1890-91."

So

The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,  
to the end of the administrative chapter.

What is the composition of the herd? Our contemporary does not keep us long in the dark, but immediately mentions by name seven of the members. Thus

"(1) M. R. Ry. P. T. Rajagopala Chariar Avergal, General Charge Deputy Collector (of whom it is remarked 'efficient, and may be retained until the end of the next official year.') (2) M. R. Ry. T. Pattabiram Pillai Avergal, General Charge Deputy Collector, (is a strong man, fit for several years' further service). (3) M. R. Ry. T. Rajaram Rao, Dewan Bahadur, Treasury Deputy Collector (is mentally and physically fit for further service and may be retained until his sixtieth year). (4) M. R. Ry. M. Suriyamurthi Pillai Avergal, Treasury Deputy Collector (strongly recommends this officer's retention for another year). (5) Mr. E. G. Ricketts, Treasury Deputy Collector (fit for further service). (6) Mr. W. E. Underwood, General Charge Deputy Collector (physically fit for further service. This officer has served for 23 years in the Wynad, and ought to be transferred to some post on the plains). (7) T. Mahomed Ali Khan, Sahib Bahadur, Assistant Conservator of Forests (has had little opportunity of judging his fitness for work, but sees no objection to his being retained for another year. The Conservator says that Mahomed Ali Khan Sahib is perfectly efficient and may be allowed one more year of service.)"

"LOWING officers" may not perhaps be a very complimentary term for Civilians whether of the *genus* Covenanted or the *genus* Uncovenanted, but it is withal a capital designation. The Universities in India have of late commanded the attention of its examinees to the differences between the speech and eloquence of the lowing herds of India and England. Mr. Justice Norris presiding at the reading of Mr. A. Chaudhuri's paper, in which a question to that effect at one of the Calcutta University examinations was brought to notice, with blunt truth called the author of the question an ass. Mr. Norris is given to saying memorable things, but he never said anything more true or to the point. The ass happened to be present and could not help betraying himself. He was the Simon Pure, hailing from Bæotia, he brayed.

An ass his feelings has.

And the feelings of this ass, alas!

Were wounded.

He said, tossing his head,

(And the scorn his speech betray'd, loud bray'd,  
Resounded)

"Hee! haw!

Lighter than straw

On the wind, fools run

After what glitters. The taste of the day!

Sound worth they shun,

Their praises give to the sun's display,

And to me give none.

Ungrateful and frivolous fools, I say!

For, if I were the sun, they would flatter me, they

Who all fly me now. Yet, if I were the sun,

What could I do for them more, I pray,

Than, being an ass, I already have done?

I should simply have nothing to do but to shine—

Shine, or be seen, 'twould be all as one:

And no great merit in that, I opine,

If one happens to be the sun."

Just so. There is no appreciation of originality in this world. He has by force of uncommon genius boldly deviated from the common track. And the reward is—to be the butt of Barrister Baboos and Barrister Judges! What could he do better if he had, like the best of your dons and hidalgos, asked questions of the approved and time-honoured character? He could be only another man in the East. His ambition was greater. He would fill the public ear from the Indus to the Naff. He would inaugurate a new era in University examinations. He was not for imitating the jogtrot sun. Of course, Mr. Justice Norris immediately apologised.

AMIR Ahmed, a wealthy Zemindar in the Bareilly district, has been sentenced by the Judge to one year's simple imprisonment. He was

accused of abducting the daughter of Haji Kudrat Ali. The Judge found that at the date of abduction the girl was more than sixteen years of age and that she was carried off by force, and that he married her in proper form afterwards. The marriage did not save the Zemindar, although it mitigated the rigour of punishment for the offence.

THE Assam Volunteer Corps—the Sibsagar Mounted Rifles, the Lakhimpur Mounted Rifles, the Nowgong Mounted Rifles, the Shillong Volunteer Rifle Corps and the Gauhati Rifles—have been ordered to be formed into an Administrative Battalion under the name of the “Assam Valley Administrative Battalion,” and to be under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India. This is an important measure for the defence of not only the frontier Province but of East Bengal too.

THE man who was arrested as the dacoit Harpal is no dacoit at all, but one Mahomed Ali Khan of Meerut, a landlord's agent. He was taken to the Tahsildar to have his statement recorded. But he had been to the Tahsildar the day before—to pay revenue, and produced his receipt for the same. The Tahsildar recognized the man, and he was discharged. We may sympathise with the Police discomfitted and disappointed for the moment in their cherished hope of reward on the dacoit's head, but we rejoice that an innocent man has escaped the gallows.

TWO more results of the Calcutta University examinations are out this week—the F. A. and the F. E. In the First Arts, 27 students have passed in the first division, 183 in the second, and 879 in the third, making a total of 1089. In the Engineering, the numbers are 2 in the first and 8 in the second division.

IN Servia, they have passed a Bill granting monopoly to an Anglo-German syndicate to work the rich paraffin and petroleum fields in Servia.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Silver question is still under discussion in the American Senate. Public opinion still wavers. At one time the feeling was strong for free coinage. The indication now is on the other way. On the 5th instant, Senator Sherman opposed free coinage of silver, for that, he said, would demonetize gold and make silver the only standard. A compromise has been suggested providing for the purchase of four and-a-half million dollars of silver bullion monthly, making tantamount notes legal, rendering private and public debts redeemable in silver bullion, and allowing free coinage when the ratio of silver to gold reaches sixteen to one. A meeting of the Republican Caucus has approved of this compromise.

A NEW York telegram speaks of a terrific cyclone sweeping over Nebraska on the 4th, carrying destruction throughout the whole district. At Bradshaw several houses have fallen, several hundreds of persons been killed and many more injured.

In Oakland, California, a passenger train in full motion ran through an open drawbridge into the river below. Thirteen passengers are reported to have been drowned and forty injured.

THE House of Commons has rejected by 81 votes the Bill for the Channel Tunnel across the straits of Dover. Government was opposed to the measure, but it had the support of Mr. Gladstone, who, in his old age, is in for almost any innovation that can be styled “Reform.”

The House of Commons would not allow precedence to a discussion on the action of the police in forbidding the procession to Hyde Park on Saturday last to protest against the compensation clauses of the Licensing Bill. A motion for adjournment of the House to enable it to take up that subject was, after a long and hot discussion, lost by a majority of 110 votes.

Sir James Fergusson denied in the Lower House any surrender to Germany of British territory in Africa.

The question to which it was a reply, was evidently suggested by a speech of Mr. Stanley's, the present lion of London society, at a ban-

quet at the Fishmongers' Hall, in which he inveighed against the abandonment by Great Britain of her commerce in East Africa in favour of Germany.

Funds are being raised in London for a steamer on the Victoria Nyanza. On the 5th, there was a crowded meeting at the Mansion House. Mr. Stanley was present of course and spoke. The Duke of Fife presided. In the course of his address he said that England would not be outstripped in Africa by the zeal of her rivals. Which is mere opinion.

THE Bulgarian Government has decided to address England, Italy and Austria for recognition of Prince Ferdinand.

On the 27th May, the Prince escaped a narrow capture by an armed band who waited at Bellova while he was travelling by rail. Fortunately, the plot got wind, and the anti-Russian Premier M. Stambuloff hearing of it managed to frustrate the design.

THE six acquitted associates of Major Panitza have been exiled out of Bulgaria. The Duke of Orleans has received pardon and been conducted to the frontier.

The Suez Canal Company have declared a net dividend of eighty-five francs.

Emperor William is still confined to his room, though able to walk.

Prince Bismarck will shortly visit London.

THE First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking at the Academy dinner, pronounced the following remarkable opinion:—

“The modern ship-of-war from year to year more and more resembles a great storehouse of ingenious mechanism and of deadly compounds. If, then, the modern ship-of-war is to be an effective fighting instrument, it is absolutely essential that our naval officers should go through such a course of training as will enable them to use both with confidence and with energy the new weapons which are placed in their hands. It is necessary for us to endeavour to establish such a system of training and education as will give both officers and men adequate knowledge of the duties they are called upon to perform. The one fact which the recent naval manœuvres have brought to notice is that no general training, however excellent, can compensate for the want of individual knowledge of the ship which has to be managed, of the gun which has to be trained, of the machine which has to be used in time of emergency.”

The *Army and Navy Gazette* quotes that passage with approval, and devotes a leading article to urge and illustrate the same view. We expect soon the beginning of a thorough change in the system of manning the Navy. Even the common sailor must start with some education, and both men and officers must be under continual training, to be able to work efficiently the complicated or delicate machinery now used on the modern vessels of war. This will, of course, largely increase the cost.

Meanwhile, the Navy is more than ever rising in importance. Rear Admiral Colomb, in the last instalment of his treatise on Naval Warfare appearing in the *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine*, holds success in attack to depend upon commanded-sea co-operation between the Army and the Navy, the Navy's first care being to place the Army in position, and then sinking to play a subordinate part in the game.

THE Supreme Government has in right earnest taken up the bric of discipline—not a day too soon. It has called upon the Local Government to explain its conduct in connection with the native farewell entertainment to Mr. Peacock. When Mr. Reynolds was so honored, the Bengal Government was warned that the demonstration was against standing orders. How in the face of order accentuated by warning, Sir Stuart Bayley attended the entertainment at the Town Hall to Mr. Peacock, India has asked. As well it may. But it is easier to ask than to answer. The correspondence between the two Governments is not yet concluded.

THE Indian Penal Code provides for all existing and future offences. During the thirty years that it is being worked on the people of India, the commoner offences have received no end of interpretations at the hands of acute lawyers, experienced Judges and raw Magistrates. But it was reserved for a Civilian Magistrate in Bengal to convict, under that Code, at the instance of the local municipality, the owner of a tree for cutting it down, for theft of the shade the tree while standing afforded to passers-by along the street adjoining! And it was this model magistrate—Mr. Luson—who was sent to troubled Jessore to do justice between the Planters and the people and heal the festering sores of passion and discord!



IN Southern India, they have just formed a native company under the name of the South Indian Steam Navigation Company for small steamer service, for both passenger and traffic, between Kalasegarapatam and Cuddalore. The coast service is already in British hands, and the friends of the new venture seem uneasy at the prospect of hostility from that quarter. Surely, the native pioneers well calculated their chances—their dangers as well as their resources for meeting them—before their start. For the rest, we think it neither policy nor propriety to bespeak indulgence by appeals *ad misericordiam* as the Native Press in the South is doing. There is no room for tenderness in trade any more than in war. Commerce is indeed a sort of bloodless war in which no quarter is given—a struggle between men to take advantage of one another. Those who intrude into ground already occupied have no right to complain if they are bundled out by lawful means. After the tone that our countrymen have been taught to assume towards Europeans by an indiscreet journalism and an irresponsible oratory, the attitude of submission and solicitation ill becomes them, and cannot, we think, be of much earthly use. Indians can only obtain ridicule by their pains. Men of business are not to be won over by cajolery to spare those who threaten their trade—particularly when the competitors belong to a class which is habitually far from cordial in its attitude. Nor is it necessary for our friends in Madras to resort to these petty extra-business arts. There is doubtless room for another company on the Coromandel. At any rate, the new company may offer special facilities to minor ports and be the instrument of developing business and even opening new centres. Intelligent and energetic Indian men of business can always do wonders in the country commerce which few foreigners can attempt. We hope the new company will pay particular attention to the comfort of passengers and the convenience of shippers.

IN connection with the Agricultural Exhibition to be held in Vienna in the course of this year, it has been proposed to hold as well an International Agricultural Congress during the first days of September next. Before and after the Congress, there will be General Assemblies in which reports will be presented and speeches made, but no debates allowed. At the second general meeting the resolutions passed by the various sections will be published. Two languages—German and French—will be permitted for the debates.

Such is the information published officially for the benefit of Her Majesty's lieges by Government in the official *Gazette*. This publication, in the manner of it, is well worthy of the Great Indian Circumlocution Office. For any earthly use to the said lieges, the information in question might as well have been hermetically sealed as a secret of state and deposited in the archives for the enlightenment of the future historian. People from India could not well at such short notice attend the Congress at Vienna, still if any one, at great sacrifice, offered himself, he would not be allowed. For, the time fixed in the same notification for such application has expired—long since expired. All this information about the Austrian Agricultural Congress occurs in a letter of the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, which was to be communicated to the different Provincial Administrations with a direction to give the matter publicity. We find the Consul-General writing on the last day of March and allowing only the whole of the next month—April—for persons desiring to attend the Congress to apply to him. It was a matter that obviously required immediate attention, as well in courtesy to a Great Power with which Her Majesty is, and has always been, at peace and on the most cordial terms, as in the interest of the agriculture and commerce of this Empire. At the same time, it was matter requiring no protracted conferences of the highest conclave—no cogitation whatever by a single soul. It was a matter of mere departmental routine, for any junior Secretary to dispose of with a scratch of the quill. In fact, this is the justification for the Consul-General (unless he had just received his despatch from home,) for addressing our Government so late. But our Lotos-eaters dreamed over it in the pleasant heights of Simla. It was not till the middle of May that they awoke. The Government of India circular is dated the 15th May, a fortnight after the expiry of the period—the whole month of April—which intending visitors were allowed for application. For that matter, any energy and promptitude afterwards exhibited or observed by the Local Administrations would have been unavailing—could not have helped the object in the least. Still, under such circum-

stances, ordinary human nature would in decency, or weakness if you will, rouse itself to a feat of unaccustomed celerity. But the Lotos of irresponsible power is a strong poison which unnerves the motor organs and deadens the faculties, banishes the sense of danger, steels the heart against public opinion, and promotes recklessness. Thus it was not till nineteen days after that the local *Gazette* published the circular containing the Consul-General's letter inviting Her Majesty's Indian subjects to the Congress.

MR. Charles Marvin, in his last weekly despatch to the *Morning Post*, gives an account of the haunts and habits in London of our friend Professor Arminius Vambery, of Pesth, now on a visit to England. Simple in his living, rising early though compelled, by the demands of "society" upon him, to go to bed late, without either the untidiness or the absent-mindedness or even the pedantry of the typical German *savant* of the British popular imagination, without a trace of the Bohemianism which might be supposed to cling to the European who, during his travels, personated to perfection the Eastern Haji in all the lousy dirtiness of that character, the great Pandit and publicist is altogether a nice person in the best sense. Cordial with men, agreeable to ladies, a good *raconteur*, no wonder he has made himself a general favorite and is flooded with invitations. We are particularly glad to hear that he is in perfect health and the best spirits, ruddy as a young fox-hunter, and seemingly up to any expedition for search of Prester John. At the Junior Travellers' Club dinner at the end of April, he said, "I have never had a day's illness in my life, and, as for nerves, I don't understand what they are." What! Shall we all turn Durwesh and wend our way to Bokhara the Noble? Alas for us! his successful enterprise was possible only to one starting with such a constitution and such health as his. Of course, he has met Stanley and been closeted with him. Does that meeting of the two "powers" augur a new geographical mission to the Dark Continent made clear by the Spekes and Grants, the Bekes and Bakers, the Livingstones and Stanleys? With his command of Arabic, written and spoken, and his perfect familiarity with Islam, in its life as well as history and teachings, the Professor would be just the pioneer for the Islamite and quasi-Islamite tribes in the interior. Mr. Marvin informs us that Mons. Vambery has matured a plan for a new expedition, but whether its destination is Africa or any other quarter, Mr. Marvin is not permitted to say.

TOWARDS the end of 1881, a poor peasant at Vajrakarur, a village in the Bellary district, the site since of the Madras Presidency Diamond Fields Company Limited, picked up a shining stone. It passed to Messrs. Orr and Sons for a song. The original weight of the stone was  $67\frac{1}{2}$  carats. The purchasers sent it to England, where it was priced at from £35,000 to £65,000. The difficulty was how to cut it. No one in England was found equal to the operation. At last, it was sent to the famous lapidaries of Amsterdam. There the most experienced cutters were so afraid of the almost certain risk of cutting by "cleaving," that the "grinding" process was preferred to give the stone shape—a process very wasteful to be sure but attended with much diminished risk of breakage. This grinding was continued for many months, before the stone was brought to the present perfect form. But now a slight flaw was discerned, near the surface apparently. Grave consultations were once more held, till under a consensus of opinion it was decided to remove the flaw, even at sacrifice of weight. The cutting was successfully completed. Though reduced in weight from  $67\frac{1}{2}$  to  $24\frac{7}{16}$  carats, it is now at the head of gems, the purest, the most brilliant, and altogether most perfect diamond in the whole world. About two years ago, it came out to India but had to be sent back to London, whence advice came of its sale for £10,000. The speculator who made the purchase, failing to pay on due date, the matter went to court, and after a year's litigation through all the stages, the plaintiff won £3,450 by way of damages and costs. It was now time to dispose of the gem. It came a second time back to India and to Madras, to the famous jewellers and gem merchants, Messrs. Orr & Sons, from whom His Highness the Nizam has just purchased this unique gem for Rs. 1,65,000. It is worthy of the leading Indian Prince. It is called the Gordon Orr Diamond. Messrs. Orr & Sons have, at His Highness' order, set it in a headpiece.

AT Quetta, the other day, in the Court of lowest civil jurisdiction, at the trial of the suit of one Hyder Ali *vs.* Charles for Rs. 19 for board,

witnesses deposed to the defendant having paid but neglected to take receipt. The plaintiff still persisting in his demand, the defendant offered to pay if the plaintiff would on the head of his child swear to his claim. Thereupon Hyder Ali swore accordingly, and the Munsiff decreed the amount.

This is reported even in the native papers as a curious incident. But the challenge to swear which is regarded so odd is really in conformity with the customs of the land; in fact, it is quite a common thing in the country, and is occasionally heard of even in British Courts. Even at this day, disputes are settled by challenge to take oath at the feet of a Brahman or on the head of the swearer's son, or with the Koran in hand. And, where there is no son, or the sacred volume is not at hand, the swearer has to invoke on his own head the vengeance of Heaven in specific form, in the event of his swearing false. Such is the force of habit and such the belief in the truth-compelling powers of the oath that, afraid of the worry and trouble and cost of litigation or impatient of the law's delay, suitors not unfrequently offer to abide by the result of solemn or imprecatory oaths taken by their opponents. It is a pity that the British judicature discourages the practice. In fact, the oath has been virtually abolished.

THE Hon'ble Syud Ameer Hossein has applied for leave. When he is away, it is probable Moulvi Abdool Jubber Khan Bahadr will officiate as Magistrate of the Northern Division of the town.

A CORRESPONDENCE is going on in the *Statesman* on an old custom of the Hindus of Bengal. We subjoin some interesting remarks from the letters of a well-informed writer hailing from, and indeed signing himself, "Presidency College":—

"You correspondent 'K.S.M.' is mistaken when he says the *cactus* plant helps to draw the electric fluid into the house. The electric fluid will be drawn into the house by the attraction of the electricity in the cloud above, whether there be a *cactus* plant or not. The *cactus* plant only serves to scatter the electricity of the house into space and thereby to neutralise that of the clouds; for these two electricities are of opposite kinds. Placing a *cactus* plant on the roof may or may not be a Hindoo custom, but our ladies insist on having it on the roof. The Bengalee name of the plant used on the roof is *bājāran*, i.e., a preventive of lightning. This conclusively proves that the Hindoos are acquainted with the useful property of this sort of plants. It is not at all improbable that the ancient Hindoos who displayed so much learning in other matters should have been acquainted with the principles of electricity; the explanation is now lost but the custom remains. Or it may be that they found out this property by experience without knowing the explanation, which is now due to the Americans. The reasons given in the *Encyclopædia Dictionary* are simply absurd and meaningless. To think that the Hindoos seriously believe that because the *cactus* protects their grounds from stray cows and goats, it will also similarly protect their houses from lightning, is too absurd."

Is this *Encyclopædia Dictionary* the same as Hunter's? If not, then we have not seen it, and care not to make the acquaintance of a book for teaching language with an ungrammatical title. And Presidency College and other students and teachers of whatever seminary had better be warned against it and its fellows. Not on account of the queer name only. These European lexicons and books of reference are not simply misleading on matters Eastern, but revel in the grossest absurdities and most ludicrous blunders. A man who knows may turn up almost any page to convince himself of the truth of our remark. "Presidency College" in the course of the same controversy says:—

"Your correspondent says that the *cactus* is exotic and bases his argument on this fact. But there are two or three kinds of similar other plants which are not exotic and are used for the same purpose."

Again:—

"The custom of placing a *cactus* plant on the roof is based on a highly scientific principle, viz., that of the *power of points*. Electricity escapes far more easily through a pointed conductor than through a round one. For this reason the end of the brass conductors in an electric machine are mounted with brass knobs. The principle of saving a house from lightning with a metallic pointed conductor and with a prickly *cactus* plant is the same. When a cloud highly charged with electricity passes over a house, the house becomes charged with electricity of an opposite kind through induction, and these two electricities attract each other. Lightning is only the result of this mutual attraction, when a portion of the electricity of the cloud attracted by that of the earth below strikes the house. But if the house is provided with something having points, the electricity of the earth escapes into the air through these points and neutralises the electricity of the cloud, and thus the discharge cannot take place. Every one knows that the *cactus* plant has hundreds of sharp pointed prickles. The more the number of points a conductor charged with electricity has, the more easily the electrical fluid escapes from it. Therefore in this respect the *cactus* plant is far better than an ordinary conductor which has only one point. Now-a-days the conductor of a house is provided with four or five points, and I have seen with satisfaction that the good

Fathers of St. Xavier's College have adopted conductors of the above description. The great drawback in the use of the *cactus* plant is that it cannot have proper connection with the earth: the connection is chiefly through bad conductors. But still something is better than nothing. I would therefore advise every one who cannot afford to pay for a metallic conductor, to have two or three *cactus* or similar prickly plants in pots placed in the corners of the roof of the house."

There is no doubt about the custom in Bengal or its object. Whether the object is fulfilled is open to question. The matter is important enough to merit proper inquiry. We have not observed the custom in Upper India, but any one who has had peeps into the arcana of the Hindu home in Bengal must have repeatedly seen a plant in a tub placed on the house-top, in a corner, and always the same plant—at least in these parts. The most casual query would have elicited the fact that the plant was neither for worship nor medicine, though it is both sacred and medicinal, but as a protection from lightning. The *modus operandi* of the botanical lightning protector is beyond the people. Men like "Presidency College" may, with their European science, suggest explanations more or less plausible—the Bengalis in general only follow an old custom. Seeing how different substances are more or less powerful conductors or non-conductors, it is not improbable that this plant has a powerful relation to the electric current and that the old Hindus in the course of observation found this out. They found out the attraction of the thunder-bolt to certain metals, and to this day men and women make haste to remove metallic ware from exposure to a cloudy sky. It is thus that the plant is in use as the domestic remedy against lightning. It is time, however, to test the electric affinities of this plant.

There seems from this correspondence a doubt or confusion about the identity of the plant. Both writers call it *cactus*, though they are at loggerheads about the species. Nor is this matter for surprise, considering that the botanists themselves are not quite agreed on the subject. The plant that is put up on our housetops is not the Indian *cactus* so suggestive of the hooded serpent and appropriately called *Nagphani* in Bengal and *Nagkuli* on the Coromandel coast. That plant, though common enough, is neither sacred nor, so far as we know, used as a medicine against snakes in this Province. The plant prized as a protection from lightning is the *Tekdtā sij*. It is not a *cactus* but a *Euphorbia*. We do not remember the plant so used called *bājāran*. It must be the name in the district from which "Presidency College" hails. Where is it?

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1890.

### THE INCOME TAX ON FOREIGN CONSIGNMENTS.

THE intention of the Government of India to impose Income tax on foreign consignments has naturally been received with prompt opposition by the mercantile community. The memorial of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce against the threatened impost is a strongly worded and argued document. The Chamber has made out a good case against the orders of the Government, and the Government had better pause in carrying them out. The cry of the independent European community is not to be suppressed as that of miserable Baboos.

Indeed, it is a strange and unlooked-for development of a hateful tax. While public hope has been looking forward to the Income tax being gradually shorn of its most oppressive features, towards its ultimate abolition altogether, the determination to widen its sphere gives a painful shock to the mind. It comes to us all as a surprise. It is scarcely an indication of a will on the part of the Government to do away with, at any rate, the more objectionable features of the tax. The Chamber has therefore done well in protesting against the tax on consignments to grapple with the whole question of the retention of the tax at all. The country should be grateful to the mercantile community for its attitude towards the question. The Chamber concludes its memorial in words

which will be cordially endorsed by the whole of the tax-paying community. Those words are :—

"The existing Income Tax levied under Act II. of 1886, was, Your Memorialists would point out, a special call upon the country, and was met and accepted as such a special call, and ought now to be removed. With a surplus of two and three quarter crores of rupees and with the finances in a sound and healthy condition, the Government is in a position to recognise the loyal and patriotic efforts made in 1886, so cheerfully, at the call of Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor, the Marquess of Dufferin. In winding up the debate upon the measure, which took place on the 11th January 1886, His Lordship admitted that it was 'a measure which the Government have introduced with a considerable amount of anxiety and reluctance.' His Excellency at the same time accepted the support accorded to Government on that occasion as—

'A better proof and test than any that could be produced of the solidarity of the interests which unite Her Majesty's Native and British subjects in one common feeling of loyalty towards Her Majesty's person and Her Empire.'

Your Memorialists would therefore most humbly solicit Your Excellency—

That the orders of October last directing the levy of Income Tax on profits made on consignments of goods to India by persons resident out of India, may be withdrawn in conformity with the similar decision arrived at by Government so far back as 1863.

And that having regard to the following facts,—that Act II. of 1886 represented a special necessity of the State, that the condition of the finances now is not only favourable but encouraging, and that the accumulated experience of thirty years has not removed a single objection to the Income Tax, but has, on the other hand, confirmed its unsuitability to the character and circumstances of the people of this country, an assurance be given to the public that the whole subject of the continuance of the Income Tax shall be taken into consideration."

Into the Chamber's arguments on the particular question of the assessment of consignments, we need not enter at large. The idea of such an assessment is by no means a new one. So far back as 1863, it was fully considered, and deliberately given up. The Local Governments, with the exception of Madras, are generally more or less opposed to the present decision of the Government of India. As has been clearly shown by the Chamber of Commerce, the appraisement of the profits on consignments to India is a hard and wellnigh impracticable task. It was in view of this fact, which is admitted even by the Government of India, that it has so long been deemed inexpedient to extend the Income tax to this branch of mercantile business. The Bengal Board of Revenue is still of this opinion, and the Government of Bengal agrees with the Board. The Government of Bombay is also of this view. It is only the Government of Madras that supports the proposal of the Supreme Government. The decision of the Government of India was counter to almost a consensus of official opinion. The mercantile community concerned are up in arms. How, under the circumstances, it will be worked in practice may easily be imagined.

The practical difficulties of the measure are fully set forth in the Chamber's memorial. Those difficulties are almost of an insuperable character. At any rate, they have hitherto been held by previous Governments to be such as to deter them from the step. It is true the present measure is adopted as a trial, but the past history of the subject affords small grounds of hope that the trial will be a successful one. It is especially inexpedient to invest Income tax Collectors with summary powers in a case of this kind. We know too well how they stretch their authority even in plain cases where it should not be stretched. Their one subject is to swell the revenue by any means they can. How they will proceed when they are armed with the express orders of Government to make summary assessments where consignors fail for any cause to submit the necessary return of the profits, makes one shudder to contemplate. The failure to ascertain such profits may be often no fault of the consignees. The following facts urged by the Chamber in its memorial will show this :

"Your Memorialists would respectfully confess themselves unable to comprehend upon what grounds merchants in foreign countries could

possibly be expected to disclose the results of their business to collectors of Indian Income Tax, and they would ask to be allowed to point to the inevitable friction, irritation and discontent which must wait upon any attempt to levy an Income Tax on profits on consignments. There will naturally be the greatest possible objection on the part of consignors to disclose to their consignees the profits they make on their consignments. Such a system, supposing it could be followed, would upset all business arrangements and confidence and would be most mischievous in its results.

That assuming for instance a consignor had hit on an article of export the sale of which in India left him a profit of 25%, to disclose this to his consignee, to his consignee's office, to the tax collector and his office could not fail to have the effect of flooding the Indian market with the article and completely spoiling the consignor's business. On the other hand it may be said that the consignor may, if he choose, leave his profit to be assessed by the Income Tax collector, in which case it will be assessed at something like 10% of the gross proceeds, but this again will lead to trouble inasmuch as consignors may only declare their profits when they are under 10%, so that he who is making only 10% profit will be subjected to the same tax as he who is making 25%. In the same way a dishonest consignor may return his profit at 2½%, while it may be actually ten times that figure, and an honest man will be obliged to declare his real profits and will thus be handicapped by his dishonest neighbour. The proposal to tax profits made on consignments will, in the opinion of Your Memorialists, be nothing short of placing a premium on dishonesty.

Then again the amount of trouble and correspondence which is bound to follow a proper working of the rule will be so great that Your Memorialists feel sure it cannot have been realised when the Government of India decided to introduce the rule. In many cases consignments made to this country are sold not only without profit but at an actual loss to the consignor, and, in such cases, while no profit is returned to the tax collector, Your Memorialists well know from their past experience of the inquisitorial system which is in force in the collector's office, that such statements will only be accepted when proofs of their correctness are produced, and as these proofs can only be given by the production of the consignors' books possibly in Chinese, Persian, Swahili, Arabic, French, German, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese or English, it will only be possible to produce the necessary proofs at the expenditure of a great amount of time and labour. In fact consignees in this country as well as the tax collectors will require large augmentations to their establishments (including interpreters) to cope with the additional work which will be thrown upon them by the rule under reference, if it is to be properly carried out.

In very many cases indeed Your Memorialists fail to see how consignees or consignors are to be able to state properly the profits made on individual consignments by consignors. Consignors are in many cases manufacturers of the articles which they consign, and the profit or loss made on their Indian consignments is merged in their general business and cannot be kept distinct."

The Government of India may justify the imposition on abstract grounds. The measure is also in harmony with English practice. It is likewise urged that the extent of the trade in goods consigned to India has materially increased since 1863 and that the revenue lost by its exemption from taxation is considerable. Nevertheless, the attempt is doomed or to be a failure on account of the many peculiar difficulties of ascertaining the profits.

#### APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA.

THOSE who have done us the honor of reading *Reis and Rayyet* for any length of time, could not have failed to observe the impartiality and general moderation that characterise this journal—our habitual solicitude for fairplay and truth without fear or favour—how we endeavour to hold the balance even between Europeans and natives, governors and the governed. The days of the Ilbert Bill agitation were an exceptional time—a period of madness. Even then, ready to give as we received, we exercised no little forbearance. We have unimpeachable European testimony to this—a military officer high in the service of the state who knows that we postponed answering an outrage on us for more than a week and then penned our answer and set it up in print, but before publishing it we thought it proper to send it to this gentleman—with whom we stood on terms of brotherly intimacy—for his independent judgment. The result was that *Reis and Rayyet* was the only paper in the native press in which the notorious "Che Chaw Chuan" received no particular answer. Still it was a time of mutual exacerbation in which bitter things were said on both sides. We have at any rate made ample amends thereafter. We have endeavoured to heal wounds and to cause a better understanding between the two races, preaching conciliation in private and exhibiting the example thereof in public. On the Rent Bill though, from long previous study of old literature and papers, leaning on the historic side of the controversy to Zemindari pretensions, we kept ourself free from the temptations to be a partizan of the landlordly propaganda to which so many submitted. We have interpreted between the peo-

ple and their rulers with fidelity, sparing neither the one nor the other. We are not among the

Haranguers of the throng

That seek to get preferment by the tongue,—  
or the pen either. On the contrary, we have always been in the unfortunate position of friendlessness of those who cannot take sides but are impartial to all sides.

It is not that I adjudge the people :

Without me there are Demagogues enough,  
And infidels, to pull down every steeple,  
And set up in their stead some proper stuff,  
Whether they may sow Scepticism to reap Hell,  
As is the Christian dogma rather tough,  
I do not know ;—I wish men to be free  
As much from mobs and kings—from you as me.  
The consequence is, being of no party,  
I shall offend all parties.

*Tros Tyrivusque mihi nullo discrimine agetur*, we are naturally regarded with suspicion in both camps. With respect to the movement for radical and sweeping constitutional changes, we are equally unlucky.

Not ours Sédition's trumpet blast

And threatening word ;

We read the lessons of the Past,

That firm endurance wins at last

More than the sword,

or premature fief and clamour. But moderation is the worst sin in the eyes of those who have worked themselves into fury from a fancied sense of grievous wrong.

Of late years, since the growing acerbity and violence of the native press, we have purposely been very particular in our tone and attitude towards Government and Europeans. And we trust we have shown that it is possible to write with temper without sacrificing one iota of independence.

After such a record, attained by long years of patient loyalty to truth and duty according to our lights, and at a cost which the world may know when we are gone, it has come to our lot to be hoisted on the highway as an example of the recklessness and violence of the Native Press, by no less a public censor than the unimpassioned, ever accurate and mealy-mouthed *Statesman*. We are, however, thankful to our contemporary for the opportunity given to correct a glaring mistake. We only regret that in its righteous indignation and haste to make a point against a neighbour, it did not recognise the palpable mistake we had made. It was a slip—a blunder. Has the *Statesman* of late become so Celtic as to accept a French epigram for gospel and believe that a blunder is worse than a crime. There are no doubt blunders which are almost criminal, but ours was not of that serious character. Our mistake was open to anybody to detect. For we had given our authority—we were quoting from the *Statesman's* own correspondence. From first to last in our article no other source of information is named or alluded to. In fact, our contemporary is evidently conscious of this, but it was too bent on contrasting its virtue with the viciousness of another to be scrupulously fair or merciful. If the writer had taken the passage which he has produced from our article as an instance of our sinfulness, from a few lines above he would have let his readers know that we were only following his own correspondent Baboo Pal, and that we had lamentably mistaken that gentleman on one point, though a material point.

We would have come out earlier with our own confession of mistake, but we were precluded from doing so by a personal reason. Of the indigo quarrel in Jessore, we had been free until almost this moment. Not indeed from any want of interest in the subject but under compulsion. When the difficulty first arose we were stretched on the bed of sickness, which had almost proved the bed of death. The Almighty was pleased to preserve us, however. Thereafter we could not easily venture to enter on a question the beginning and progress of which we did not know. Men came to us to request our aid, but they did not fulfil the conditions we thought necessary to ensure fidelity. We may say in passing that in this way we are prevented from taking up or taking up early, many matters of more or less interest or even importance. But we sacrificed much time and thought in the matter, giving advice and trying to induce a settlement. At last matters came to such a pass that we could not remain silent. Then the editor requested the friend who had acted for him so satisfactorily during his illness, as likely to be more informed than himself, to give an article. He did so and it appeared on the 24th May. It was this article which the *Statesman* noticed. We could not do anything without consulting this gentleman who does not live in town, but we fully expected him to do the needful. He did not do

so, unfortunately. We have now seen him, however, and he explains that he had blundered. He caught an erroneous impression from Baboo Pal's description of the *quasi*-military raid, and writing afterwards partly from memory without going through the long account line by line, he was landed on that misstatement. A most natural thing, however lamentable. But it could mislead no one who had access to the *Statesman*, as the authority is mentioned.

The very head and front of my offending

Hath this extent, no more.

After all this, we conceive ourselves bound to lay the account of Baboo D. N. Pal before our readers. We regret we have absolutely no space for the whole of his interesting letter, but we will not miss any part of his account. In fact, omitting only a fifth of his communication and that relating to personal explanations and so forth, we give it entire as follows :—

"Benodpore is deserted ;—all the male portion of the population, numbering about 4,000, are hiding themselves in the jungles or in the houses of relatives ; many again have left the village altogether with their families and chattels. Well this is no doubt a very sad state of things, but we must see how it came about. Mr. Sage, the assistant manager in charge of Chaulha factory—by-the-by, Chaulha factory stands just opposite the Benodpore *hat*—applied for and obtained police protection to sow indigo on a certain plot of land, of which he got legal possession. It may be possible that the court erred in giving him possession. However for this Mr. Sage cannot be found fault with. When Mr. Sage was engaged in sowing, the rayyets came in numbers, attacked Mr. Sage's party, and drove them from the field. The case is *sub judice* ; but I hope the rayyets will not dispute the facts here stated. But by no manner of means can we find any fault with Mr. Sage. He took legal steps to get possession of the plot of land, then he took the precaution of taking police protection, and finally he judiciously left the field else blood might have been shed and the matter ended most seriously. Although the riot ended in nothing worse than throwing some clods of earth by the rayyets on the planter's party Mr. Sage's well regulated retreat with his men resulted most disastrously with the people of Benodpore. Thousands of innocent men suffered for a guilty few : the village was reduced to *desolation*, and all this because Mr. Luson was not quite equal to the occasion. When Mr. Sage reported the so-called riot to Mr. Luson, he at once sallied forth with his treasury guard, twelve strong, with a *havidar* to boot, himself armed with a couple of revolvers, and I think I need not add, he had his whole police contingent behind him :—all this preparation not to bombard a fort, but to arrest a few malaria-stricken Bengalee rioters. Mr. Luson is in charge of the sub-division for a sufficiently long time to know the character of the people, the state of their minds and the nature of their dispute with the planters ; and bearing in mind the fact that he was selected out of many to settle the indigo disturbances, he should have been more cautious and discreet how he acted. But he is young and hasty. He should have known that the rioters were not then on the field ; they could not be possibly arrested on the spot ; Mr. Sage would have to identify the men who were now quietly living in their houses, or had most probably left the village to escape arrest. It was not now an easy task to arrest the real culprits when they were all dispersed. All this did not enter Mr. Luson's head : he stated with his army to arrest people who were nowhere to be found, and unfortunately when he reached Benodpore *hat* the time had come and many thousands of people had assembled to buy and sell. He should not have gone direct into the *hat* with his treasury guard and army of police, for at least he should have known the state of the feelings of the people—how they were all almost frantic regarding the indigo disputes. If he went he should not have arrested people in the *hat*, where many thousands of men had assembled and where identification was impossible. But he arrested thirteen men, most probably innocent men. This arrival of the Luson army and final arrest of men, I need not say, created quite a panic in the *hat* ; people began to run away in all directions ; only those whose relatives and friends were arrested came towards Mr. Luson to appeal to him to release the innocent men. Mr. Luson, the strong and courageous, lost his head. Seeing a sudden *gholmal* amongst the *hat* people numbering about five to six thousand, he fancied that they were coming to attack his party. It would be indeed an epoch in the history of Bengal when half-starved and malaria-stricken Bengalee rayyets ventured to attack an European magistrate with twelve treasury guards with bayonets glittering in the sun and a contingent of police. It is said that Mr. Luson was also supported by two other Europeans, Mr. Selby and Mr. Sage, of the indigo factory. They also were well armed. Mr. Luson was surely reading the narratives of riots now taking place in many European cities and thought he was in Europe instead of in a Bengal village. Fortunate however that he did not give orders to fire. But he did not however rest here ; he precipitately left Benodpore and sent such a harrowing report of the affair to the Government that police Inspector Peters with 40 men were at once directed to proceed to Benodpore to preserve the peace or to protect Mr. Luson. I did not know that an European officer's weakness could have carried him so far. Even Inspector Peters with his 40 men can not sufficiently reassure Mr. Luson. A detachment of military police has also been sent to help Mr. Luson out of the difficulty. How Sir Stuart Bayley or Mr. Smith could believe Mr. Luson's report is a wonder ! They have made a mountain out of a molehill. The rayyets heard that soldiers were coming, and they were also told by designing men that they would be all bayoneted by the *sepoys*. They were panic-stricken and fled from the village. If they really defied the Government and ventured to attack Mr. Luson,—if they were really so determined, they would not have surely fled thus. Inspector Peters with 40 *sepoys* would not then be sufficient to quell a rebellion of thousands. The fact



of the people of Benodpore breaking into a rebellion was only in Mr. Luson's over-excited imagination. However, the *looting* of the village by the police and factory men is not a fact. The people deserted the village not for the *looting*, if there was *looting* at all, but for the soldiers' rumoured coming and sacking of their village. If the soldiers had gone, they would have seen that the soldiers whom they pay were sent not to maltreat them, but to protect them, when they would soon have come back to their homes. If they have suffered, they have suffered for the lawless conduct of their neighbours. Their neighbours had no business to take the law into their own hands and attack Mr. Sage. They should have gone to Mr. Luson, instead of allowing Mr. Sage to go to him. If they were wronged, and if they were sure that justice would not be meted out to them by Mr. Luson, still they were not justified in taking the law into their own hands. This is British law, and they must abide by it. They had the Magistrate of Jessore, the District Judge, the High Court, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Viceroy, the Secretary of State, and the Parliament to appeal to, but they had no business to attack or to threaten to attack Mr. Sage. And if they have broken the law, they must suffer. It is not probable that 4,000 men of Benodpore were all in the riot; but why did not the law-abiding portion advise the others to be law-abiding? and why did they not prevent them from breaking the law? If their advice was not listened to, why did they not point out the law-breakers and have them punished? If they were all in league, they must thank themselves for the trouble that they are in. If Baroda Kanta Sukar called Mr. Luson to his face *vah*, and Mr. Luson gave him a horse whipping, even Mr. Luson would have been fined by an honorary magistrate ten rupees and told that he had no business to take the law into his own hands. I beg to tell the friends of the rayyets most emphatically that they should one and all tell the rayyets to be law-abiding—notwithstanding all they suffer, else they forfeit the sympathy of all right-minded men. As for the *looting*:—On the 24th April the police went to Benodpore to make further arrests of the rioters, and some factory men went with them to identify. Well, we should remember that the same evening Inspector Peters with his sepoy reached Benodpore. The news of their coming reached the villagers long before their arrival, so the police found the village almost deserted. But the police are the police always, and the officer in charge went on to arrest people that were nowhere. They entered many houses to *enquire*, but found them deserted; so, I need not tell you, that they did not fail to give here a kick and there a kick, scattering things all over the house, to show that they were the police and must be feared and respected. The police underlings and factory *coolies* perhaps did some business for their own benefit, picking up this and that from the deserted houses—I hope quite unnoticed by the police officer. Thus we see it is not at all a *looting* affair, but a police enquiry. As the enquiry was held in a deserted village, the police underlings tried to display their prowess, and as there were men from the opposite party to identify, there is no doubt a good deal of damage was done. This is also the result of Mr. Luson's indiscretion. Evidently the police officer was not quite competent for his task; when he found the village in such a state he should have returned and stated the fact to Mr. Luson. If he at all thought proper to enter houses to see whether people were hiding themselves or not, he should have kept a very sharp eye on his men, especially those of the factory. Surely he did nothing of the sort, or else such sensational reports of *looting* of an entire village by the police would not have come to us. Really, there was no *looting* and no great damage done,—simply the village is temporarily deserted, and that too not for the so-called *looting* or the police either, but for the coming of the soldiers. Still such reports have been circulated and a great slur has been cast on the police."

It was grievously unfortunate that our esteemed contributor missed the statement that no guns were fired. We can only express our sorrow at having been the vehicle of such a gross misstatement in so grave a particular.

#### A SURVIVAL OF CENTRAL ASIAN BARBARISM IN ARYAN INDIA.

SOME of the Brahmans, Khettris and Aroras of the Punjab are afflicted with a more than ordinarily inconvenient obligation imposed on them by themselves or rather their forefathers. It is for the whole womankind of every tribe to mourn for every individual loss. That the near kith and kin and relations should grieve and even demonstrate their grief in an overt way, is but natural. Among these people the demonstration of sorrow, if not the sorrow, extends to all the connections of the family. Nay, more, much more than that; whole tribe or clan goes into mourning. Nor is this universal and ever-recurring mourning lightened by the manner thereof. The mere assumption of an inky cloak of alpaca or the customary suits of solemn black, would not matter much. But these Brahmans and Khettris are far more exacting on themselves and their caste-fellows. Their custom is vexatiousness itself. For a whole year, they have to maintain this absurd mummary of a make-believe general woe. It is bad enough that the female relatives should grieve for a single death from morn to noon, from noon to dewy eve, from day to day, all round the year. But it is incredible that all the women folk of the whole caste should repair to the house of mourning to keep the family in countenance and swell the chorus of lamentation—to their own and the others' injury, in health, in substance, and in *morale*, and the distress of the whole neighbourhood. Yet so it is, we are informed. And this in the heart of India!—in centres of civilization like Lahore, the capital of the Punjab, and Amritsar, the Jerusalem of the Sikhs! The height of absurdity could no further go. The very nomads of the steppes of Central Asia are wiser than these proud Aryas of the original

home of the Aryas in India. These Brahmans and Aroras certainly carry with them the proof of their descent. Their customary sorrow for the dead is in the main strangely identical with that of the denizens of the desert beyond the Himalaya and the Hindoo Koosh. Only it seems as though their kind had, in the course of the ages and cycles, made some progress even in their bleak home and in the uncertainties of their mode of living, while the more favoured colonists down South, with all the advantages of climate and order and government and learning and arts, had remained stationary—the barbarians of old. The wild Tartars too drag the burden of a protracted sorrowing for the dead of the most conventional and mechanical kind. But in making of themselves fools enough they show more common sense than their Indian brethren. They work all day, men, women, and children, and reserve their weeping and wailing for their leisure in the evening. Indeed, they are always busy or usefully employed all their waking hours. In the day the women work in the open around their habitations, but at night-fall they retire within and devote themselves to light duty, chiefly spinning. It is while at this monotonous occupation that they all strike up their sing-song lament, describing the dead and painting the consequences of the loss with realistic minuteness. This, continued all through the twelvemonth, as it is, is scarcely less impressive as a demonstration and undoubtedly far less wasteful than the mode of these peculiar Hindoos of Amritsar and Lahore. Besides, in Central Asia the thing is confined to the women of the household. The Khirghises and others never go the length of prescribing the mourning for the whole clan for any death in any particular family. It is fortunate that the inconvenient and degrading custom is confined to the members of the three castes in the two cities or districts. It is a relief to learn that the Aroras of Lahore at least have at length had the common-sense to discard the *Pburi*, as their mourning is called. The reformers among them had a difficult task in persuading their caste-fellows. Their names should be published. We congratulate them on their success. They have done a distinct service and promoted civilization among a not unimportant section of the Hindu community and of the people of India. And we venture to hope that their example will soon bring the rest—the majority—round.

#### A DEMONSTRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF *Reis & Rayyet*.

SIR,—A public Thanksgiving Service for the recovery of Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee from his serious illness, was held at the Suburban Town of Baranagar (his Native Town), on Saturday the 31st May, and Sunday the 1st June, 1890, when the following Programme was observed—

##### SATURDAY.

- 9 P.M.—Gathering of all classes and sections of the community and spontaneous demonstrations of thanksgiving.
- The reciting of a Congratulatory Poem composed for the occasion by Baboo Satya Prakash Banerjee.
- 9-30 P.M.—Nautch commenced—dancing and singing opened by Shree Jan and followed by Begga.
- 11-55 P.M.—Europeans and other non-Hindoos left, and
- 12 P.M.—Hindoo Worship began, followed by dinner to Brahmans and others.

##### SUNDAY.

- 2 A.M.—Nautches were resumed, and continued till 7 A.M. in the morning.
- 8 A.M.—Bengali operatic plays (*Jatra*) by Ram Charan Manna, till 5 in the afternoon.
- The Nahabat kept playing seasonable pieces of music during the interludes. The arch of the Nahabat stand was decorated with the words painted on crimson cloth in English and Bengali characters, "God be Praised for Dr. Mookerjee's Recovery."

The following is the congratulatory poem referred to above—

In Eastern style we all unite  
To thank Him who Supreme doth reign;—  
Rejoice'd to hail our Village Light  
Restored to health and us again.  
The Princes' pet—the Peasants' friend,  
To us all here an idol dear;  
Though meek not weak to Right defend,  
Humble yet rich with genius rare.  
A Scholar Sage of steeling name,  
Renown'd—revered, near, far and wide;  
By 'breath' not berthed on heights of Fame,  
But own'd by all as th' country's Pride.  
God bless thee Sire! yet spare thee long  
To wield the pen in India's need,  
The *Rayyet's* rights to shield from wrong,  
To yield the *Reis* what is his need.

I take this opportunity of publicly conveying my grateful acknowledgments to Baboos Sarada Prasad Bannerjee, Nilmani Bagchi, and Kumod Nath Banerjee, my colleagues in the Committee, for the great help and cordial co-operation which I received from them in the successful management of the work, as well as to the large number of persons who have subscribed funds for meeting the cost of the ceremony.

WOOMESH CHUNDER MITTER,  
Secretary, Public Thanksgiving Service Committee.

## An Old Official Paper.

### ACQUISITION OF SURPLUS LAND FOR RESALE TO PAY THE COST OF NEW STREETS.

From the Secretary to the Commissioners for the improvement  
of the Town of Calcutta,

To W. Grey, Esq., *Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.*

Dated Calcutta, 13th March, 1856.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commissioners for the Improvement of the Town of Calcutta to forward for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a statement of particulars and results of their endeavours, to purchase land under the provisions of Act 22 of 1847, for the purpose of opening out a new street in Soortee Bagaun, from Machooa Bazar Road to Colootollah, and for the purposes of the Oriental Gas Company adjacent thereto. For facility of reference, I have the honor to forward a plan of the locality on which the various parcels of land are marked with letters, the purposes for which they were required are given in a reference in the margin; and is also herewith appended.

2nd. In the Commissioners' letter cited in the margin (No. 1530, dated 6th October, 1854) it was proposed to commence upon the above portion of a new street which was intended to run the whole length North and South of the Town; this portion being selected as the most easy and least expensive of the whole line, from the absence of all expensive property standing thereon. The several parcels of land required for this purpose are coloured on the plan and marked C. F. E. H. I. and a portion of A. respectively.

3rd. To this portion the Government sanction (Government letter, No. 2282, dated 16th October, 1854) was received, specifying also, that the estimated cost Rs. 1,08,298 is to "be subsequently in part recovered by the sale of the surplus land lying on either side of the new street."

4th. Subsequently to the receipt of this letter however, doubts having arisen as to the powers conveyed in the Act (12 of 1852) to take any more land than that which was absolutely essential for the street or thoroughfare only, and under advice from Counsel the Commissioners in a letter (No. 1721, dated 17th March, 1855) to Government more especially explained that their intention was not to take land for the actual width of the intended street only; but also portions of land in excess of the actual width of the proposed street, to the extent of 50 feet on either side, and either themselves to build on it, or to resell to others to build such houses or shops only, as would add to the appearance, ventilation, cleanliness, health, and general improvement of the Town.

5th. To this a reply from Government was received (a copy of which for facility of reference is appended, Government letter, No. 443, dated 30th March, 1855) by which His Honor authorizes the Commissioners "to purchase so much land with the buildings thereupon, as is required to open out a new street between Colootollah and Machooa Bazar Street; including both such land as is necessary for the construction of a public road, and so much on either side thereof as is necessary for proper frontage, for ventilation, and for the general sanitary improvements contemplated in connection with the said thoroughfare."

6th. The site of the Oriental Gas Company's central station having been also fixed in the Soortee Bagaun, with a frontage to the proposed street, the further portions of land shown on the plan and marked respectively A. B. C. D. were eventually required for this purpose. That marked A the property of Government was early in April 1855 placed at the disposal of the Oriental Gas Company, in accordance with the terms of the Government letter No. 129 dated 25th January addressed to the Oriental Gas Company. The Commissioners having previously made the necessary arrangements for compensating the tenants, under the authority of the Government letter No. 306 dated 1st March 1855, and the entire expenses thus incurred, viz., Rs. 1,740 were repaid to the Commissioners by Government. That portion of A coloured green, on the plan *within the line of the street* was afterwards given up to the public for that purpose by the Government in their letter No. 132 dated 25th January 1855. The portion B for the purposes of the Oriental Gas Company, was sanctioned by His Honor in the Government letter No. 306, March 1st 1855; and that of the further portions C and D in the letter No. 1,023 dated 8th June 1855. The land marked K was public property. The small triangular portion O, belonging to a private proprietor it had been mutually arranged should be given up in lieu of the adjacent portion marked P.

7th. It therefore was the duty of the Commissioners to effect the purchase of the several portions marked B. C. D. E. F. G. H. and I. respectively; and their powers for this purpose were contained in the Act 22 of 1847.

8th. The Commissioners bearing in mind the larger work of improvement, which they contemplated would ultimately be carried out, viz., the opening of a magnificent central thoroughfare from North to South, through the entire length of the town (and towards which this was only the commencement of operations) were anxious to take such steps as would enable them to execute the entire work with the greatest possible economy; and well knowing that the first purchases made would be a material and important guide for the rates to be afterwards paid, they proceeded with extreme caution to make their first purchases, and proposed to put the powers of the Act in force to obtain an equitable adjustment of the early purchases; preferring then to meet the law expenses incidental to forced sales, rather than to make amicable terms at higher rates for the reason above stated.

9th. The first portion, towards the purchase of which their attention was directed is marked E; proceeding in accordance with the provisions of the Act and entirely under advice of their lawyers, a notice for purchase of this land was served on the proprietor on the 28th November 1854, a reply was received thereto on the 15th January 1855 demanding Rs. 300 per cottah for the land, the Commissioners after mature enquiry and consideration instructed their Solicitors to offer Rs. 100 per cottah for the same, which was believed to be the full value. To this no reply was received; accordingly in pursuance of the provisions of the Act, a Precept was issued by the Sheriff for assessing the amount of compensation by a Common Jury, and the case was tried on the 23rd March, when a verdict was given for Rs. 8,800, which was at the rate of Rs. 100 per cottah, precisely the amount offered by the Commissioners; the total amount of costs incurred in the case, in accordance with the provisions of existing law was divided; and the amount of costs paid by the Commissioners was Rs. 795-9-10. Some considerable delay took place on the part of the opposite side, in furnishing a good and valid title, notwithstanding the repeated application of the Commissioners' Solicitors; who then advised that the amount of compensation money Rs. 8,800 should be deposited with the Government Agent, and the Commissioners on the 8th May paid the above amount to their Solicitors for this purpose; but the attorney on the opposite side having again requested further time, to enable them to furnish the required title, the payment of compensation money was delayed till June 8th 1855, and on the 11th June the Conveyance of the land to the Commissioners was received by them, together with a Bond of Indemnity to the Commissioners and a declaration before a Notary of the fact, that the late proprietor had been in possession of the land for upwards of 30 years; these two latter documents having been necessary on account of the old Pottah under which it was held having been slightly incorrect; and under advice of their Solicitors the Commissioners completed the purchase under these conditions, a further Bill of costs was paid by the Commissioners on account of charges incurred subsequent to the award of the Jury amounting to Rs. 266.

The total cost of this 4 Biggahs 7 Cottahs 14 Chittacks was therefore as follows:--

Amount of compensation awarded by Jury.....	Rs.	8,800	0	0
1st Bill of Cost.....		795	9	10
Subsequent Costs.....		266	0	0
	Rs.....	9,861	9	10

and the time expended in obtaining possession, from the first institution of proceedings for that purpose, viz., from 28th November 1854 to 11th June 1855, occupying a period of nearly 7 months.

10th. The portion of land marked B sanctioned by Government on the 1st March 1855, was next purchased, on the 17th of the same month notice for the purchase of this was served on the proprietor, the Commissioners at the same time offering the full value estimated according to the adjoining lot before valued by the Jury, at the rate of Rupees 100 per Cottah; on the 17th April following a reply was received, asking at the rate of Rupees 300 per Cottah, and intimating that in the event of the Commissioners objecting to give this rate, the proprietor would refer the matter to arbitration, and naming an arbitrator on his behalf.---The rate being in the opinion of the Commissioners altogether unreasonable they therefore at once directed their Solicitors to take the necessary steps for referring the matter to arbitration, according to the provisions of the Act 22 of 1847---which allows the proprietor to select this mode of settlement if he think fit. After some delay contingent upon the different constructions of which the Act is susceptible, in consequence of which the opinion of Counsel as to the correct mode of proceeding was obtained, the Arbitrators were appointed, and an Umpire nominated by them on the 25th May following. The land was inspected by the Arbitrators and Counsel and on 16th of June evidence was taken before the Arbitrators at the Town Hall; at this meeting the Arbitrators were unable to agree upon the amount of compensation, one Arbitrator required that further evidence should be taken, and the other objecting thereto; the matter was then referred to the Umpire, who having personally inspected

the land, a sitting was held on the 14th July; Counsel on both sides were then heard, and an adjournment was made till the 16th, when the arguments on both sides were brought to a close; and on the 30th of the same month (July) the award of the Umpire in the case was forwarded to the Commissioners, viz., for the 14 Cottahs 7 Chittacks and 9 square feet of land, Company's Rupees 2,167-8-9; or at the rate of Rupees 150 per Cottah; this award being at a higher rate than the offer made by the Commissioners, although only half of that demanded by the proprietor, entailed upon them, on the behalf of Government, the payment of the entire costs of the case, amounting to Company's Rupees 2,919-1-6.

Immediately upon receipt of the award, the Commissioners paid over the amount to their Solicitors, and instructed them to obtain the necessary title deeds and conveyance to them, but delay occurring on the part of the opposite side in furnishing the necessary documents, on August 10th the Commissioners' Solicitors were instructed, on the expiration of a notice of one week to that effect, to deposit the amount with the Government Agent as provided by the Act;—this however became unnecessary and on the 21st August the title deeds, conveyances, &c. were duly forwarded to the Commissioners. It will be seen by the statement referred to that the cost of this land to Government was, Purchase Money 2,167-8-0, Costs 2,919-1-6, Total 5,086-9-6, and the time occupied in effecting the purchase under the provisions of this Act, notwithstanding the anxious endeavours of the Commissioners to expedite to the utmost the procuring of the land, which was *urgently* required by the Gas Company, occupied from the 17th March till the 21st August upwards of 5 months. After the expiration of a notice to the tenants to quit within one month the land was handed over to the Gas Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Government instructions, and the works of the Oriental Gas Company are now rapidly progressing thereon.

11th. For the land marked F on the plan the Commissioners first gave notice for purchase of a portion, containing 4 Biggahs 14 Cottahs on the 28th November 1854.

On the 19th December following, a reply was received objecting to sell more than the quantity of land actually required for the bare width of the proposed new street; and on the 26th December a further communication was received asking Rs. 350 per Cottah.

The Commissioners however delayed proceedings in this case, till the amount of compensation to be paid for the portion E should be determined, and when the award of the Jury on the 23rd March for that land was given at Rs. 100 per Cottah, the Commissioners immediately instructed their Solicitors to issue a fresh notice for purchase, and to offer the same rate, viz., Rs. 100 per Cottah, for a smaller portion than that included in the 1st notice, viz., for that titled and marked F containing 3 Biggahs.

The proprietor declined to accept these terms, and demanded that the amount of compensation should be referred to arbitration in a letter dated April 10th 1855, accordingly arbitrators and an Umpire were appointed.

The Government sanction (Government letter No. 1023 dated 8th June 1855) to the purchase of the portion D, belonging to the same proprietor as F, for the purposes of the Oriental Gas Company, having been received on the 8th June—a notice for the purchase of this portion also, was immediately served by the Commissioners' Solicitors.

Prior however to further proceedings being adopted, a letter was received from the proprietor on the 30th July 1855, offering to take the same rate for both portions, viz., for that marked D and for as much of the portion marked F as was required for the street; as that which should be awarded by the Arbitrator for the portion B, and requesting in the event of the Commissioners agreeing to this proposition that further proceedings with reference to the Arbitration should be stayed.

The Commissioners assented to this mode of fixing the value of the land, and after the decision of the case B, viz., Rupees 150 per Cottah (on the 30th July) they immediately gave instructions to their Solicitors to examine the title deeds, and prepare the conveyance of the land to them.

An intimation was however received by the Commissioners on the 23rd August that there was another party, a minor, who had an equal share in the property, with Baboo Neelmadhub Sein who had hitherto appeared as the only proprietor.

The land moreover was mortgaged to a third party. Under these somewhat complicated circumstances, the opinion of Counsel was obtained as to the correct mode of proceeding. This was to the effect, that all previous proceedings with regard to this land, must now be rejected as useless; and that it would first be necessary to petition the Supreme Court to appoint a guardian to protect the interests of the infant co-proprietor with Baboo Neelmadhub Sein—that according to the 5th Section of the Act 22 of 1847 it would be necessary, that the amount of compensation should be settled by a *special jury*, and by Section 8th fresh notices must be issued to all persons interested in the property.

Accordingly the above proceedings were duly instituted, and two separate inquisitions were held before the Sheriff on the 24th

and 25th September 1855, when a verdict was given for the portion of land marked F at Rs. 9,000, and for the portion marked D Rs. 862-8-0, these prices being at the rate of Rs. 150 per Cottah as per former amicable agreement; and in consideration of there being no opposition it was *necessary* that the Commissioners should pay all costs. The above amounts were accordingly paid to the Commissioners' Solicitors on the 1st October, to be invested in Government papers, and forthwith deposited with the Government Agent, according to the terms of an order which was obtained from the Supreme Court.

The deeds of sale were received and signed by the Commissioners on the 12th October; and the lands in question passed into their possession.

The portion F comprises 3 Biggahs amounts as per verdict.....	9,000	0	0
Messrs. Thomas and Dow's Bill of cost.....	896	15	3
Do. for Bill of Sale .....	152	3	0
Portion of Messrs. Smout and Denman's Bill of cost amtg. to Rs. 68 .....	62	0	0
Do. for arbitration .....	100	0	0
Total.....	10,211	2	3

and for the portion D comprising 5 Cottahs, 12 Chittacks amount of compensation as per verdict Co.'s Rupees .....	862	8	0
Messrs. Thomas and Dow's Bill of Costs.....	699	12	0
Do. for Bill of Sale.....	85	0	0
Proportion of Messrs. Smout and Denman's Bill of Costs amtg. to Rs. 68.....	6	0	0
Total.....	1,653	4	0

Thus the total costs in this amicable suit was Rs. 2,001-14-3, and the period from the 28th March till 12th October upwards of 6 months, was consumed in order to obtain possession of this land and before it could be entered upon for the purpose in view.

12th. For the portions marked H, and I, in the plan a notice was issued on the 28th November 1854 to Chittromoney Dossee as co-proprietress with Baboo Tarranauth Mullick. It was afterwards found that the proprietors were distinct, I being the property of Chittromoney Dossee and H the property of Baboo Tarranauth Mullick.

Accordingly fresh notices were served on both proprietors for their respective portions, on the 28th March 1855 and again on July 2nd 1855; on the 16th replies were received from the Solicitors to the proprietors Chittromoney Dossee naming Rs. 600 per Cottah for her portion (I); and Baboo Tarranauth Mullick naming Rs. 400 for his (F); and both demanding in case of the Commissioners' refusal to accede to these terms, that the amount of compensation should be settled by Special Jury.

13th. On December 12th, the Commissioners instructed their Solicitors to offer Chittromoney Dossee at the rate of Rs. 225 per cottah, that being the full estimated value of the whole plot, for her portion I; it was then found that since the service of notice (2nd July) Chittromoney Dossee had died, and a fresh notice was ordered on the 9th January 1856 to be served by the Commissioners' Solicitors on the present proprietors—since which no further proceedings have been taken with regard to this land, marked I. on the plan.

14th. On the 12th December, Commissioners' Solicitors were directed to offer Baboo Tarranauth Mullick at the rate of Rs. 180 per Cottah for his portion H—on the 23rd January 1856, the Commissioners however sanctioned the terms which had been made by their Surveyor for this land, viz., Rs. 10,700 free of all charges to the proprietor, or at the rate of Rs. 210-13-3 per Cottah to avoid all law charges, and instructions were given to the Commissioners' Solicitors, to prepare the deed of conveyance of the land to the Commissioners at these terms. This is the present state of affairs in reference to this portion, marked H on the plan.

(To be Continued.)

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—A frequent cause of gout and rheumatism is the inflammatory state of the blood, attended with bad digestion and general debility. A few doses of the Pills taken in time are an effectual preventive against gout and rheumatism. Any one who has an attack of either should use Holloway's Ointment also, the powerful action of which, combined with the operation of the Pills, must infallibly effect a cure. These Pills act directly on the blood, which they purify and improve. Having once subdued the severity of these diseases, perseverance with the Ointment, after fomenting the affected joints with warm brine, will speedily relax all stiffness and prevent any permanent contraction.

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(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of

a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*. Dec., 1887.

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His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has kindly promised to double the amount which may be raised for the Calcutta Public Library by private contribution up to a limit of Rs. 5,000. It is therefore most desirable that Rs. 5,000 should be raised by subscription, as this will produce a sum of Rs. 10,000, which is urgently wanted for the purpose of bookbinding, cataloguing, gas fittings, new furniture and fittings for the reading room, &c.

The public are accordingly hereby invited to contribute. The following subscriptions have already been promised.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1890.

No. 428

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A FEW SHORT YEARS.

A FEW short years—and then  
What changes Time hath wrought !  
So strange they seem, we scarce can deem  
\*The world, our life, ourselves are aught  
• But one long fitful dream.

The clouds that fly  
Across the sky,  
Waves tossed upon the sea,  
• Shadows that pass  
Before a glass,  
Our fitting emblems be.

A few short years—and then  
Where are the hopes that shone  
When youth with flowers enwreathed the hours,  
And earth had but one music tone  
Of joy for us and ours ?

The rainbow's hues,  
The morning's dews,  
The blossoms of a day,  
The trembling sheen  
On water seen  
More stable are than they.

A few short years—and then  
Where is the ad'mant chain  
That passion wrought, and madly thought  
Nor time nor change could ever strain  
Till life's last strife was fought ?

A rope of sand,  
A gross'mer band ;  
• The filmy threads at e'en  
• The spider weaves  
Amongst the leaves  
A firmer bond had been.

A few short years—and then  
Where is Ambition's pile,  
That rose so high against the sky,  
O'ershadowing all around the while  
With its proud boast might vie ?

• A shadow's shade,  
A card-house made  
By children for their play ;  
The air-blown bells  
The folly swells  
May vaunt a surer stay.

A few short years—and then  
Where is the mighty grief  
That wrung the heart with torture's art,  
And made it feel that its relief  
Time's hand could ne'er impart ?  
A stream that's burst,  
And done its worst,  
Then left the heaven more clear ;  
• A night-mare dread,  
With morning fled,  
These sorrows now appear.

A few short years—and then  
What of our life remains,  
The smiles and tears of other years,  
• Of passion's joys, of sorrow's pains,  
• Ambition's hopes and fears ?  
A faded dream  
To-day they seem  
Which memory scarce can trace—  
But seals they've set  
Shall Time nor yet  
Eternity efface !

AGNES SMITH.

### DEVOTION.

I NEVER could find a good reason  
Why sorrow unbidden should stay,  
• And all the bright joys of life's season  
Be driven unheeded away.  
• Our cares would wake no more emotion,  
Were we to our lot but resigned,  
• Than pebbles flung into the ocean,  
That leave scarce a ripple behind.

The world has a spirit of beauty,  
Which looks upon all for the best ;  
And while it discharges its duty,  
To Providence leaves all the rest.  
That spirit's the beam of devotion,  
Which lights us through life to its close,  
And sets like the sun in the ocean,  
More beautiful far than it rose.

*Holloway's Pills.*—Pure Blood.—When the Blood is pure, its circulation calm and equable, and the nerves well strung, we are well. These Pills possess a marvellous power in securing these essentials of health by purifying, regulating, and strengthening the fluids and solids. Holloway's Pills can be confidently recommended to all persons suffering from disordered digestion or worried by nervous fancies, or neuralgic pains. They correct acidity and heart-burn, dispel sick headache, quicken the action of the liver, and act as alteratives and gentle aperients. The weak and delicate may take them without fear. Holloway's Pills are eminently serviceable to invalids of irritable constitution, as they raise the action of every organ to its natural standard, and universally exercise a calming and sedative influence.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE heat in Madras at the end of the last month and the beginning of this was unbearable. The educational institutions were closed. So were the Civil Courts of the City for the most part, the Chief Justice alone keeping himself ready at 24 hours' notice for urgent matters, and in the Small Cause Court Mr. Poonoosawmy Pillai alone of the three Judges attending. The magistracy could not for obvious reasons be closed.

A FLIGHT of locusts passed over Lucknow on the 4th instant. A million or two lighted on and about the cantonments. Luckily, there were no crops to injure.

AS a result of the melting of snow high up the hills, Indus has from the latter end of May been rising gradually, until on the 31st ultimo it was 16 feet high above the watermark.

IN the United States the newspapers do not mince matters but tell plain and plump what they think of a man. This is what a leading Californian journal prints about a great millionaire of San Francisco :—

"Money is Mr.—'s only god, and the hope of attaining the sacred circle of the New York Four Hundred is the Mecca to which he turns and bows and makes his daily prayer. To do this he has purchased as son-in-law an expensive and profligate German prince; rumour fixes six millions of dollars as the price. To attain this social position, he purchases a lot on Fifth Avenue for 400,000 dols., and is building a palatial family residence thereon at the rumoured cost of two millions of dollars, and yet Mr.—has the effrontery to pretend that it is his intention to reside in San Francisco and identify himself with California people and make his home among them."

AS we announced last week, the Hon'ble Syed Ameer Hossein, C.I.E., goes on thirty-one days' leave from the 20th instant, and Moulvie Abdul Jubber, from Alipore, acts as Northern Division Magistrate of the town of Calcutta.

MR. H. Luson, the Joint, is after all Gazetted away from Magura and Jhenida, and is to act as full Magistrate of Moorshedabad.

SURGEON-MAJOR E. A. Birch is Gazetted Principal of the Medical College, Calcutta, in place of Brigade-Surgeon J. M. Coates retiring from the service.

THE Godhra and Rutlam Railway may be commenced by October or November next. It is estimated to be 120 miles long, connecting the Bombay, Baroda Railway with the Ajmere-Khandwa branch of the Rajputana-Malwa system.

THE Calcutta Medical College Session, 1890-91, begins from the 23rd June next. Applications for admission must be made on or before that date. Students who have not passed the First Arts examination will not be eligible.

THEY had a Horse and Dog Show at Simla last Saturday. But for the weather, it is reported to be a complete success. The entries were many and there was satisfaction on all sides. The best horse proved to be a waler of General Luck's, and the best dog a spaniel owned by Dr. Owen. The Maharana of Dhoolpur was awarded the jumping competition.

UNDER the advice of our Foreign Department, the Maharaja of Jodhpur has abolished all transit duties throughout his territory.

THE Agricultural Exhibition held in December at Bellary is declared a failure by the Madras Board, the Governor in Council concurring. Only a little more than half the prizes offered were awarded.

THE property of the Elia Rajah of Cochin, who lately died at Benares, has been sold for educational and other charitable uses.

AN Abu letter dated the 2nd June in the *Eastern Herald* reports that, under pressure from the politicals, the Maharaja of Serohi has rescind-

ed the sale by public auction to Dhunjeebhoy of the liquor contract in his territory, and given it to Messrs. Framjee & Co. And this,

"notwithstanding the opposition made by another Maharaja to whom the matter had been referred for opinion and who spoke highly of Mr. Dhunjeebhoy and even went so far as to stand surety for any breach of contract that might hereafter be committed by the latter."

It is believed that a high official in the Serohi service is at the bottom of this vacillation. This unfaithful man is said to have taken the part of the Framjees and misrepresented poor Dhunjeebhoy to Colonel Powlet, Political Agent, Western Rajputana, and, through that officer, got the regular sale cancelled. The letter adds :—

"The occurrence of a stirring event like the present one has, no doubt, caused a great sensation amongst merchants of all classes who are much afraid lest their business connected with Native States be wholly or partially stopped by the interference of the Politicals without any ground of their so meddling."

THE *Madras Times* of the 5th publishes the following "urgent, strictly private and confidential" Congress circular, which has come into its possession :—

"The Committee Office, 100, Mount Road, Madras, 13th May, 1890. Dear Sir,—From telegrams, extracts from which are printed overleaf, you will see how urgently money is required by the Indian Political Agency. I sent about seven circular letters to the secretaries of several district committees for funds, but not one of them remitted any portion of its contribution. The Madras Committee promised to pay Rs. 6,400 as a contribution this year, but not one pice has been paid yet towards that amount. No day passes without my receiving telegrams or letters from the Hon'ble Pandit Adjudhia Nath of Allahabad to remit funds forthwith. He receives letters by every mail and urgent telegrams every week from Mr. Hume and Mr. Digby, urging him to send money at once as the expenses in England are getting very heavy. If money is not sent forthwith to the London Committee, I fear the whole work will have to be stopped there. May I ask you, therefore, to bring the matter before your local committee, and to urge them to take urgent steps in the matter? If each delegate and sympathiser with the Congress will pay Rs. 10, the amount required would be easily collected. This is a very critical time, and we must redeem the promises to Mr. Hume which we made most solemnly: so I entreat you to send any amount you can towards the payment of the Madras contribution for the year 1890, whether your committee moves in the matter or not."

The telegrams referred to in the above circular are from Pandit Adjudhia Nath. One, dated 10th May says: "Digby wires for £500. No funds. Send money." Another, dated 11th idem, says: "Digby again telegraphs to-day. Must have money or work must stop. Make country send thousand pounds, very urgent, home."

The following is an extract from Mr. Hume's letter :—

"We have now made a beginning towards establishing the finances of our movement on a healthy footing. I appeal to you all, as honest earnest men, now, when the time has come to make *bona fide* strenuous exertions, first to get all the promised contributions paid in promptly; secondly, to get the rest of the allotted contributions raised in due course; and lastly, to secure from every one round you, rich and poor, some additional aid for the General Congress Fund. You are all proved to be hot enough and enthusiastic enough about these matters in the Congress, but when you get back to your homes you seem to grow cold and callous, and I can get little real work out of too many of you. What words can I use strong enough to pierce your hearts and to sting you into exertions such as Englishmen would make in like cases? You do owe something to me for subordinating everything in my life to your cause and your welfare. Indeed, you acknowledge this in words, and cheer me and make far more fuss over me personally than I either desire or deserve. Do now, for once show by your acts in this your own work that you really and truly feel something of what you so generously profess."

OUR Anglo-Indian friends are making merry, as is their wont, over the literary laches of a poor uneducated native. We read :—

"A Bengali Babu applied a few days back to the head of an office for an appointment, and was requested to write an essay on the horse. This is what he wrote :—'The horse is a four-footed animal. He is very important to the human being. He has a long smoothed hair on his neck and his foot is not cut into two parts just like other four-footed animals. He is very useful to the man in the battle-field. His head is supported to the neck. The horse who is trained perfectly well can understand the voice of the people and can thoroughly perform the duties to his master. His speed is very swift and he can easily drag a long heavy gun on his back, though the road is uneven. He can gallop very quickly at least twenty miles in an hour. Arab horse is better in every respect than that of India. It is no doubt that the horse is the best of all animals in the world.' There are two remarkable points about this essay; one, that the horse's 'head is supported to the neck'; and the other, that 'he can easily drag a long heavy gun on his back.' That Bengali Babu did not get an appointment."

Of course every wretched Bengali is, in European estimation, a Babu. As for the curiosity of literature quoted, at least the Indian essayist can spell and punctuate, which is more than can be said of millions of Her Majesty's Christian subjects throughout the globe.

THE new regiments raised in Upper Burma from the Indian Military Police, says the *Pioneer*, are to be known as the first, second and third Regiments of Burma Infantry.

IN December last, Brigadier-General W. T. Budgen, D. S. O., commanding the Bombay District, had a fall from his horse while on duty. The Bombay Government have, for that fall, now ordered a daily gratuity of £2-10 to the rider for six months.

ON the recommendation of the Government of India, the Secretary of State has sanctioned an increment of Rs. 50 for Sub-Assistant Superintendents, 1st Grade, Telegraph Department, who have more than five years' continuous service in that grade, and a second increment of Rs. 50 for officers of the above grade who have more than ten years' continuous service in that grade. But in neither case is the increment to be granted to more than two-thirds of the number who may be eligible by length of service in the grade, one extra being counted for a fraction in each case. The increments will not merely depend on the length of service. There must be special recommendation in each case to the Director General of Telegraphs who is empowered to make the grants. The concession comes into effect from the 5th April 1890, the date of sanction by the Secretary of State, and will be in operation for five years.

THERE is a complaint in the Court of the Head Assistant at Negapatam against the Rev. Mr. Darvall of the S. P. G., for flogging a native of Manjakollay.

MAHARANI Surnomoyee has filed a suit in the Original Side of the High Court, Calcutta, claiming Rs. 25,000 as damages, against one Omrao Sing for obstructing the light and air of her premises No. 374, Upper Chitpore Road, by building a house close by.

BOMBAY is *primus urbs in Indis* even in law. The London Correspondent of the *Indian Spectator* writes under date the 9th May:—

"Yesterday was decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council an Appeal case from Bengal, which has a special interest on your side, because of the Bombay authorities on which the final decision was founded. Rajah Upendra Bhupat Mahapatra, the Rajah of one of the tributary zemindary estates of Orissa, died in 1857, leaving an illegitimate son born of a Dasiputra or slave girl, and a legitimate son, Rajah Nunkshore Bhupat. The latter succeeded to the Raj. He died in 1878, and the estate and raj-gaddi was claimed by his illegitimate brother, born of the slave girl, as aforesaid, named Nitjanand Mansing. The Rajah's family were Sudras and the question was—did the illegitimate son of a Sudra succeed as heir jointly with his brother on the death of the father, so as to let in the doctrine of survivorship among them? The law governing the family was the Hindu Mitkashara law. A decision of (the late) Mr. Justice Haridas, reported in the 4th volume of the Indian Appeals, Bombay series, was approved of by Sir Michael Westropp and was followed, in this case, by the High Court of Calcutta. Their lordships of the Privy Council in their decision approved of that ruling of Mr. Haridas and have held, in accordance therewith, that the illegitimate Nitjanand Mansing succeeds to the gaddi of the Raj, which is an impartible one, that is, held by one member at a time. The lawyers amongst your readers will note this case with much interest as the decision is one that no doubt conflicts with general opinion in Bengal; but it appears the Bombay men were right once more."

How so? Because the British Judges up to the Privy Council have come to a particular view of Sastra?

BULLION and coin received in the Mint for coinage during the year 1889-90, were—Gold 14,385 tolas Private and as many tolas State; Silver 59,60,520 Paper Currency Department and 55,65,265 State; and Copper 9,34,29,710 State.

DEATH is announced of Bapudev Shastri at Benares. He had been ailing and breathed his last on the morning of Wednesday on the bank of the river.

THE Maharaja of Vizianagram has arrived at Ooty where he summers.

THERE have been several deaths at Cawnpore from heat apoplexy.

THE magazine of the 45th Sikhs at Rawal Pindi was blown up on the 10th, killing three sepoys and seriously injuring three more. It was a spontaneous combustion.

THE trial of the Jhanda dacoity cases will commence on Monday next the 16th at Meerut, before a Special Judge, Mr. H. G. Pearse, Judge of Agra, having been appointed for the purpose.

A PARSEE merchant of Karachi is probably the greatest Globe-trotter among our countrymen. His name is Jehangir H. Kothari, and he has lately returned to Bombay from his second tour round the world, after having traversed 55,278 miles including sea voyages of a total of 15½ months' duration, 12,170 miles by railway and 400 miles in diligences and on foot.

THE *Times of India's* English sporting correspondent lately gave some particulars of a curious monument at Marlborough, saying:—

"A woman was selling stale fish on the spot where that monument stands, and, on the freshness of her wares being doubted, she declared that God might strike her dead if her fish were not caught the day before. She fell down dead, on the spot, and that monument bears witness to it. Bradlaugh, on the other hand, has been known to take that oath frequently, and at the risk of being guilty of a digression, the following incident is, I think, worth quoting of him, though his Congress admirers may not perhaps know it. At an atheistic address in Scotland he was, as was his custom then, enforcing his belief in there being no God by pulling out his watch and saying, 'If there be a God, let him strike me dead within a minute.' Whereupon a burly Scotchman leapt up to the platform and broke the spell by saying, 'The gude God would no trouble himself to strike a pair worm like thee, but he hath deputed his humble servant to do it in his stead! And he forthwith did.'"

Upon this the *Morning Post*:—

"This is no new statement concerning Mr. Bradlaugh, except that the 'burly Scotchman' is thrown in for dramatic effect. The member for Northampton has repeatedly denied the correctness of the story, and if we mistake not has on one occasion criminally prosecuted a clergyman for making it the basis of a bitter personal attack. Such a Bombastes Furioso attitude is very incompatible with Mr. Bradlaugh's usual habit, and we may remark *en passant* that he must have been a very 'burly Scotchman' indeed who ventured to hit a stalwart Briton who required the services of a dozen policemen to illegally expel him from the House of Commons. The whole story is an undoubted lie and the responsible authorities in the *Times of India* office must have known this."

That's strong language, but if the *Post* is right, as we suppose, in its facts, it is not too much for the occasion.

We are curious about the monument at Marlborough. Is there such a monument and for commemorating such an accident?

THE following appears in the *Sheffield Independent*:—

"Things in India are better now than they used to be within the memory of natives of the present generation. The poor Indian cannot now be kicked and cuffed with impunity as was the daily habit of the lordly Englishman at a date long subsequent to that at which Jos. Sedley was a collector. When I was in India only five years ago I saw in one of the principal hotels frequented by the dominant race printed appeals on the walls of the dining-room and smoking-room begging guests not to ill-treat native servants! This little placard incidentally threw a flood of light on the relations between the English residents and the natives of India."

JEYES' Disinfectants are making their way into official favor. They are already recognised for Her Majesty's Board of Trade, Marine Department, both for Merchant and Passenger ships, and the North Atlantic Steam ships. The Indian Governments too have accepted them as indispensable medical stores under the Indian Emigration and Colonial Emigration Acts. The latest recognition is by the Officer administering the Government of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies. By a notification in the Hongkong Government Gazette, dated Victoria, Saturday the 22nd March 1890, His Excellency Francis Fleming "proclaims and declares that the scale of medicines and medical comforts.....be further altered by the addition thereto of the disinfectant known as Jeyes' Disinfecting Fluid."

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Ministry is weary of Obstruction from the Opposition. On the 11th, the leaders of the Conservative party met at the Carlton Club to consider the matter when several propositions were made—to alter the rules of debate, to drop some Bills in the ministerial programme or to hold an Autumn Session of Parliament. Nothing definite was decided upon pending reconsideration of the subject. There was to be a meeting yesterday of Liberal-Unionists under the presidency of Lord Hartington.



THERE is friction again between Mr. Matthews, the Home Secretary, and Mr. Monro, the Head of the London Police. The Commissioner drew up a scheme for pensions for the Police force which the Secretary would not support. They, however, fell out on the appointment to the Assistant Commissionership rendered vacant by the death of Colonel Pearson. Mr. Matthews, ignoring the nomination by Mr. Monro, appointed his own Secretary glorying in the voluminous name of Evelyn J. Ruggles Brise to the post. This Mr. Monro seriously resented and, by way of giving point to his point, resigned his own appointment.

LIEUTENANT De Vismes De Ponthieu, Bombay Staff Corps, has been charged at the Westminster Police Court with causing, in complicity with a Belgian doctor, the death of the wife of a Barrister—Hall by name—by attempting to cause abortion. The wife had been living separate from the husband.

CYCLONES and floods are the order of the day in America. Terrible fires are now reported from Russia. A St. Petersburg telegram of the 11th inst. speaks of whole villages being destroyed in the Ural mining districts. Forty lives have been lost and 20,000 persons rendered homeless.

THE American Senate having referred the Caucus Silver Bill to the Finance Committee, that body have reported unfavorably on it. They do not approve of the proposal to issue silver certificates as legal tender or to redeem the certificates in bullion on demand or at the option of the Secretary to the Treasury. They also report against the bullion redemption clause and free coinage on certain conditions. The measure when passed is to come into force after a month and to continue for ten years.

EUROPE is Peace and Good will. In the Austrian Reichsrath, on the 10th instant, Baron Bauer announced that it would be necessary to increase the army next year in the interest of peace. The same day, in the German Reichstag, General Caprivi declared that the relations between France and Germany had recently much improved. But the Germanisation of Alsace could not, he said, be retarded by the cancellation of the passport rules. According to Count Kalnoky, the Triple Alliance was never more clear or sincere. Although relations with Servia were less friendly, those with Bulgaria were being steadily consolidated.

THE Italian Heir-Apparent, Prince Victor Emmanuel, has arrived in Berlin and been received with royal honors.

MAJOR Wissman has reached Cairo on his way to Berlin. He is sure to be the African "lion" at that capital as is Mr. Stanley in London. The Major wonders at the attitude taken up by the great American on the German policy in East Africa. In the meantime, Mr. Stanley's protests have not been in vain. Sir James Fergusson answered in the Lower House that negotiations between Great Britain and Germany were pending and the *status quo* in Africa would be maintained. Germany has given her word to respect the treaties of 1886 and 1887 respecting the possessions of the British and German East Africa Companies.

NOTWITHSTANDING the progress towards emancipation of women, the British Upper House is not prepared yet to accept them for County Councils. The Lords have rejected by a majority of seventy votes the Bill on that behalf.

MISS Philippa Fawcett, daughter of the late Professor, has proved the superiority of woman over man even in Mathematics. She has obtained more marks than any Senior Wrangler in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos. Since Mary Somerville, there has not probably been in the British Islands such a woman of science.

THE discovery of the Nihilistic plot in Paris has been followed by numerous suicides in various parts of Russia. At least, the Russian Police connect them as cause and effect. In course of investigating the suicide of a student of St. Petersburg, the Police have chanced upon another extensive conspiracy to murder the Czar. Truly, the Czar is to be pitied.

THE Secretary of State for India is not convinced that the people of Cashmere long for the restoration of their ruler or the cessation of British interference in the Unhappy Valley.

THERE was a disturbance of harmony among the members of the British Cabinet. Led by Mr. W. H. Smith, some of them proposed to shelve the Irish Land Bill. This was too much for the Irish Secretary, and Mr. Balfour threatened to resign. To restore peace, Lord Salisbury called a special meeting of the Council, whereat it was decided not only to retain the Irish Bill but to place it on the top of the programme relegating the Licensing Bill to the bottom. The leader of the House has, in consequence, betaken himself to the pouting-place. Mr. Smith says he is sick—as he well may be—and keeps himself away from the House.

MEETINGS of thousands have been held at Hyde Park to protest against the clauses of the Licensing Bill granting compensation to publicans. The proceedings were orderly so far that there was no charge by the Police and the military were not called out. General Allan and Mr. Monro were mobbed and hooted but not injured.

THE Indian Congress in England has secured the sympathy of the G. O. M. That is something, though it would have been more to their purpose if Mr. Gladstone had been in power. Mr. Gladstone received the delegates in his private room at the House of Commons. He was at one with the Congress in demanding the elective principle in the Councils Bill and wondered why it was not granted when more than one Viceroy had recommended it. He dismissed the deputation with the consolation that former ministries were more favorable to India than the one now in office.

ON Monday, the 19th May, at the Westminster Town-hall, the East India Association held a meeting. It was presided over by our ex-Viceroy the Marquis of Ripon. Mr. Reynolds, ex-member of the Bengal Board of Revenue and of the Supreme Legislative Council of India, read a paper on "Some Results of the Permanent Settlement." Mr. Reynolds is unquestionably a competent authority on the subject, and we accordingly quote his views:—

"The lecturer said that at the late meeting of the Indian Congress in Bombay it was resolved to petition the Government to extend to other parts of India the permanent settlement concluded 100 years ago by Lord Cornwallis for Bengal and Behar; but, he said, it did not seem likely that this request would meet with a favourable response. It was significant that the request should have been made, especially when the origin and composition of the body from which the request proceeded were taken into account. Consideration of the results of the settlement as a whole would lead to the conclusion that it was a wise and statesmanlike measure; that politically it had been a tower of strength to the Empire; that from a social and economic point of view it had stimulated the prosperity and fostered the intelligence of the Province of Bengal; and that, even from a strictly financial standpoint, the surrender of an increased land tax had been in some measure compensated by a steady development of other branches of the public revenue. The marvellous change which had transformed the aspect of the country was unquestionably due to the feeling of security produced by the permanent settlement, to the conviction that the worker would be left undisturbed to reap the labour of his hands, and would not be compelled to share with the State the fruits of the prosperity he had created. The settlement, withal, had resulted in making Bengal the most loyal province of the Empire; it had bound up, as nothing else could do, the interest of the people with the stability of the Government. The effect of the settlement had been to facilitate the transfer of the ownership of land to those who were likely to turn it to the best advantage, to extinguish the village accountant, and to create and foster the growth of a middle class in Bengal. Results like these should induce those to pause who condemned Lord Cornwallis as having squandered the resources of the State by misplaced liberality to the zemindars of Bengal. The experience of a century had shown that in Bengal the Government was not a loser by limiting its demand upon the land, while its adoption of this policy brought with it a train of public benefits; and, therefore, he suggested that the principle of the permanent settlement should be extended to the zemindars of Orissa and to the talookdars of the Government estates in Chittagong."

That is testimony of the highest, coming as it does from a retired Lower Provinces Civilian of the highest culture, probity, devotion to public duty, and long experience, who held the highest office in the Land administration, who stooped to flatter no man, and whom the Bengal Zemindars so misunderstood, thinking him their enemy, that they stood aloof from the public demonstration held in his honour before his final departure from the country. We hope Sir Stuart Bayley will earnestly consider Mr. Reynolds's advice to extend the Permanent Settlement to Orissa.

THE memorial of the residential house-owners and bustee proprietors in Calcutta for amendment of the municipal law for relief from the new burdens imposed on them, has met with no better fate than that of the agitation on it during the progress of the Bill through the Bengal Legislative Council. True, the Bengal Government does not summarily dispose of the matter. It has indeed given the subject the dignity of a Gazette publication, recognizing some of the signatories to the memorial as "the most distinguished and influential citizens of Calcutta." But all for nothing. The author of the measure was allowed to argue down the signatories. The memorial was subjected to the ruthless criticism of the able and accomplished Knight-errant, and the memorialists, as suggested by Sir Henry Harrison, are asked to wait till the whole of Calcutta has been reassessed. Sir Steuart Bayley has no other words for the plaintive cry of native Calcutta than those of the late Chairman of the Corporation, who, in his capacity of a member of Council, while disposed to give partial relief to the White Town or occupiers of rented houses, was determined to raise an additional income, for reclamation of the new Suburban Calcutta, from the Black Town or resident house-owners. The gubernatorial reply amounts to—You have been hitherto underassessed and you must now make up for past omissions and at once. Whatever the propriety of fixing upon the residential house-owners and bustee-proprietors for the additional ways and means, the measure that raises the assessment of houses by leaps and bounds can have no justification in any system of administration, unless it were general in times of danger and distress, say, during a patriotic war.

It is significant that, while the Local Government persistently insists on percentage of cost of building and value of land as the only true datum for municipal assessment, the Supreme Government recognizes only the standard of letting-value of houses for its purposes of taxation. In the new rules under the Income Tax Act, one of the instructions to Collectors is:—

"The amount to be assessed under section 24, sub-section (1), of the Act on account of a building occupied by the owner thereof shall not in any case exceed 10 per cent. of the aggregate income of the owner derived from all sources. It must not, however, be understood from this that a maximum of 10 per cent. of the aggregate income of the owner is to be assumed in every case as equivalent to the letting-value of his house. The letting-value should in all cases be ascertained on the best data available in view of the circumstances of the locality in which the house is situated."

Hitherto, we believe, Mr. Kilby has accepted the municipal assessment of residential houses in Calcutta for assessing the income tax. He must now follow a different procedure of his own to the worry and annoyance of house-owners. He cannot easily give up the new and higher municipal assessments. This difference of standards of assessment introduces a new element of discontent in Calcutta.

WE are surprised at the taste of the English journals, both in Great Britain and in India, which are publishing a news-paragraph headed "The Queen and the Bear," meaning by "The Queen" our Sovereign Lady. Surely, the good sense of the loyal conductors ought to have warned them of the impropriety, in the brief heading, of associating, without a word of explanation, the Royal and Imperial Lady and the hideous brute. The paragraph, however, gives a not uninteresting incident of the Queen's drive on Saturday afternoon, the 3rd May, communicated by a Windsor correspondent:—

"Upon reaching the road which intersects the Long walk near the Prince Consort's farm, about a quarter-past six o'clock, Her Majesty and Prince Albert Victor of Wales saw two foreigners with a brown bear resting under the shade of the old elms in the avenue. The Queen ordered her carriage to be stopped, and the men were requested to allow the bear to give a performance. This command was at once obeyed, the animal dancing with stick in its paws, on the green-sward and occasionally hugging its keeper, much to the amusement of the Royal party, who laughed heartily at its antics. At the finish Her Majesty gave the men some money. The bear-owners, who were greatly delighted with the honour conferred upon them as well as with the Royal largesse, refreshed themselves after the Queen's departure with ginger-beer and lemonade, and the animal was rewarded with a biscuit or two from the stall near the scene of the incident. The Queen was so charmed with Bruin that he was invited to the castle on Monday (the 5th May)."

We wish Her Majesty, besides giving money to the men, had ordered a dinner for the chief "caterer" of amusement to the royal party. These *men* are frequently the worse brutes, not only beating their bread-winner mercilessly on every occasion and no occasion, but also going the length of starving poor Bruin. To us, we confess, the most satisfactory part of the account is that in which we are told that the bear too got a crumb or two from the stall. We hope those

who order these shows of our dumb brethren will make a point of giving some little refreshments to the bear or monkey, before their eyes, before dismissing the party. We can assure them of the best enjoyment. To those to whom the tricks of trained bears and monkeys are stale, it is the better enjoyment to have an opportunity of putting some pence in the pockets of the poor showmen and giving a feed to their dumb but interesting friend and companion. Sterne as Tristram Shandy, having crowned his good Samaritan's talk with his immortal overlaid donkey by giving his worthy chance acquaintance a macaroni, speaks apologetically of the conceit of seeing an ass eat macaroni as his governing motive in the act. It is all bosh, of course—a mere amiable self-depreciation of a soul overflowing with the milk of human kindness which shrinks from a harsh world's suspicion of a false—at least a maudlin—sentiment in himself. It was a genuine and sacred sentiment, as the universal heart of unsophisticated humanity will testify, from the depths of individual consciousness. Let any honest soul try the effect of a toothsome vegetable or some good fruit upon one of these dumb but feeling creatures. It will do both good—good to the beholders likewise—good to all.

LAST week, the Municipal Commissioners were chiefly occupied with a privy, and this week with a hanging verandah. The Health Officer had ordered the destruction of the first and would not grant permission for the second. The Commissioners, however, overruled their Officer of Health in both. These personal matters are somehow calculated to draw large houses and the Commissioners mustered in strong force. In the privy business, Dr. Simpson was reminded that he should not travel beyond bald facts in his reports, or make remarks on the action of the Commissioners. On the verandah question, the doctor Commissioners were divided. While Dr. McLeod strongly denounced the contemplated projection as most unhealthy to the neighbourhood, Dr. Sanders voted for its sanction.

THE subject of Hindu marriages is, we see, under discussion in the Indian press, native and European. The writers are occupied with the difficulty of Hindu families in giving their daughters in marriage from the extravagant demands made by, or for, boys, specially such as have any educational pretensions. That difficulty we are disposed to regard with despair. But there are other evils, in connection with our marriages which, though of a minor class, are harassing enough, and yet open to easy correction. Accordingly, we think it more profitable to expose them. The Madras Letter in the Tanjore *Southern Star* of the 7th June touches on one of them in the following:—

"This is the season for Hindu marriages. If one holds a respectable position, if his name is in some Almanac, he is quite flooded with printed invitations, no matter if he were not even an acquaintance. I am not opposed to humanity rejoicing in the joys of others, but if one wishes to treat these invitations in an earnest fashion, he shall have nothing else to do, but going the round to the houses of those persons who wish the gratification of seeing the greatest possible number of painted coaches, stately horses, and dazzling livery stand in front of their houses."

The writer does not seem to be conscious that he has quietly told the public of his own "painted coaches, stately horses, and dazzling livery" of his retainers. With respect to the social question of attendance at weddings and marriage ceremonies and assemblies among the natives of India, the custom in Lower Bengal is, we do not say worse but, far more exacting. Had its incidence been confined to the owners of gilded equipages and masters of liveried menials, we would not have cared. Such lucky folks are generally masters of their time, and are frequently oppressed with leisure, while their lapses too are readily pardoned by an obliging community. As for the cost—the drain of £. s. d. literally—the rich always manage matters cheap. As a fact, the rich and poor alike are indiscriminately summoned to our marriages—only strangers escape. When we remind the reader how multitudinous is the circle of near relationship and lively acquaintance of every one of us, and how every boy and every girl among us must marry as a rule, and have always a family besides, if possible and as soon as possible—necessitating, in many cases, repetition of marriage, in consequence—he will be able to form a tolerable idea of the extent and onerousness of the obligation imposed upon the members of our community and specially on the heads of households and families and of separate sections of families, by the frequency of these marriage invitations. These heads of poor households have usually little time to spare, being often the only bread-winners for a group of men, women and children. Here, as in Madras and indeed throughout all Hindudom, there are seasons for marriage.

At such times, the cry of marriage is heard on all sides; the air is laden with the noise of wedding preparations and wedding parties. Besieged with calls from various quarters, the poor Hindu is reduced to a far worse plight than that of the ass between two stacks of hay. The Hindu has not two but fifty stacks presented before him, and he has not the right of choice of the ass. He must do justice to all, by himself or by proxy, even at the cost of his and his people's health. Then, there are three different invitations on three different dates from a bridegroom's house and two invitations on separate days to a bride's. Last not least, it is not enough to make time and sacrifice convenience and comfort for attendance. You are required to send a present of sweetmeats and some apparel on the occasion of the ante-nuptial dinner and pay at least a Rupee *nuzzar* to the bride for the honour of beholding her unveiled face on the day of the post-nuptial feast. What a terrible season must every marriage season be to most Hindus! it may now be imagined. We have known respectable men condemned to struggle with a family on a small income, spending their whole month's pay in a single week.

The writer adds :—

"The Comaties are most mad after processions. Even a trifling incident gives rise to one. These processions are very gaudy and consist of carriages, palanquins, horses with riders, other emblems and a dancing girl, bedecked with jewels and flowers, marched with native bands and music playing. The streets are blocked at night by lengthy processions. Old, simple and frugal modes of living are forsaken and there is a wide departure from the traditions of ages in the habits and customs of Comaties. It is one of such processions that raised the first smoke of quarrel between the Mahomedans of the Godown Street and the Comaties, which ended in a blaze in a few months of that time and led to the conviction of a good number of Mussulmans."

What is the social standing of the Comaties, and what is their original profession and the occupation of most of them at present? We hope our contemporary or his correspondent will tell us, to enable us to compare them with their analogue here.

THE *Cochin Argus* is not among our exchanges. It is a contemporary for a' that, and of course a brother. Accordingly, we have much pleasure in acceding to its request, although that request reaches us second-hand, to publish its latest business notice, which is as follows :—

"We would kindly ask our subscribers, and in particular our contemporaries to give publicity to our reduced rates. In order to place the *Cochin Argus* within the reach of every body we have reduced our terms of subscription to Rs. 6 per annum, exclusive of postage for those whose salary is only Rs. 100 and below—a full year's subscription being paid in advance. We hope that the general public will not fail to take advantage of our present terms."

We hope too, with all our heart, but scarcely expect. In India, as a rule, those who pay, pay, and don't particularly mind a few Rupees more or less. Those who don't, don't. They beg, borrow, steal, rather than pay for their paper. Many of them are otherwise respectable people. Some are voracious readers and really enjoy their reading and admire their journal, only they cannot draw on their purse in proof of their appreciation. It is not their nature. Such anomalies are truly to be pitied. In such a country, the prospects of journalism may be imagined.

THE Lotos is no ordinary fruit. The noble Laureate has minutely described its physiological effects on the fortunate or unfortunate eaters. Is there anything peculiar in the Lotos of the Himalayas at Simla? It promotes, we know, "Exod"ation and, shall we say, Hibernation in summer. But now it would seem as if it leads to Hibernianization. Out of the Green Island, it were difficult to imagine such a project seriously made as is attributed to the Simla authorities. We read that

"An attempt is likely to be made to reduce the number of indigent Indians in the Simla Hills by levying a tax on 'all those who could prove no visible means of existence.'"

Capital! If the beggars cannot pay, Down with the beggars! Draggon them down the Hills! Paradise has no room for poverty. They are incompatibles. Misery can only be an impertinent intrusion on the happy scene. As for charity, the Immortals do not, like mortals, need the exercise of it for their salvation by establishing thereby a claim on the Divine Mercy. If the beggars, by hook or by crook, by begging, borrowing, stealing, can pay, that's not bad—it is something—nay, so much the better, from a fiscal point. Humanity being simply a degradation for gods, no more splendid idea has, it must be conceded, ever been conceived than this of taxing paupers. The author ought to be forthwith made a G. C. S. I. If he can raise a revenue on absolute

poverty, he can doubtless perform the miracle of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Brick-making without straw is nothing to him.

MR. T. E. Coxhead, of Her Majesty's Bengal Civil Service, had applied for permission to retire from the first July 1890. But before the permission could be Gazetted, he retired from the world *for good* on the 5th June last, under call from a higher Power. That permission we now find Gazetted on the 7th, under orders of the 5th June. He died at Darjeeling and was buried the next day, the Lieutenant-Governor attending. All that is born of woman shall die, and as the origin of gods individually is not in manner different from that of men, they too are not exempt from the common lot of creatures. Nevertheless, a god's a god for a' that. And doubtless all the divine brotherhood of both the Greater Olympus and the Lesser were on tip toe pensively watching the struggle with the grim King of Terrors of one of themselves. Under any circumstances, in a small place like Darjeeling, the critical condition of such a man would be known to everybody, and the *élite* of the European community in especial would, one and all, keep themselves informed from hour to hour of the progress of the illness. Nevertheless, while Mr. Coxhead lay gasping or lifeless on the bed of death, on Thursday se'nnight, the Government of India, who were within half an hour's telegraphic distance, were quietly passing orders on his application for retirement and granting the permission sought. Two days afterwards, when he was a day old in the grave, their gracious permission to him was authoritatively announced for what it might be worth to his ghost and to the world.

WE read the following in the *Pioneer's* news column :—

"The suggestion has been made by somebody in Bengal that the best thing whereby to protect the head against the sun is not a *soluk* hat, but a large plantain leaf worn as a hat. It is contended that it will be a capital head-dress, and cheap. For the rest of the costume a belt of plantain fruit round the waist would be equally appropriate."

We don't know the quarter from which our contemporary's Sub derived that really fine suggestion—perhaps from the *Patrika*. It is of a piece with the grotesque wit with which our Bengali brother occasionally enlivens and instructs his readers. But the slow Briton does not catch the meaning. Is there anything more hideous than the all-round *sola topee*—or solar hat—which Europeans wear and doubtless find most convenient? To the native, it suggests the Bengali coolie's head-dress—the palm hat. The European is doubtless reminded of a dish-cover with the handle broken. Surely, a banana leaf or a *man* leaf would be equally to the purpose—a great deal more cool—and more æsthetic.

ON the 15th July next, at Calcutta, Sir Steuart Bayley will hold a Durbar for investiture of titles granted on the New Year's Day and the last Birthday of Her Majesty to mark Bengal's loyalty.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Gonesh Chunder Chunder—Under consideration. Jyotish C. Banerjee—ditto. S. C. Sen, Jamalpore, E. I. R.—Inadmissible. S. (Lines, &c.)—Hereafter. Saupin—Received, thanks. S. Chuckerbutty—Will be written to. S. K. Guha—ditto.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1890.

### WARBURTON WARNED & DISCHARGED.

THE PUNJAB RESOLUTION ON THE AMRITSAR POLICE.

THE letter of the Punjab Government on the Amritsar Police does not certainly err on the side of severity. The proceedings of Mr. Warburton, District Superintendent, were simply disgraceful. Fired with a zeal for ideally perfect registers of convicts and bad characters, he went to work in a way which one would hardly expect from a British officer. He constituted himself above law, above all propriety and public decency, and issued instructions to his subordinates to hunt up and assemble at central places, not merely habitual offenders, but every person, however long ago he might have been convicted, or however trivial might have been the offence—and this for holding a most annoying and de-

grading examination of the person of every male and female offender for the revision of his descriptive rolls. Nothing could be more illegal, more arbitrary, more tyrannical than this. As observed in the Government letter, no discrimination was shown between regular bad characters and the most inoffensive and at present respectable persons who may have once been convicted of crimes not sufficiently serious to require their record in the police registers. Such were Mr. Warburton's proceedings. To what frightful abuse of power in the hands of the lower officers of the department they tended may well be imagined. It was a reign of terror, and no man or woman's dignity was safe. A severe reprimand is by no means too harsh a punishment for an offence of such gravity. For the rest, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab deals with the case in a considerate and impartial way. His judgment is delivered in the following words:—

"The Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and yourself (Inspector-General of Police) all assert unhesitatingly that Mr. Warburton's motives were merely zeal for carrying out what he considered to be orders received, and anxiety to correct his registers and improve his power of surveillance over bad characters. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts this view with confidence on their and your authority, and because it agrees with his own knowledge of Mr. Warburton's conduct and character, and is confirmed by non-official opinions which His Honor considers reliable. But the absence of bad motives does not excuse Mr. Warburton's failure to foresee or to attach proper importance to the annoyance and injury which his instructions were likely to cause to many people who, though not of stainless character, are entitled to the full protection of the law, and, as a policeman, he was bound to know what his legal powers were, and as his instructions exceeded them, it is no excuse that he overlooked the fact. It may no doubt be true that there is an old custom or tradition in the Punjab dating from the early years of our administration, whereby the police assume the authority to call up or collect on occasions for departmental purposes persons supposed to be convicted offenders or bad characters, but His Honor believes that this has never been exercised with the want of discretion and discrimination revealed by these Amritsar proceedings, and all intelligent officers must have long known that the procedure was illegal if it involved any compulsion. Mr. Warburton may have been blinded to the illegality of his proceedings by his familiarity with such old customs of the department in its earlier stages, but this, though some extenuation, is no real excuse. Mr. Warburton seems also in his proceedings to have entirely overlooked the fact, that by the Police Rules, Registers V and IX which he was revising as well as Register X are confidential documents. The Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, directs that he be severely reprimanded for his proceedings, which have brought discredit on the department to which he has the honour to belong. On the subject of Mr. Warburton's indebtedness, and the further action which the Lieutenant-Governor may be compelled to take in his case, you will be addressed separately. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the District Magistrate through the Commissioner of the Division for information, and it will be intimated that, though it appears that no complaints were made to him, yet the Lieutenant-Governor considers that it is not altogether creditable to his hold on his district and control of the police as district magistrate that he did not know all that was going on. It is true that the *Tribune* has greatly exaggerated the annoyance inflicted and the excitement aroused by these proceedings, but there was enough to have come to the ears of a district magistrate known to be prepared to check the police as well as to support them."

Sir J. B. Lyall may wonder how orders characterised by such moderation and so entirely free from the least suspicion of passion, could have given umbrage in any quarter. He may well be amazed and bewildered if told that no quarter is free from umbrage. Such indeed is the fact. Dissatisfaction is universal. The Anglo-Indian press has nothing but ridicule and sneer for the letter. The native press, on the contrary, complains of the inadequacy of the punishment. The differences of the two sections of public opinion are evidently growing more and more irreconcilable. This is much to be regretted. And we see no hope of remedy so long as one side will never admit the truth against a brother White, and the other will always go on aggravating ills and throwing itself into hysterics on every occasion. But this unanimity of discontent with so well conceived and well reasoned a document is not to be explained by the antagonism between natives and Europeans. It is the well-merited fate

of all trimming and all political jugglery. Running with the hare and hunting with the hound may, from a worldly point, be a desirable policy, but it never pays. They who try to please everybody usually end in pleasing nobody. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab appears in that letter a fine amiable gentleman, but he carries his amiability too far, we are afraid. Statesmanship requires a backbone—it is not a simple rôle of indiscriminate conciliation all round. We are simply disgusted at the utter inadequacy of the punishment. We call it punishment by courtesy. The Punjab Government are so fond of their dear Police as to spare them the slightest pinch. Warburton does not receive even a nominal punishment. It is only a sentence of "warned and discharged" that has been pronounced on him. Such a ridiculous award in so grave a case—its gravity fully admitted—is an outrage on the Punjab people and a trifling with the public of the Empire at large.

Our contemporary the *Tribune* has been complimented in the Government letter in the following terms:—

"Mr. Warburton's own orders thus make any further inquiry unnecessary, and show that the proceedings taken by the Amritsar Police deserve all the subsequent abuse of the *Tribune*; and though that paper has, as usual, indulged in exaggerations and in libellous attribution of bad motives to Mr. Warburton, yet the Lieutenant-Governor is compelled to hold it has done a public service by the exposure which will make such things impossible in future."

We congratulate our contemporary on this authoritative vindication of its conduct. The compliment is indeed qualified with reservation, but what journalist in such circumstances will ever be cordially recognised by official men?

It is something, at any rate, to have wrung that certificate. We say *wrung*, advisedly—on the admission of Sir J. B. Lyall himself. "The Lieutenant-Governor is compelled to hold it (the *Tribune*) has done a public service by the exposure which will make such things impossible in future," says the Chief Secretary. No journalist in India has ever received such an official recognition of any service, and no Government has ever paid such a testimony to the power of the press. After that, the carping at the "usual exaggerations" of the journal and "its libellous attribution of bad motives to Mr. Warburton" is not in keeping, and only shows want of firmness in the inditing pen. If, notwithstanding the "usual" character of the journal, or at least notwithstanding the prejudice of Government against it, "the Lieutenant-Governor is compelled to" bow to it, that is no ordinary victory. It shows how official forces were all arrayed and determined to support the accused Police and show up the *Tribune* and blow up its broad based and huge pile of facts. It shows how Government went into the consideration of the matter with a prepossession in favor of Warburton—how they would have been glad to find that the *Tribune* was no better than it should be—a vile native print, edited by, of all nuisances on earth, the Baboo, "usually" dealing in "exaggeration and libellous attribution of motives" against officials and Europeans, possibly also a seditious rag, whose function is to set the people against the British Power. But there was no help for it—the Lieutenant-Governor was compelled to hold otherwise and make a low, if not a gracious, bow to the cantankerous Baboo.

What a pity the Lieutenant Governor is "compelled" to do a simple act of justice. Why cannot our rulers *cordially* do it—their absolute duty? When will the man arise among them who will be delighted to hold that a newspaper has done a public service which will prevent the recurrence of such things as



the doings of the Amritsar Police? Is that small service? What more do Governments do? What can the most successful administration do? To prevent the recurrence of offences is as much as any Government can attempt or hope to achieve. But grant it is small service—what more can be expected from poor native journalists, despised and suspected as they are? Yes, it is entirely honorary service to the state by men who, so far from being honored, are treated with scant courtesy by Government and officials. It becomes the drawers of fat pay to receive our gift of a country tat with thanks as if it were a high-bred young steed, without a too close scrutiny. Small service indeed! Be it so.

Small service is true service while it lasts;  
Of friends, however humble, scorn not one;  
The daisy, by the shadow that it casts,  
Protects the lingering dew-drop from the sun.

### /THE FENIAN BABOO—A BOGUS BOGIE.

We rejoice to see that our contemporary the Editor of *Hope* has vindicated himself from the charge of seditious publicly preferred against him by no less a man than Mr. W. Digby. Baboo Amrita Lal Roy has indited a long, luminous, transparent and thoroughly satisfactory explanation. We extract the cream of it:—

"I was a student in the colleges of Calcutta between the years 1874 and 1879, when Babu Surendra Nath Banerji was in the heyday of his glory as an orator, having come upon the young men of the time as a novelty in India's political firmament and being looked upon by them as the Coming Man thrown out of the Civil Service to avenge the country's wrongs and lead it out of the galling fetters of an alien despotism. Many Calcutta students of the time I refer to will confess with shame the influence that the captivating declaimer acquired over their susceptible hearts, and how they regarded him as a possible Mazzini, Kossuth, or Garibaldi, heroes upon whose exploits he was so fond of lecturing. Nor was the rising tribune at all anxious to discourage the delusion of his youthful admirers or rather worshippers, among whom I had the misfortune to be one. Indeed, it is a well-known fact that playing at Mazzini was Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's favourite rôle in the early part of his career as a public speaker, and oftentimes he would be heard to say that with the help of students he could accomplish anything. I do not mean, nor do I believe now, that Babu Surendra Nath would really have ever followed in the footsteps of his Italian model even if he had the capacity for it, or if he could have retained the admiration and confidence of his school-boys beyond the thoughtless period of their lives; but what other effect could his speeches and bearing have upon impressionable and ardent young men than to fill their heads with all sorts of false notions about their duty to their country and vague ideas as to the ways of freeing it from an "alien despotism?"

I was never intimate with Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, though in the days I am speaking of I was fortunate enough, as I then thought, to come near him now and then and exchange a word or two with him at the end of a lecture. No wonder that with the superstitious regard I then entertained for him, along with other contemporary students, I should have bethought myself of him whenever any matter of importance had to be consulted upon. I have said in the first part of my "English and American Reminiscences" (p. 4) that my plan of visiting America was first formed when I was about seventeen or eighteen years old, and in the year 1877, when between eighteen and nineteen, I together with two fellow-students, who were to be my associates in the enterprise, had occasion to take advice from Babu Surendra Nath Banerji more than once. The object of our visit to America was to learn practical mechanics, paying special attention to *military engineering* and not failing to take one or more courses in *army drill*; and the two associates are living now, along with whom we discussed the matter over one night at Babu Surendra Nath's residence in Taltolla. We all deplored the condition to which India had been reduced under the "iron heels of despotism," &c., &c., and came to the conclusion that the remedy lay in our young men taking to such pursuits as I and my two friends were thinking of. Babu Surendra Nath said we had his hearty support in our undertaking, and even undertook to try if he could raise money to help us. I am quite ready to believe that he was not serious, and was talking in that reckless fashion in which he often speaks in public, regardless of the consequences of what he says; but so far as we were concerned the effect was the same as if he had been a real Mazzini in the flesh instead of the would-be author of the late Town Hall *fiasco*.

Of course, our project ended as such projects do and ought to end, namely, in nothing. It was about two years and a half after this interview that I left for England, in March 1880, and I arrived

in America towards the end of 1882. My actual visit to those countries was undertaken for purposes very different from that of the one whose puerile project failed, but though more than six years had elapsed between the time of that project and the date (some time in 1884) when the letter which has called forth this explanation was written, the associations of my early youth had not altogether left me at the latter date. Indeed, there were circumstances in my American life which were calculated to re-awaken whatever vitality was left in those associations. I have explained in my "Three Years among the Americans" how the necessity of making my way in New York, without money and without friends, threw me into contact with all the numerous kinds of people of every nationality who congregate in that city—among others Russian Nihilists, German Socialists, and disaffected men of all sorts; and it was the most natural of things that I should have come to know some of the leaders of the Irish-Americans in a city which is peculiarly their own. The acquaintance did not come of seeking it for its own sake, but in the direct way of trying to find a livelihood for myself. It was in 1884, when I was making my living by writing, and the *Irish World* was one of the papers for which I wrote for a period of not more than three or four months. That paper being the leading organ of the Irish-Americans I could not but come across some of their principal men. Naturally the talk with them turned upon matters of Indian Government, and I gave ideas about it and of the popular feeling towards it that could be given by one whose best education in Indian politics had been derived from Babu Surendranath Banerji's fiery speeches and from newspapers whose contents led to the passing of the Vernacular Press Act. By a curious coincidence of circumstances, too, at the time I am speaking of the flame of the fierce Ilbert Bill controversy had not yet subsided in India and Babu Surendranath had just come out of prison as a hero and martyr. The *Bengalee* was one of the papers that used to be pretty regularly sent to me by friends at home, and my heart naturally throbbed in response to its appeals to the patriotism of its countrymen, while my admiration for the hero of my boyhood was increased. When therefore I was asked by some of the Irish-American gentlemen I came to know to sound the feelings of the leading patriots of my country, and to put them in mutual communication, what could be more natural for me than to open correspondence with the man who was said to have recently declared, when sentenced to imprisonment, that he would "shake the foundations of the British Government?" With the sort of political education I had had, and living far away from my country in circumstances calculated most to alienate my feelings from its Government, what could be expected of me at that time but that I should write a most silly letter to my *quondam* idol, ignorant alike that there were forms of patriotism which whatever their motive, were "treasonable" according to the law, and that even the "best" men of educated India, as understood at the present day, might take advantage of confidence reposed in them to serve their personal ends.

At this date I cannot recollect the contents of that letter, though I remember that it was written at a stage of mental development and political knowledge when I believed or rather fancied (for the word *belief* is not applicable in reference to such a state of mind) that the best remedy for Indian evils lay in the subversion of the British Government. I declare, however, with the same honesty and frankness with which I have always written since I learned to wield a pen, fearless of consequences whether from the displeasure of the Government or from the vindictiveness of my "patriotic" countrymen, that this incident of the letter was a single episode in my life having no relation of continuity with my future career, and that it was the result of the thoughtlessness of a moment, and not of deep deliberation, in a condition of life when even whatever judgment I might have had was kept in abeyance under the strange and exciting impressions which were taking hold of my mind every moment. Its value or valuelessness as having any relation to my present life may be judged from the fact that the letter was written nearly two years before even my much-talked-of article in the *North American Review*, whose sentiments I have declared more than once as representing an immature and experienced state of my intellect. I further declare that my connection with the Irish-Americans in any sense lasted only a few months, ceasing, as it had begun, with the necessity of making my way in a new walk of life, and that from a short while after the writing of the letter, in 1884, up till now I have had no intercourse, either by word or writing, with men of the Irish-American League, though nearly a year and a half of this period was spent in New York. If I had cared to mix myself up with the Irish-Americans in the sense in which "communication" with them is generally understood when the loyalty of a British subject is questioned, I could have had a most easy time of it in America instead of being driven to the necessity of carrying a prolonged struggle for my daily bread."

Mr. Roy not only defends himself but gives a homethrust to his enemy. Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee will now regret that he ever gave the editor of *Hope* such an opportunity.

## THE INFLUENZA IN TIPPERAH.

SIR,—The Influenza epidemic has not spared Tipperah. Mr. L. Palit is said to have brought it here; so it must be afflicting the people for over six weeks. God be praised, that it has appeared in a mild form. But here it has a larger and wider range than elsewhere. Doctors aver that nearly 90 per cent. of the people at Comillah have suffered from its attack. This, however, may be an exaggeration. I myself can't and shan't give you the percentage. High fever, violent head-ache, acute muscular pains, prostration, cough due to tracheal and bronchial inflammation, inflammation of the throat and larynx and their glands, debility, loss of appetite and vertigo, seem to be the general symptoms here. Head-ache remains for some days after the fever has left. Catarrhal symptoms of the eyes and nose, drowsiness and delirium, nausea and bilious vomiting with the accompanying symptoms of the burning of the eyes, hands and feet, and diarrhæa are to be scarcely met with. Relapses are frequent. One very often hears from the mouth of the doctors themselves of the many cures they have effected. In fact, I am not aware of any case of Influenza turning out fatal. That Influenza does not kill is the common belief in the town. In some villages, fevers of various other types are carrying away a good many lives, and they are by the ignorant people in the country, I suspect, readily mistaken for the new fever—Influenza. In some villages, cholera has also entered appearance. The old people will tell you that while they were young they knew not even the names of so many diseases, for there were not as many. The good old times are gone. The present is more vicious than the past and the future will be still more. Hence these visitations.

TRUTH.

Comillah, June 10, 1890.

## Public Papers.

## INCOME TAX NOTIFICATION.

The 6th June, 1890.

No. 2762.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6 and 38 of Act II of 1886, the Governor-General in Council is pleased, in supersession of previous Notifications,—

(A) to exempt from liability to the tax payable, and to assessment, under the said Act—

(1) the income of persons (other than persons in the service of the Government) residing in—

- (a) the scheduled districts of the Presidency of Madras;
- (b) the Hill Tracts of Chittagong;
- (c) the Mewas States under the Khandesh Political Agency;
- (d) the Khondmals and the Mahal of Angul in Orissa;

(2) the income of Universities or other associations or bodies existing solely for educational purposes, and of local authorities as defined in section 3 of the Act, provided that the exemption shall not extend to interest payable on a Government security in respect of any period (the period running to date of payment of interest from last date of payment thereof) during which a transfer of the security has been effected;

(3) the official allowance which an Agent of a Prince or State in India in alliance with Her Majesty, who has been duly accredited to represent the Prince or State for political purposes in any place within the limits of British India, receives as such Agent in British India from the Prince or State;

(4) any capital sum paid in commutation of the whole or a portion of a pension;

(5) so much of the income of a person as is derived solely and directly from the production of indigo or the preparation thereof for the market: provided that nothing in this clause shall be construed to affect section 5, sub-section (2), of the Act with respect to the liability of an officer or servant of a person to whom this clause applies;

(6) such portion of any person's income as is paid to any Service Fund, Mutual Benefit Fund, Friendly Society, or other legally established Association, not being a company within the meaning of section 3, sub-section (2), of the Act, in respect of an insurance or deferred annuity of his own life or on the life of his wife, in the same way as if the payment were made to an Insurance Company;

(7) such portion of the income of any person in the service of the Government, or of any Local Authority, or of any Railway Company, as is paid into any Provident Fund established under the authority, or with the permission, of the Government, and as is not repayable to him at his option so long as he remains in such service:

Provided that the amount of income exempted under No. (6) and No. (7), together with the amount exempted under section 5, sub-section (1), clause (g), of the Act, shall not exceed one-sixth of the whole income in respect of which the person would, but for these exemptions, be liable;

(8) Interest on securities which are held by, or are the property of, a Service Fund or a Friendly Society, as defined below:

For the purposes of this exemption, a Service Fund is a fund established under the authority, or with the permission, of Government for the purpose of securing deferred annuities to the subscribers, or payments to them in the event of their resignation or dismissal from the service in which they are employed, or provision for their wives or children after their death, or payments to their estate or their nominees upon their death, to which the servants of the Government, or of a Local Authority, or of a Railway Company, are alone admissible as subscribers or members, and the funds of which are either deposited with the Government or invested in Government Securities; and a Friendly Society is a Mutual Association established for the purpose of securing deferred annuities to the subscribers, or provision for their wives or children after their death, or payments to their estate or their nominees upon their death, and in which the payment which may be made in respect of any one nominee does not exceed either a single payment of Rs. 3,000 or an annual payment of Rs. 500.

Note.—The East Indian Railway Savings Bank shall be deemed to be a Service Fund within the meaning of this clause. (B) to rule—

9 that a claim to exemption preferred under section 5, sub-section (1), clause (g), of the Act on that portion of income taxable under Part I of the second Schedule of the Act which is paid as a premium to an Insurance Company shall not be entertained if the claim is made after the expiration of six months from the last day of the financial year during which the premium was paid;

(10) that officers and men of the Indian Marine Service shall not for the purposes of section 5, sub-section (1), clause (i), of the Act be treated as belonging to Her Majesty's Indian Forces; and

(11) that for the purposes of the Act—

(a) the tentage allowance included in the pay and Indian allowances of an officer in military employ under Article 748 of the Army Regulations, India, Vol. I, Part I, shall be deemed to be salary, unless the officer has provided and has in his possession the camp equipage of his rank in a serviceable condition;

(b) the horse allowance shown as included in the consolidated or staff pay of the several appointments specified in Article 91 of the Army Regulations, India, Vol. I, Part I, shall be deemed to be salary, unless the officer has provided and actually maintains the number of *bona fide* chargers prescribed for his rank.

No. 2763.—In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Act II of 1886, and of all other powers enabling him in this behalf, and in supersession of previous Notifications, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to make the following rules under the said Act:

1. The time within which amounts deducted from salary, annuity, pension, or gratuity paid by a Local Authority under section 8, sub-section (1), of the Act must be paid to the credit of the Government of India is fixed at one week from the date of payment of the salary, pension, annuity, or gratuity. The payment to the credit of the Government shall be made by remitting the amount to the Collector with a statement giving the following particulars for each person from whom the tax has been realised:

(1) Name. (2) Period for which the salary, pension, or annuity has been paid. (3) Amount of salary, pension, annuity, or gratuity paid. (4) Amount of tax.

2. The return required by section 10 of the Act shall be in Form A hereto appended.

The name of any person who is receiving, at the date of the return prescribed by section 10 of the Act, a salary, pension, or annuity which does not amount to Rs. 300 per annum, or has received during the year ending on that date a gratuity which does not amount to that sum, need not be shown in the return.

3. Any sums, such as payments to regimental mess or band funds or the like, compulsorily stopped from salary by the orders, or with the approval, of the Government, shall be deducted from the salary previous to assessment.

A portion of salary withheld in pursuance of an order of a Court is not a sum compulsorily stopped from salary within the meaning of this rule.

4. When a deduction is made from the amount of salary, pension, or annuity liable to assessment on account of a payment made to a Life Insurance Company, the sum deducted shall, if the premium is payable in sterling, be the actual cost of remittance as stated by the assessor; or, if the assessee is unable to state such actual cost, the equivalent in rupees of the sterling payment calculated at the official rate of exchange for the year in which the deduction is made.

5. A deduction such as is mentioned in the preceding rule must be supported either—

- (1) by the original receipt of the Insurance Company; or
- (2) (in the case of a deduction claimed by a servant of the Government or of a Local Authority) by a copy of the same presented, together with the original, to the officer who pays the salary, pension, or annuity, and attested by that officer, who should, after such attestation, return the original; or
- (3) by a duplicate receipt given by the Insurance Company; or
- (4) by a certificate of payment given by the Insurance Company.

In cases (1), (3), and (4), the receipt or certificate should be returned as soon as the fact of payment is admitted in the due course of audit.

Where the Collector is satisfied that none of the above prescribed documents can be produced without an amount of delay, expense, or inconvenience which, under the circumstances of the case, would be unreasonable, he may accept such other proof of payment of the premium as he may deem sufficient.

6. The amounts exempted from the tax by section 5, sub-section (1), clause (g), of the Act, and referred to in rule 4 of these rules, shall not be deducted from income for the purpose of determining whether the income is liable to the tax, or of determining under Part I of the second Schedule of the Act the rate at which the tax shall be levied.

7. The amount to be assessed under section 24, sub-section (1), of the Act on account of a building occupied by the owner thereof shall not in any case exceed 10 per cent. of the aggregate income of the owner derived from all sources. It must not, however, be understood from this that a maximum of 10 per cent. of the aggregate income of the owner is to be assumed in every case as equivalent to the letting-value of his house. The letting-value should in all cases be ascertained on the best data available in view of the circumstances of the locality in which the house is situated.

8. After the close of the year of assessment, each Accountant-General or other auditing officer shall submit Return No. 1, in the form hereto appended, to such officer as the Local Government may direct.

9. The certificates referred to in the second column of Part III of the second Schedule of the Act shall be in Form B or in Form C hereto appended.

10. Any claim under section 5, sub-section (1), clause (e), of the Act to exemption from the levy of the tax on the interest of securities employed solely for religious or public charitable purposes within the meaning of that clause must be supported by a certificate from the Collector, which shall be in Form D hereto appended.

11. In the case of securities the interest on which is payable by the Government of India, the amount deducted on account of the tax under section 13, sub-section (1), of the Act shall be paid to the credit of the Government on the same day as the payment of the interest is made.

12. In the case of securities the interest on which is not payable by the Government of India, the amount so deducted shall be paid

to the credit of the Government within one week from the date on which interest is paid. The person deducting the amount should pay it to the credit of the Government by remitting the amount to the Collector, with a statement showing the following particulars:

(1) Name of owner. (2) Description of security. (3) Number of security. (4) Date of security. (5) Amount of security. (6) period for which interest is drawn. (7) Amount of interest. (8) Amount of tax.

13. After the close of the year of assessment, each Accountant-General and Comptroller shall submit Return No. II, in the form hereto appended, to such officer as the Local Government may direct.

14. In calculating the amount of tax payable, the amount due on a fraction of a rupee shall be neglected. Thus the tax to be realised on a monthly salary of Rs. 166-10-8 is Rs. 4-5-2 only.

15. All public servants are forbidden to make public or disclose, except for the purpose of the working of the Act, any information contained in documents delivered or produced with respect to assessments under Part IV of the second Schedule of the Act, and any public servant committing a breach of this rule shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 166 of the Indian Penal Code.

All public servants are further enjoined to be most careful to regulate their proceedings as far as practicable in such manner as to prevent information which should be kept secret from becoming known. It should be noted that information of this nature is to be withheld by officers administering the Act from persons in the employment of assessors.

16. Power to make further rules is hereby delegated to the several Local Governments, and no rules already made by Local Governments, under authority given by the Governor-General in Council, shall be deemed to be cancelled by the supersession of any of the notifications quoted in the present Notification.

17. Each Local Government will prescribe forms of registers to be maintained by Collectors and others for the purpose of showing the demand and collections of the tax, the various classes of incomes assessed, and the working of the several provisions of the Act.

18. After the close of the year of assessment, each Local Government will submit to the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department a report on the working of the Act.

E. J. SINKINSON,

Secretary to the Government of India.

**TO** be peremptorily sold pursuant to a Decree and order of the Calcutta High Court Original Side made in suit No. 256 of 1888, Kanye Lall Khan and others *versus* Surrut Coomary Dassee and dated respectively 27th August 1888 and 9th December 1889 by the Registrar of the said Court in his sale room in the Court house by public auction on Saturday the twelfth July next at the hour of 12 O'clock noon the following properties of the defendant *viz.* :—

Lot No. 1.—No. 68-1 Machooa Bazar Street in the Town of Calcutta being all that upper-roomed brick built messuage tenement or dwelling house together with the land thereunto belonging and on which the same is erected containing an area of 6 cottahs and 14 chittacks comprised in Holding No. 184-5 Block No. 13 North Division and which property is bounded as follows :—On the North and East by the land and premises No. 68 Machooa Bazar Street on the South by the said Machooa Bazar Street and on the West partly by a private Lane leading to the house and premises No. 69 Machooa Bazar Street belonging to one Raj Narain Chuckerbutty and partly by the said house and premises No. 69 Machooa Bazar Street.

Lot No. 2.—No. 18 Grish Vidyarutno's Lane [formerly No. 16 Bye Lane Upper Circular Road and previously No. 58-11 Upper Circular Road and before that No. 59 Upper Circular Road] in the Town of Calcutta being all that piece or parcel of tenanted land containing by estimation three bigghas and ten cottahs be the same a little more or less comprised in holding No. 188 but mentioned in the pottah No. 299 as being comprised in Block No. 13 North Division and which property is bounded as follows :—On the East partly by the house of Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno partly by the house of Monemohini Dabee partly by the house of Monemohini Dabee the wife of Mud-dosudun Mookerjee and partly by the house of Nistarini Bewah and Sowdamini Bewah on the North partly by the house of Greesh

Chunder Vedyarutno partly by a private passage forming part of such last mentioned premises partly by the house of the late Bhoy-rubee Dassee partly by the house and land of the late Seetul Mistry and partly by the house of Beer Chand Byragee on the West partly by the house of Ullungomoney Dassee partly by the house of Greesh Chunder Ghose and partly by the said Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane and on the South partly by the said tenanted land No. 68 Machooa Bazar Street and partly by the tenanted land of Khyroo Moonshlee.

Lot No. 3.—No. 15 Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane in Calcutta [formerly No. 15 Bye Lane Upper Circular Road and previously 58-14 Upper Circular Road and before that 59 Upper Circular Road] being all that piece or parcel of tenanted land with a tank or land covered with water containing by estimation four bigghas be the same a little more or less comprised in Holding No. 188 (but mentioned in the Pottah as being comprised in Holding No. 300) Block No. 13 North Division and which property is bounded on the South by the said premises No. 68 Machooa Bazar Street on the West partly by the house formerly belonging to Panch Coury Sircar partly by the house of Kristo Mohun Sircar partly by the house of Har Gobind Sein and partly by the garden land of Sumbho Chunder Singhee on the North by the garden known as the garden of Nawab Ally Nukkee Khan also called Rustomjee's garden now the property of Deno Nauth Mullick and on the East partly by the house of Jodoo Nath Chuckerbutty and Silla Nath Chatterjee and Tarrapado Bonnerjee and partly by premises No. 17-1 Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane hereinafter mentioned and described and by the house of Bunmolly Mookerjee deceased partly by the house of Troyluckho Nath Mitter partly by the said lane and partly by the house of Obhoy Churn Dhoba.

Lot No. 4.—No. 68 [formerly No. 66] Machooa Bazar Street Mirzapore in the Town of Calcutta being all that piece or parcel of land

containing six bigghas fourteen cottahs and two chittacks and comprised in Holding No. 184 and 185 Block No. 13 North Division of Calcutta and which property is bounded on the North partly by the said premises No. 15 Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane and partly by the house of the said Bonmolly Mookerjee deceased on the South partly by the public road called Machooa Bazar Street and partly by a Musjeed Batty on the East partly by the premises formerly of Mowlah Budder Ally and afterwards of Khadu Mally and partly by the tenanted land of one Allahabad and on the West partly by the said dwelling house No. 68-1 Machooa Bazar Street and partly by premises No. 69 Machooa Bazar Street and the houses of Sreeram Banerjee Jodoo Nath Nundan and Hurry Dass Hazra.

Lot No. 5.—No. 17-1 Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane in Calcutta [formerly No. 58-14 Upper Circular Road Bye Lane] being all that piece or parcel of tenanted land containing by estimation three cottahs be the same a little more or less comprised in Holding No. 188 Block No. 13 North Division and which property is bounded as follows :—On the North by the house of Obhoy Dhoba on the West by the tank being portion of premises No. 15 Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane aforesaid on the East by the said Greesh Chunder Vidyarutno's Lane and on the South by the house of Bonmolly Mookerjee deceased.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the Registrar's Office in the Court house or at the office of Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder the plaintiff's Attorney at No. 5 Hastings Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

R. BELCHAMBERS,  
Registrar.

G. C. Chunder,  
Plaintiff's Attorney,  
High Court,  
Calcutta,  
Original Side.  
The 24th April 1890.



Apply to *Reis & Rayjet* Office, Calcutta.



"IT RECOMMENDS ITSELF."  
All who suffer find sure relief from



### The Greatest Pain Cure Extant.

It has driven out from the system  
**Acute Rheumatism and Rheumatic Gout,**

After years of semi-helplessness and suffering; while in **ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, FACEACHE, SPRAINS,** it is the surest and safest remedy for these complaints in their severest and most chronic form.

Its magic effect in affording instantaneous relief in

**Neuralgia in the Head, Face and Limbs**  
Is almost too remarkable for CREDENCE.

Are you subject to **HEADACHES** and the tortures of **TOOTHACHE**? A single application will relieve you.

In **Sore-throat** its power has been so rapid and complete that it is universally recommended as

### The Marvellous Sore Throat Cure.

Try this wonderful Medicine and let the result speak for itself.

The Oriental Balm is used by the best Physicians in the world in their practice. It has been pronounced a blessing in thousands of homes. By its intrinsic virtue, it has achieved a wide-spread popularity which no similar preparation has ever before attained.

Sold in Bottles at 1 Re. each.

Obtainable of all respectable chemists throughout the world.

Agents in Calcutta: Smith Stanistreet & Co., R. Scott Thompson & Co. and Bathgate & Co. Limited.

## HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

**THE PILLS**  
Purify the Blood, correct all Disorders of the  
**LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS AND BOWELS,**  
They invigorate and restore to health Debilitated Constitutions, and  
are invaluable in all Complaints incidental to Females of all ages.  
For children and the aged they are priceless.

**THE OINTMENT**  
Is an infallible remedy for Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Old Wounds,  
Sores and Ulcers. It is famous for Gout and Rheumatism. For  
disorders of the Chest it has no equal.

**For Sore Throats, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds,**  
Glandular Swellings and all Skin Diseases, it has no rival; and for  
contracted and stiff joints it acts like a charm.

Manufactured only at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishment  
**OXFORD STREET (late 533, Oxford St.) LONDON.**

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THE  
EARLIEST & STILL MOST EXTENSIVE  
DISPENSARY IN ASIA  
OF PURE HOMŒOPATHY ONLY,  
WHICH  
INTRODUCED TO THE EAST THE  
TRADE IN  
INDEPENDENT HOMŒOPATHY  
and maintains to this day  
THE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY OF  
THIS  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

B. & Co. beg to draw the attention of their  
constituents and the public to the neat little  
turned

### WOODEN CASE

in which every phial of medicine that goes  
out of their Establishment is packed.

These cases while they ensure the bottles  
against breakage will also be found very convenient and useful.

No EXTRA CHARGE.

**BERIGNY & CO.**  
12, Lal Bazaar, Calcutta.

### READ THIS CAREFULLY.

Strong, accurate, pretty, open-faced Nickel  
silver *short winding* Keyless Railway Regulators,  
of small size, jewelled, enamelled dials, bold  
figures and Candian Gold hands, with tempered  
machinery and dust tight hinged cases for  
Rs. 7-8 per V. P. P. with spare  
glass, spring, box and guarantee. Warranted  
to stand rough usage. Can be easily repaired.  
Have no appearance of cheapness about  
them. Others sell at double our rates. Mr.  
A. R. Mehta from Bandora says:—"The  
7-8 watch I purchased from you two years  
back, gives correct time as yet." Acting Superintendent,  
Government Farm, Khandesh, says:—"A watch maker  
has valued your Rs. 7-8 watch for Rs. 15." Mr. J. Sutcliffe,  
R. W. Fusi. Regt., Lucknow, says:—"Some valued  
it at Rs. 15 and were completely surprised when  
I told them it only costs Rs. 7-8." Pretty  
Candian Gold Chains, Lockets, Pencils, complete  
shirt Studs and Rings set with scientific  
diamonds, rubies, &c., at Rs. 2 each. Mr. J.  
A. Yelsmore, Satur, says:—"The best goldsmith  
of this place values the chain for Rs. 7 and the  
locket for Rs. 10." Mr. G. Smith, Salt Inspector,  
Sanikutta, says:—"A German valued the diamond  
ring at Rs. 50 and the ruby at Rs. 30." WESTERN INDIA  
TRADING CO., BOMBAY.

## JEYES' PERFECT PURIFIER

OBTAINED

Thirty-three Prize Medals and First Class Certificates  
and were specially appointed by the Royal Commission  
for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886, where  
not a single case of illness occurred amongst the native  
artisans there employed.

Authorized by the Government of India; and  
largely used by the Calcutta and other Municipalities.

Sanctioned

by Her Majesty's Board of Trade.

Used in the Royal Households, by Her Majesty's  
Government Establishments, by the Corporation of London,  
Parochial Vestries, Smithfield and Billingsgate Markets,  
Peninsular and Oriental and other Steam Navigation  
Companies, the Railway Companies, Principal Hospitals, &c.

Agents:—DYCE, NICOL & CO.,  
3, Commercial Buildings, Calcutta.

## Rivers Steam Navigation Co. "Limited."

This Company's Steamer "BEHAR" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 17th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns, at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. on Saturday, the 14th inst.

### CACHAR LINE.

The steamer "THIKAK" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 24th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 21st instant.

The Rivers having risen, Steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Silchar.

ASSAM DESPATCH SERVICE FROM

GOALUNDO

and

DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM

DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.

A daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, *i. e.*, packages not weighing over half a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. train (Madras time) from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta *via* Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels *via* Kannia only.

All particulars as to rates of freight and passage by all the above mentioned Services to be had on application to—

MACNEILL & CO.,

Agents,

2-1, Clive Ghat Street.

Calcutta, the 10th June, 1890.

ANY Photograph transferred to porcelain and thus rendered permanent. Apply to

R. HOTZ,

13-5, Government Place, Calcutta.

## REIS & RAYYET

(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

WEEKLY (ENGLISH) NEWSPAPER

AND

Review of Politics, Literature, and Society

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### RATES OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Advertisements (three columns to the page and 102 lines to the column) are charged by the space taken up, at the rate of 4 annas a line, each insertion. The lowest charge for any advertisement is Rs. 2, except Domestic Occurrences, the lowest charge for which is Rs. 5.

### Special rates for Contracts.

No additional charge for inland postage or peon. For arrears an advance of 50 per cent. will be charged. Foreign postage separately charged at the rate of 4 annas a month or Rs. 3, a year.

Business Communications (post paid) to be directed to "The Manager," and Literary Communications and books and pamphlets (carriage paid) to "The Editor" of "Reis & Rayyet,"

OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1890.

No. 429

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### EXPECTATION.

FROM THE FRENCH OF DELAVIGNE.

THE morn has chased the shades of night,  
The streams grow bright beneath her eye ;  
A golden veil of purple light  
Hangs o'er the rosy eastern sky.

To catch the sun's awakening rays  
Upon the turf still wet with dew,  
With trembling haste the rose displays  
Her crimson chalice to the view.

A sweeter zephyr fills the place,  
The birds in sweeter concert sing ;  
More closely in a fond embrace  
Around the elm the vine doth cling.

Amid these shades so calm and still . . .  
All things partake of my delight—  
Fresh turf, fair sky, transparent rill—  
Ah ! can you know she comes to-night ?

### THE ELFIN BRIDE.

FROM THE GERMAN OF DE LA MOTTE FOUQUE.

GAILY the sun ascends his throne,  
And gilds the dewy sod below ;  
"O, youth ! what chains thee to that stone,  
Where cooling breezes blow ?

O, Mourner !—from the new-lit skies  
The darksome gloom hath ta'en its flight :  
Methinks no sleep has blest thine eyes  
Through all this weary night !

And tears, thou valiant youth and true  
Have fallen upon this humid stone ;  
Or is it but the nightly dew  
That down from heaven hath flown ?"

"The dew would show its wonted care,  
And weep on my beloved stone ;  
But ah ! the pearls that glisten there  
Are but my tears alone !"

"A noble hero !—and in tears ?  
A brave young man—and weakly pine ?  
O come where gleams the sheen of spears,  
And Love's warm glance divine !"

"Let others kneel at Beauty's throne,  
Or up the gleaming falchion take ;  
For me—I tarry by this stone  
Until my heart will break !"

"Oh ! tell me, then, thy heart's deep woe—  
What sorrow chains thee to the stone ?"  
"Ah ! yes, from lips the tale will flow,  
That speak of this alone !—

Last night I crossed the mountain near,  
And sought this verdant vale of rest ;  
A sweet voice whispered in mine ear—  
A sweeter lip to mine was prest !—

It was a beauteous Fairy form,  
That thus about the wanderer played,  
And twined a garland bright and warm  
Around us twain, that ne'er can fade.

She called me her beloved lord—  
She called herself a wife's dear name ;  
And gave to me, with glad accord,  
Her wondrous sweet and tender frame.

That moment did the Night withdraw  
Her vaporous veil so dark and damp ;  
As through the roof of leaves we saw  
The Moon suspend our nuptial lamp.

And as it paled before the day,  
And sank amid the silent sea,  
She reached her hand and cried—'Away !  
Beloved, hence ! from me !

Hence !—hence !—for ere the sun has smiled,  
I too must far from this have flown :  
One beam on me, the Fairy Child,  
Would turn me into stone.

For this, through Time's unnumbered years,  
Has been the Sun's unquestioned right ;  
But till the morning-red appears,  
The Fairy People rule the night !'

Audacious boy ! Oh ! sad event !  
I prayed, and kissed her thousand charms,  
Until she, weeping, gave consent  
To linger still within my arms.

But through her tears she sang this strain—  
'Ah ! many and many a happy night  
Might I within thy arms have lain,  
If thou didst not that promise blight.

•I cannot bring my lips to speak  
Denial to that prayer of thine—  
And see ! upon the purple peak  
The day begins to shine !

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

Farewell, beloved murderer mine !  
 Farewell ! thy claspings hands unbind !—  
 Scarce shrieked I 'fly !' when came the Shine,  
 When came the cooling morning wind.

There in my very hands she grew  
 A lifeless stone, so hard and cold ;  
 There from my heart the life-blood flew,  
 And strength grew weak, and youth grew old.

A lifeless stone !—O bitter woe !  
 My joy ! my grief ! my Elfin Bride !  
 On this, through life, my tears shall flow—  
 In death I'll sleep beside !"

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE following neat epigram has appeared in England on the appointment of Lord Reay, G.C.I.E., late Governor of Bombay, as Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India :—  
 Fit that a Queen, of India's realm possest,  
 With India's "Mount of Light" upon her breast,  
 Whom India's people honour and obey,  
 Should add to India's Star another R(e)ay.

WE are glad to observe that a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been founded at Secunderabad. The advent of an enthusiastic surgeon like Mr. Lawrie ought to have been the signal for such a measure. Since the influence that he has acquired in the Hyderabad State, it had become imperative.

AT the last University Examinations, the Medical College has passed in the Preliminary Scientific M. B. Examination three students in the Second Division ; in the First M. B., one in the first and six in the second division ; in the Second M. B., one in the first and five in the second ; and in the M. D., one, namely, Niltatan Sarkar.

THE first spinning and weaving mill in the island of Ceylon has been started. The mill is already supplying local orders—grey sheeting, drills, and towelling of excellent quality.

THE American Silver Queen, Mrs. Mackay, residing in Paris, is said to own the finest jewels in the world. Among them is a sapphire bought from a Russian Prince worth £30,000, a necklace of pearls worth £20,000 and a pair of solitaires worth £85,000.

A FARMER named Thomas Morrison, near Shelburne, Ontario, lately took three of his five children from their beds and drowned them in a water barrel, their ages being two, five, and seven years respectively, and then himself took some carbolic acid. The poison was pumped out and Morrison rallied, but his recovery is regarded as doubtful. He is supposed to have been suffering from temporary insanity. His wife was absent on a visit to a sick sister.

IT is satisfactory to learn that the Government of India has ordered the Ordnance Department, Madras, to comply with the entire indent submitted by the Travancore State of arms and accoutrements, &c., for the use of the Nayar Brigade. Before Lord Dufferin struck out his policy of utilising the military *materiel* of the Native States, the Government of India used to be far too suspicious.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Ceylon Observer* relates : One day, a lady, on returning from a drive, had the cushions of her carriage lifted to recover something she missed, when, to her horror, a huge cobra was discovered under one of them. The lady had been three hours in the carriage !

IT is sad to learn that three upcountry girls of the same village clubbed together to commit suicide. Laying themselves across the railway line near the Balpore station, they were run over by the night mail for Mokameh, and their heads entirely severed from their bodies.

What a visita of romance is opened to contemplation by this triphication of self-murder at the same moment and in the same place !

The short and simple annals of the poor are surely not all a humdrum monotone. There are incidents of pain and passion, known to the sympathetic observer. We are afraid there are general causes in operation in our society, pressing, perhaps, with undue severity, upon particular classes, goading them to deeds of desperation. As regards these country girls, we hope some gentlemen of the quarter will enquire

Into their minty  
 Rash and undutiful,—  
 how the poor things were,  
 Mad from life's history,  
 Glad to death's mystery  
 Swift to be hurl'd—  
 Any where, any where  
 Out of the world !

THE Lieutenant-Governor has considerably ruled that a notice under section 17 of the Income-tax Act, II of 1886, shall be served on every person whose name is included for the first time in the list of persons chargeable under Part IV, or in whose case the amount of income-tax to be paid is enhanced.

IN supersession of the old rules of 1888, new rules coming into effect from the next month, have been made relating to Revenue-money-orders. They will be found in the *Calcutta Gazette*, Part I. of the 18th June 1890.

THE Government of India is still undecided as to its course in regard to the proposal of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Chambers of Madras and Bengal, that railway receipts should be declared to be transferable and negotiable instruments, carrying a title to property like bills of lading. Contrary opinion has been expressed in other quarters, and the Government of India is anxious to obtain further opinion on the subject. Accordingly, Local Governments and Administrations, and the Public Works and Legislative Departments have been addressed on the subject and the papers made public.

HER Majesty's Consul at Jeddah writes under date the 14th April, but appearing only this week in the *Calcutta Gazette*, that "all Indian pilgrims coming *via* Suez being considered as coming direct from India, unless they can show by their papers that they have been living in Egypt or other places in the north for sometime, are subjected to 10 days' quarantine in the island of Abu Saad in Jeddah harbour" Indian pilgrims are therefore warned that before their departure from Bombay they should have their passports viséd by Her Majesty's Consuls in those places through which they pass, in order to enable them to obtain free pratique on their arrival at Jeddah.

RAI Surruth Chunder Ghose Bahadr, Honorary Assistant Engineer, first grade, First Calcutta Division, has been in charge of the Calcutta Workshops Division since the afternoon of the 3rd February 1890, but this transfer is Gazetted only this week.

THE Public Works Chittagong Hill Tracts Division ceases to exist from the 11th July next.

UNDER the Indian Steam-vessels Act, Monghyr and Bhagulpore have been declared to be places for the survey of inland steam-vessels, the Superintendent of the Tirhoot State Railway being the Surveyor. In Monghyr, the Magistrate of the District, and in Bhagulpore, the Senior Subordinate Magistrate at head-quarters, *i.e.*, the Joint-Magistrate, or in his absence the Senior Deputy Magistrate will receive

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—It is impossible entirely to prevent the noxious vapours which are given off in mines and tunnels, and those who, like miners and railway operatives, have to work day after day in such vitiated atmospheres, suffer in health and strength in consequence. The chest and liver often become clogged with the products of coal combustion, necessitating great attention to the health. No remedy is more valuable for miners and the like than Holloway's Pills, as they carry off all effete matter from the blood, and healthily stimulate the liver. They are also invaluable for costive bowels and for all bilious disorders. The Ointment is a priceless remedy for piles, sprains, ulcers and all manner of sores.

declarations of the surveyor, deliver certificates of survey, give notice to owners or masters of steam-vessels when certificates are ready for delivery, and receive expired, cancelled or suspended survey certificates. Offences against the Act will be tried in those two places.

SUBADAR Shaik Imdad Ali, *Bahadur*, Governor-General's Body Guard, has been taken in as an Aide-de-Camp and Risaldar-Major Nawab Muhammad Afzal Khan, C.S.I., *Khan Bahadur*, 11th Bengal Lancers, as an Honorary Aid-de-Camp of the Viceroy's personal staff.

THE Cantonment of Cachar will henceforth be known as the Silchar cantonment.

It is reported that "for the protection and liberty accorded to Catholics in Persia," the Pope has presented the Shah Nasr-ud-Deen with the Order of Pius IX., forwarding the insignia with an autograph letter.

INFLUENZA has had its run among our Simian brethren of Kichkinda. It is reported from Kuruul, Southern India, that

"The animals were quite conspicuous one day by their absence, so that everything, left out to dry on terraces, was undisturbed,—quite an unusual experience. Next morning they were seen in groups here and there, some coughing terribly, others reeling like drunken men, and then, later on, the unpleasant stillness, that reigned under the trees, which afforded them shelter, was often disturbed by the crash of a heavy monkey, coming precipitately down to the ground to die."

IN Russia, they have adopted stringent measures against adulterated food. A person convicted of adulteration or sale of injurious substances as food is liable to a fine of 300 roubles (£48), or three months' imprisonment. A repetition of the offence doubles the penalty, while the third conviction deprives him of all civil and political rights.

A RUSSIAN globe-trotter from Archangel returning home with some samples of tea grown in Ceylon, distributed them among his friends. There is now a demand at Archangel for the Ceylon tea.

It is a hundred years since the dome of St. Peter's at Rome cracked and was put to rights by a strong metallic band. Fissures are again now reported.

To render help to Transatlantic liners in distress, an ocean patrol is being talked of in America. The suggestion is to divide the steamer routes into eight squares, each with a patrolling vessel ready always to render aid. Old war-ships are proposed to be utilised for the purpose, England and the United States each contributing two vessels, and Italy, France, Germany and Sweden making up the remainder. The Congress will be applied to for an International Conference for the details.

THE latest news regarding Sir Frederick Roberts is that he does not succeed Lord Wolseley as Adjutant-General of her Majesty's forces, but remains in India and continues to be the Commander-in-Chief for an extended term of two years.

SIRDAR Charat Singh, Sub-Judge of Montgomery—son of John Lawrence's friend Nehal Singh, Chhuchhi, K.C.S.I., who assisted him during the Mutinies—accused of bribery and corruption, has been acquitted of the charges, and transferred at his own request to Hissar.

HERE is progress in agriculture:—

"An exhibit at the last Royal Society's meeting by Mr. D. Morris, of the Royal Gardens, Kew, was of great practical interest; this was a sugar-cane seed and seedlings. As the result of some experiments with self-sown seedlings, it is anticipated that, by cross fertilisation and a careful selection of seedlings, it will now be possible to raise new and improved varieties of sugar cane, and renew the constitutional vigour of plants that have become deteriorated through continuous cultivation by cuttings or slips. Great importance is attached to the subject in sugar-producing countries, as it opens up an entirely new field of investigation in regard to sugar-cane cultivation."

We hope our local Agri-Horticultural Society and planters and practical men will attend to the suggestion.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

ANOTHER plot to murder the Czar! On the night of the 16th, it was discovered that various parts of the Gatschina palace had been undermined.

THE difference in the Ministry has been patched up, it seems. Mr. Smith has been humoured and allowed his own way. He has accordingly been drawn out of his sulks. He has proved the talk horse. Mr. Balfour is a brilliant man and is bound to rise to the highest parliamentary position, but that is not yet—even near. Just now, though he is one of the leading props of the ministry, his influence is not equal to Mr. Smith's. The latter is very far from a fool, but his party value is out of all proportion to his talents. Hence, we suspect, the Irish Secretary has been prevailed upon to give in to him. Possibly, Mr. Smith's great experience has suggested some wise reason for postponing Mr. Balfour's pet measure. Mr. Smith has notified to the Lower House that he would move for a standing order enabling Government to carry over Bills to next session, including the Land Purchase Bill, the Government proceeding with the Licensing, Tithes, Police and Indian Councils Bills. This has elicited a counter notice from Mr. Gladstone that the previous opinion of the Select Committee was a preliminary requisite to the Government proposal.

THE American Senate voted the Silver Bill by forty two against twenty five votes, rejecting all the amendments of the Finance Committee with the exception of the one for removing the bullion redemption clause, which was adopted by a large majority. The Bill so amended by the Senate was presented to the House of Representatives on Wednesday, the 18th. The House was then sitting in Committee, and a motion by Mr. Bland that the Committee should rise to enable the House to discuss the Bill was rejected by a majority of eleven votes. The Senate has made the dollar a unit of value at 412½ grains of standard silver of twenty-five per cent. of gold, and retained free coinage under certain conditions.

THE most important telegraphic news of the week is the conclusion of the convention between England and Germany regarding East and Central Africa. By the stipulation of July 2, 1887, the German sphere of influence was reserved south of the Victoria, England confining herself to the regions north of that line. Mr. Stanley thus describes the German sphere:—

"Its eastern coast is about 450 miles long, it extends from east to west about 950, its western line is the length of the Tanganyika Lake, 303 miles, north and south its central line is over 700 miles long, and the whole embraces approximately 600,000 square miles. On the north it has a lake shore line of 350 miles, to the west it has the Tanganyika, 303 miles, on Nyassa Lake to the south it has a shore line of about 180 miles. By these three spacious lakes she commands the Victoria Lake coast line of 1,300 miles, the Tanganyika coast line of 950 miles, the Nyassa coast line, 950 miles—total, 3,200 miles of lacustrine coast inhabited by tribes accustomed to trade. It is the finest region of Africa; it grows wheat and rice and coffee equally well. Its inhabitants are born traders, and take kindly to labour of any kind. They are industrious, keen at barter, frugal, and, if they are considerably treated, will make the best of subjects. They have been accustomed to commerce for the last sixty years; they are acquainted with white men since 1857, when Burton and Speke discovered the Tanganyika. Though English explorers have made the country known, and eight English mission stations have been planted there since 1876, the British Government meekly surrendered the whole to Germany as her sphere of influence, on the understanding that north of the southern shore of the Nyanza should be reserved for Great Britain."

The previous concessions were Kilima-Njaro, discovered by a missionary in British pay, a tract of the Masailand 20,000 square miles in extent, first explored by a British traveller, and a coast line 200 miles long along the shores of the Victoria Nyanza, also explored by a traveller in British employ.

The terms of the present convention, as telegraphed by the Central News Agency, are:—

"England is to hold Wituland, Stephenson Road, and Uganda; Germany extending her Congo frontier from Tanganyika to the first degree of South Latitude, but reserving to England the right of free transit northward.

Zanzibar cedes the rights of sovereignty to England and Germany conjointly. With the assent of Germany, England assumes exclusive protection of Zanzibar; in return for which concession, England cedes Heligoland to Germany. The islanders living there now are to be



exempted from compulsory Naval and Military service at present. The prevailing customs tariffs are not to be interfered with for a period of twenty years."

Here is a description of the ceded island:—The North Sea, captured "Heligoland (Holy Land), a small island in the North Sea, about 25 miles from Denmark in 1807, situate opposite Læsø, and the Jutland, in 7° 51' E. long. and 54° 11' N. lat. Including the islets, it is about two and two-thirds of a mile in circumference. In 1881 it had a population of about three-fourths of a square mile, with a pure and unrivalled sea-bathing, it is much resorted to as a bathing-place the season. It is a coast-guard and rocket station. The inhabitants of their own, which linguists say is undoubtedly Anglo-Saxon. Lobsters to the number of nearly 30,000 are gathered annually in boxes for local use, or are sent to the continent; they are the average price per lb. varies from 7½d. to 1s. 6d. The average in the skins of wild birds shot around the island. The vital statistics of Heligoland are marvellous; the average life of the inhabitants is stated to be over 63 years. Revenue in 1886, £11,715; Expenditure in 1886, 11,786."

Mr. Stanley, who had been denouncing any concession to Germany, is reported to have highly eulogised the new Anglo-German Convention, which adds a hundred thousand square miles to the British Empire. The Radicals are furious at the cession of Heligoland. The press notices it favourably. Mr. Smith, replying to a question in the Lower House, said that if Parliament rejects the cession of the island, the whole convention collapses.

- THE solar eclipse of Thursday was obscured by clouds in Calcutta. The weather was fine and sky clear at Simla. At Bhagulpore the phenomenon was clearly visible, except in the last or the fourth stage. Father Penderanda had been to Bhagulpore to observe the annular eclipse. At Commillah it was probably seen to better advantage than anywhere in Bengal. At 5 P. M. the cry of *ooloo*, which does duty in that part for the blowing of shells and striking of gongs in these districts, was heard in the air—the signal that the attack on the sun had commenced. The encroachment proceeded, till at 5:57 P. M. the dark orb of the moon had got between the sun and the great luminary, as to leave a luminous rim. This was a most interesting sight which continued for about 3 minutes.

THE Governor-General in Council has "declared every railway administration to be liable from and after the 1st May 1890 to pay every tax which it was lawfully required by or on behalf of any local authority to pay in aid of the funds of such authority during the year ended on the 30th April 1890."

What is this enigma and what the occasion?

IN the case of a railway administered by the Government, the Director-General of Railways has been permitted to be the officer who is to make general rules under sec. 47 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. The Governor-General in Council also delegates to Local Governments the following powers exercisable by himself:—

"(1) Sections 7, 9 and 11.—All the powers and functions of the Governor-General in Council, subject to the proviso that the exercise and discharge of such powers and functions will not entail any expenditure in excess of the general powers of sanction of the Local Government concerned.

(2) Section 48.—All the powers and functions of the Governor-General in Council, only in cases where the railways concerned are under the control of one and the same Local Government.

(3) Section 54.—All the powers and functions of the Governor-General in Council.

(4) Section 55; section 51, clauses (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e); and section 55.—All the powers and functions of the Governor-General in Council.

(5) Section 63.—The power of determining the vernacular languages in which the maximum number of passengers to be carried in each compartment shall be exhibited.

(6) Section 83.—The power of notifying the Magistrates and Police-officers to whom notices of railway accidents are to be given."

It is not an unconditional delegation, though. The powers and functions may be revoked or varied, and the exercise and discharge thereof controlled, as may from time to time be thought fit. Was this special reservation absolutely necessary? We believe, the Viceroy is always competent, with or without any express authority, to supervise every department or to control any action of any local Governor. It is certainly too much to expect the Governor-General in Council to do the minute functions of the sections of the Railway Act quoted above.

But that is the evil of modern legislation in India. The law is made general, all control is vested in one authority, enabling that authority to delegate its powers or sanction byelaws for effectual carrying out of any particular measure. Thus you take power only to delegate or to make subsidiary laws. That only bespeaks lax legislation and tends to careless administration.

THE Nizam's High Court shirks responsibility for trial of European British subject. It has come to the conclusion that it has no jurisdiction over British-born offenders of law. The young English lady who assaulted a native will, therefore, be tried by General Campbell, the English Judge in the Nizam's service, and a Justice of the Peace under the Foreign Jurisdiction Act. Which law will be applied in the case—the English, Indian or Hyderabad?

THE clever writer who furnishes the *Mossul Notes* in the *Indian Planter's Gazette* reports a hunting accident followed by a remarkable rescue from an unexpected quarter. He says:—

"Behar is not likely ever to forget the heroic defence by Mrs. Fred. Needham of her husband after he had been bowled insensible off his pony by a gang of *lathi*-armed cowards, nor will Cooch Behar ever cease to boast of Mrs. Evans Gordon's plucky encounter with a tiger. But we have now to chronicle a further act of cool bravery on the part of a Lower Bengal lady which is certainly worthy of being handed down to posterity. Almost all residents in Behar and Bengal are well acquainted with that excellent old sportsman and planter, Mr. Morey. About three weeks ago he was out pigsticking accompanied by his daughter, when a pig suddenly sprang from the jungle, and charging Mr. Morey sent horse and man a terrible crumpler, the brute proceeding to make havoc of his fallen foes. But scarcely was Mr. Morey down ere his brave girl was on *terra-firma* too, and unhesitatingly rushed to place herself between the boar and her insensible father. Unarmed as she was, it is horrible to think what the result might have been, but fortunately she had with her a large greyhound who went straight for the boar, drew his attention away and finally drove him off. Miss Morey then running to the nearest pool and filling her *topce* with water managed to bring her father round. The natives instead of assisting came up only when all danger was over. Hats off boys to Miss Morey!"

And may God bless her! we say with all our heart. Miss Morey is a heroine beyond question, but, above all, she has proved herself a true daughter—a treasure worth half a dozen indifferent or *insouciant* sons. We hope Mr. Morey adequately appreciates his possession. Whatever may be urged in favour of the Salic law in royal houses, how hideous appears the law and custom of primogeniture, in the face of such deeds of high enterprise by tender woman! It would be a fitting response worthy of the parent of the heroine, if Mr. Morey bequeathed the bulk of his property to her. The honour of the incident would then be complete.

ON the last *Eed* there was a large gathering of all the Mussulmans in England at the only mosque in Great Britain, and probably in all Western Europe, namely, that erected with Indian subscriptions at Woking. We read:—

"A considerable number of Mahomedan gentlemen went from London, Cambridge, and other places to the Oriental Institute at Woking, on the 21st ultimo, in order to celebrate the *Eed* festival at the mosque, which is in connection with the institute. After the conclusion of the religious ceremonies, which were conducted by some of the Mahomedan residents at the institute, the members of that creed present on the occasion whether belonging to the Sunni, Shiah, or other Mahomedan persuasion, embraced one another fraternally and adjourned to the meal that marks the conclusion of the month of Ramzan, during which 'the faithful' are obliged to fast."

That was indeed a most interesting ceremony, showing the advance of toleration. Fifty years ago, the mob with the cry of No Turk would have razed the mosque to the ground. Are these all Oriental Mussalmans or are some of them native converts—men like the Whites and Greens of Madras who have exchanged Christianity for Islam?

It would be interesting to have a list of these gentlemen, giving the names, addresses, nationality, persuasion, position, of each. Such a list would be a good indication of the progress in secular education and Western enterprise made severally by the Eastern nations and communities whose representatives were thus assembled at Dr. Leitner's mosque.

The incident is not without political value. England is thus annexed by Islam—theologically, a fact which constitutes a religious claim on the loyalty of Mussulman residents.

POOR Time is in a fix—on all sides. Steam first, and Electricity afterwards, annihilated him, in the phrase of the day. If the former

reduced the old Conqueror to an Elba Napoleon, the latter shut him up in the distant island-prison of St. Helena as it were. But a worse fate remained, and now poor Chronos is little better than a crone. The men of science in especial are his worst enemy. They are continually pushing him into a corner. And now the very traders snap their fingers at him, defying him to do his worst. Articles on which Time has exercised his characteristic debasing and deforming powers are now-a-days easily touched up and habitually passed for brand-new. His influence came thus to be confined to the one trade in which he was a real benefactor—the wine trade. But alas! he has been dislodged from his last stronghold—deprived of his remaining *protégés*. The wine-merchants are now prepared to do without him. The silent action of years which so improves the quality of their goods, they will obtain in a trice, and they no longer mean to wait upon the pleasure or convenience of the old warrior armed with the scythe and holding an hour glass.

LIGHT has been found to age new wines. The method is to expose layers of young wine, in vessels covered with colored glass, to the direct action of the sun, which considerably improves both the flavour and the quality.

*Apropos* of our remark of last week on head-dresses, we pick up the following:—

"A member of the Allahabad Rifle Volunteers, on taking down his helmet a few days ago, found that a pair of sparrows had built a very comfortable nest therein, and had raised a brood of young ones!"

So all nature is in a conspiracy of derision against the ugly *topce*! The wily sparrows! what practical jokers are they!

IN connection with the New World Exhibition of 1892, Mr. Barnum has started an exhibition idea of his own, calculating the income at a million of money. He advises the Fair Committee to obtain of the Egyptian Government, the loan of, and exhibit, the mummified corpse of Rameses II., the Pharaoh of the Exodus, with that of his daughter, the saviour of Moses, and other less distinguished members of the royal Egyptian family of that era. He thus speaks of his idea:—

"Think of the stupendousness of the incongruity, to exhibit to the people of the nineteenth century, in a country not discovered until 2,000 or 3,000 years after his death the corpse of the king of whom we have the earliest record! Consider, too, that that corpse is so perfectly preserved after thousands of years in the tomb that its features are almost perfect; so perfect that every man, woman and child who looks upon the mummy may know the countenance of the despot who exerted so great an influence upon the history of the world."

We confess it is a capital idea. It is easy to deride, but Mr. Phineas Barnum is indeed a man of genius who would have distinguished himself in almost any sphere of action to which he had chosen to devote himself.

WE copy the following from the *Indian Planters' Gazette*:—

"We hear that 'strong efforts are being made in New Zealand by a confederacy of capitalists to push the trade of horses, frozen meat and preserved fruits in India, and that an experienced man in the matter will shortly visit the Madras and Bengal Presidencies to see what chance there is of opening up a market for New Zealand and Australian produce generally."

Horses, frozen meat and preserved fruits may be a delectable *olla podrida* in Southern Pacific, in the neighbourhood of the Fiji Islands, and possibly welcome to some heroic stomachs nearer home. But, as a rule, we fear it is not the thing for palates used to delicacies like rice and curry and cutlets. As regards carnivorous Young India, he will have none of it. And for India in general, neither Hindus nor Mussulmans are hippophagi.

BUT what are the hippophagi of New Zealand before the anthropophagi of New England! Go-ahead America has developed a new industry. It is said—

"Ear-makers in New York confine themselves to their own speciality. Ears are frequently lost in America in personal fisticuffs, for there is nothing your American enjoys more than a good chew at the ear of an antagonist, not to speak of the chance to slash it off with a bowie knife or a razor. Ears are also frequently lost through frost-bite. The restorer models them cleverly out of plaster of Paris, taking the remaining ear as a copy, then makes them from a composition of wax, India-rubber, and a peculiar sort of gum, and affixes them by rubber suction to the side of the head."

What! the American enjoys nothing so much as a good chew at the ear of a man! We hope the Americans who come to this country

leave their peculiar taste in the West Indies or in Japan, just as Europeans used, as was said, to leave their conscience at the Cape.

As for the ear-makers, they are an ingenious set. How wondrously they make their bogus organs of wax, India rubber and gum! Only we are afraid these are rather too melting ears which would dissolve even before a tale of pity was recited. And, above all, how they affix them! But the question is, can you pull them—the ears, that is, not the makers?

THE banished Yaksha in Kalidasa's beautiful poem beseeches a passing cloud to convey a verbal message of love and fidelity for him to his lonely wife at home far off. Modern lovers have the benefit of the handy medium of writing through the post. Now they have to hand a mode of exchanging their thoughts even more to the purpose, because more direct—in Mr. Edison's great discovery. Besides, valuable as writing is, toward this and other ends, it is after all an art confined, even in these days of enlightenment, to a minority. Accordingly, correspondence through the Post Office is a luxury from which the many are debarred. Not so the phonograph. It is the sovereign resource for the masses—a truly universal boon.

Heaven first taught letters for some wretch's aid,  
Some banish'd lover, or some captive maid;  
They live, they speak, they breathe what love inspires,  
Warm from the soul, and faithful to its fires,  
The virgin's wish without her fears impart,  
Excuse the blush, and pour out all the heart,  
Speed the soft intercourse from soul to soul,  
And waft a sigh from Indus to the pole.

Great as is the invention of letters, all that is the language of exaggeration in respect of it as a channel of inter-communication between soul and soul. What is predicated of it, however, is strictly true of the new American instrument. We are glad to find that not only individuals but nations have already begun to make the most of it in this behalf.

The Mexican Post office is utilising the phonograph to the rescue and relief of the illiterate:—

"The Mexican Post Office authorities have taken up the phonograph and placed it at the disposal of the public at a charge of six to twelve centimes the 1,000 words. The intending user, having paid the fee, speaks into the machine, after which the cylinder is packed in a case and forwarded to the persons addressed, who receives, besides, from the Post Office, a phonograph which repeats the message, and is then returned to the office. As a large proportion of Mexicans have not yet solved the mystery of reading and writing, this method of corresponding is found very serviceable."

That ought to shame the United States, to say nothing of Western Europe.

WE rejoice to hear the best reports of the Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad's health. He has been steadily, if slowly, improving, until he is now in a condition to dictate and sign simple letters. Last week, such a letter was received in Calcutta.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1890.

### THE EXTENSION OF HONORARY ADMINISTRATION IN BENGAL.

SIR Steuart Bayley's scheme of enlarging the powers of Honorary Magisterial Benches is receiving practical application. Independent Benches are being constituted to supersede the Benches where the Honorary Magistrates sit with a stipendiary Magistrate. The idea is an excellent one which will afford some relief to the overworked official staff, while it will tend to train up a body of non-official auxiliaries in the Administration who might be left to deal with the less onerous portion of magisterial duty. The Government are wisely cautious in not vesting all present Honorary Magistrates with higher powers. We fully approve of this as the best guarantee against future failure. We even go farther, and think the

present departure a good occasion for a careful revision of the lists of Honoraries. Among them there are not a few who should never have been appointed as not fulfilling the requisite intellectual standard. There are others who have no time or take no interest, and yet do not resign, nor have been compelled to resign. With an initial overhauling of the existing Honorary staff, the experiment of Sir Steuart Bayley would have a better chance of success. As it is, we would not be surprised if there occurred failures here and there.

The course followed in the constitution of the Independent Benches in the metropolitan district of the 24-Pergunnahs, deserves wider application. It makes a discreet advance upon the present system, with sufficient safeguards against miscarriage. If only care is taken in fixing the rotation of the Honorary Magistrates with due regard to their qualifications, and none but simple cases are made over to them, at any rate in the beginning, the new experiment is very likely to be a success. These precautions will be imperative at the outset, and the working of these Independent Benches will require close watching by, and sympathetic attention from, the district officers.

Under orders of the Government of Bengal dated the 22nd April last, and at the recommendation of the Presidency Commissioner, the Regular Benches of Alipur, Sealdah, Barranagar, Dum-Dum, Bussirhat, Baraset, Barrackpore, Diamond Harbour and Naihati have been converted into Independent Benches with the powers of a Magistrate of the 2nd class as well as with power to try summarily the offences mentioned in Section 261 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Any two of the Honorary Magistrates attached to these Benches may in future form an Independent Bench, and exercise 2nd class powers, although personally they may be vested with only 3rd class powers. In this arrangement we find exemplified the wise caution with which the Government, as we have already observed above, are giving effect to the measure. It is necessary that the present Honorary Magistrates should go through a period of training before they are vested with 2nd class powers personally. Of course in saying this, we make an exception in favor of those, if any, who by their legal knowledge and past career, may have now sufficient confidence with the authorities to be vested with the higher powers. As a rule, however, the Honorary Magistrates in the interior of the country have yet to prove their desert. We know of some who cannot but prove failures, unless they have the advantage of sitting with better qualified colleagues. In any case, it is discreet that at the beginning of the experiment, in the generality of cases, the Benches rather than the officers individually should be vested with the increased powers.

These Benches will try only such cases as may be made over to them by the Magistrate who will receive the complaints, and fix the rotation of the Honorary Magistrates. Cases likely to be of a protracted character will not ordinarily be made over to these Benches by the Magistrate. Their work will thus be light and simple, and it is hoped they may do credit to themselves and to the authorities appointing them.

#### THE INDIAN POLICE ADMINISTRATION.

THE earnest attention of the Government has at last been directed to the subject of police administration. This is in fulfilment of the promise made by Lord Dufferin on the eve of his departure. There are grave defects in that administration, and they are ad-

mitted by all the Local Governments. The only differences that exist are naturally about the remedies. We are not at all sorry that the recommendation of our Local Government for the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry has not found favour with the Government of India. The faults in the police system are sufficiently known to require an elaborate investigation. The Public Service Commission in its enquiries into this special department has moreover left on record its views as to the lines on which the police service should be reformed. The Government of India have sufficient information on the subject. The necessity for early reform is also recognised. The question, however, has to be viewed with reference to financial considerations, and it is here that the practical solution of the question presents the least hopeful aspect.

Apart, however, from the financial issues involved in the subject, the administration of the police is susceptible of improvement in other ways. Although we believe there will be no satisfactory settlement of the question unless the Government were prepared to provide a far more liberal scale of expenditure for the police service, nevertheless the police is but a limb of the magistracy, and the action of the magistrates must have its effects upon the working of the police. The broad question as viewed by the Government is, How efficiently to control crime? Towards this, the agency of a capable and trustworthy police is of course of the last importance. But the administration of the criminal law by the magistracy and the judiciary must also be an important factor in the problem. In the Government despatches lately published on the subject, all the various causes leading to the present unsatisfactory state of things in regard to the control of crime are referred to, or discussed more or less fully, and the Local Governments are invited to cooperate with the Government of India towards more effectually dealing with crime and criminals.

Of the causes other than the incapacity and untrustworthiness of the police accounting for the present lax control of crime, the following are assigned by the local Governments:—

1. The jury system is unsuitable.
2. The native magistracy is weak, and the Subordinate Executive Service has very few Europeans in it.
3. The drafts made from the Civil Service for Burmah, Assam, &c., have seriously crippled the administration.
4. The delay in disposing of criminal cases is inordinate.
5. The district magistrates exercise imperfect supervision over the subordinate magistrates.

These statements are generally accepted by the Government of India, with more or less reservations. The information before them as to the working of the jury system justifies, it is said, a more detailed enquiry into the manner in which it has operated, or at all events as to the extent to which it has been applied. As to the question of the adequacy of the judicial staff, the Governor-General in Council refers to a statement given in the Secretary of State's despatch on the proposal of the Public Service Commission which gives the number of cadre posts which are considered to be necessary for the administration. It is further stated to be unlikely that there will in future be any such disturbing influence as the annexation of Burmah to lead to the drain of civil officers from Bengal to other parts of India. The remarks

of the Government of India on the shortcomings of the Subordinate Executive Service are of great importance. It is said :—"The Governor-General in Council does not doubt that the absence of Europeans in the Subordinate Executive Service has not been without effect on the criminal administration, and he hopes that the present defects in the service may be to some extent remedied by the action to be taken on paragraph 15 of Home Department letter No. 302 dated 14th February 1890. While, however, the Government of India hope that these orders will not be without effect, the fact must be recognised that the Provincial Service will always be mainly composed of natives of India, and that the proper remedy for the defects in the procedure of subordinate magistrates is to secure that their work shall be regularly supervised by the Magistrate of the District and experienced Sub-divisional Magistrates." The tendency to delay and adjournments, favoring the escape of criminals, as well as the further tendency to impose inadequate punishments should also be checked. The Government of India also refer to the necessity of making better provision for the punishment of habitual offenders and for the improvement of the agency engaged in prosecuting cases in Magisterial Courts.

We cannot dismiss the subject without saying that the Government of India betray an evident natural bias, imbibed from too implicit a reliance on the reports of their European subordinates, against the native *personnel* of local and subdivisional administration. Whatever the amount of that bias, it has been expressed with a temper worthy of the Supreme Government. Still any prejudice in such a quarter on such a subject is a serious thing, detrimental not only to individual servants of the state but to the efficiency of administration. There is certainly another view of the matter, and the class of public servants affected ought not to be remiss in bringing it forward. We hope on another occasion to lay our view before the public.

#### REGISTRATION OF MAHOMEDAN MARRIAGE.

NAWAB Abdool Luteef Bahadoor, although he has not interest enough with Government, Local and Imperial, to be appointed to the Viceroy's Council for making Laws and Regulations, is unquestionably the most distinguished public man among the Mahomedans in Bengal, and the leading representative of that community. His services to that community during a protracted career have been repeatedly acknowledged by Government. And, although he has now some years retired from his professional work on pension, he is still at his public labours of love, and unremitting in his exertions for the benefit of his fellow Mahomedans. Not the least of his cares in that behalf has been devoted to the question of marriage, that important bond of society and factor in domestic peace and happiness. For thirty years, the Nawab has laboured on this field, with varying degrees of success, but with unvarying tenacity of purpose which was bound to be successful in the end. His first effort in this connection was in endeavouring to retain the old Kazis for the registration of marriages at the time that the abolition of that office was under consideration of Government. Although the Nawab induced the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being, Sir John Peter Grant, to accept the suggestion and urge it upon the consideration of the Supreme Government, he failed then in his endeavours and Act XI

of 1864 was passed abolishing Kazis root and branch. The apprehended results followed. The number of offences against marriage began to increase, especially in the Eastern and Mahomedan Districts of Bengal, to such an extent and the number of convictions for the same began to be proportionately so small, that the attention of Government was arrested and enquiries instituted which shewed that the absence of any authorised system of registration for Mahomedan marriages and divorces was at the bottom of the mischief. The first attempt to tackle with the difficulty was that of Syud Azimuddin Hussein Khan, who obtained the permission of Sir Cecil Beadon to introduce into the Bengal Council a Bill for the appointment of registrars for Mahomedan marriages. The Syud, however, committed the mistake of making the registration compulsory, which raised such a howl from different quarters that the measure had to be abandoned. In 1869, the grievances of the Mahomedan community, due to the want of facilities for keeping proper record of marriages and divorces, were brought prominently to public notice by the Nawab during the discussion of his paper on the Mahomedan Law of Marriage and Dower before the Bengal Social Science Association. Continued hammering at last attracted the attention of Sir George Campbell, who ordered the preparation of a voluntary Registration Bill, that being the cardinal point of difference between the proposals of the Nawab and those of Syud Azimuddin and the party identified with him. The Bill was brought in by Mr. Dampier in November 1873, and it progressed well through the usual stages, the Nawab (then a member of the Council) taking, as might be expected, a prominent part therein, and the Bill was ripe for final passing when the Nawab vacated his seat in the Council by efflux of time. By a strange coincidence, attempts were immediately made, and a great deal of wire-pulling resorted to in order to prevent the passing of the Bill on the ground that it would interfere with the Mahomedan religion. It does not speak much for the political honesty of the instigators of this agitation, when we recollect that they were the very men identified with the previous abortive compulsory Bill. Government had no difficulty in seeing through the real character of the agitation, and the Bill was finally passed in November 1875, and it became law as Act No. I. of 1876.

Since its passing, the measure has had to struggle against various adverse influences. The party who pose as the party of reform amongst the Mahomedans have been always incessantly endeavouring to introduce a compulsory system running after a false imitation of the Frankish system. The Registration Department, which stands in a step-fatherly position to the Mahomedan Registration, would only be too glad for such a huge addition of grist to the mill. The Mahomedan registrars themselves would be only too delighted to make such a prodigious addition to their work and their income. Accordingly, from time to time, serious assaults have been delivered against the present voluntary system, and it has taxed all the courage and skill of the Nawab to defend the same. Not unoften he has carried the assault into the enemy's camp and bettered his position thereby. The representative Committee appointed by the Bengal Government to consider the Mahomedan Registration question, reporting in 1881, unanimously condemned in indignant terms any form of compulsory registration. The "reform party" who would be only too glad to prove the Nawab wrong in any-



thing, returned to the charge, alleging the voluntary system to have failed and suggesting a compulsory system of registration of Mahomedan marriages and divorces, subject to a pecuniary penalty for non-registration as in the case of births and deaths. In a well-reasoned Minute dated the 21st October last, supported by merciless logic and convincing facts and figures, the Nawab has combated the assertions of his opponents, given the true history of the measure from its inception, upheld the necessity of the voluntary as against the compulsory system, demonstrated that the present Act is in no sense a failure, but pregnant with the best hopes for progress, and suggested certain measures for the better working of the Act. The Minute has been printed for private circulation, and it would do the rising generation of Mahomedans good to study the same as forming an important chapter of their social history and as a model of public controversy. We are glad to find that the Nawab has again vindicated the usefulness and inviolability of the voluntary Registration Act, as appears from the following communication:—

"From Sir John Edgar, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.,  
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal,  
To Nawab Abdool Lutef Bahadur, C. I. E.,

Dated Ranchi, the 20th March, 1890.  
With reference to your letter dated the 21st October 1889, I am directed to convey the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor for your interesting and valuable Memorandum therewith forwarded, regarding the working of the Mahomedan Marriage Registration Act I. (B.C.) of 1876.

2. I am at the same time to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has decided not to consider any proposal for compulsion in the matter of registration of Mahomedan Marriages and Divorces whether such compulsion be direct or indirect, unless he is satisfied that the measure would be favorably received by all classes of Mahomedans. On the other hand the suggestions made in the Memorandum, especially those contained in paras : 31, 34, 37, 38, 39, and 42 will receive careful attention."

In resisting the proposals for compulsory registration, the Nawab is fighting the battle of all Indian communities. In these impecunious days, from a compulsory marriage registration Act to a marriage tax is but a step, and would be the signal for the so-called reformers to agitate for the prevention of registration for early marriages, plural marriages and so forth. The country in such a case would be disturbed from one end to the other, and serious administrative difficulties created.

#### MOURNING IN A TEMPLE OF PLEASURE.

They fall or are plucked and then they are trodden under unheeding foot or they lie and wither and are buried in the dust whereto they are kin—who knows, who marks, who cares? Who cares for the Fallen Leaves of society—even though some of them are more useful and beautiful than many on the tree? Least of all is the concern for the emphatically fallen—the fallen leaves of fallen plants—the dropped leaves or even flowers of dropped-down creepers. Who will mourn for our sister of the Temple of Pleasure who is gone—

Fallen, fallen, fallen, fallen?

A Temple indeed! A heathen pagoda, to be sure! a sanctuary of Satan! As for the pleasure, it must be an unhallowed enjoyment—an improper pleasure. And, after delivering this appropriate sentiment, Mrs. Grundy settles herself in her easy chair, draws close around her her cloak of virtue, and vigorously fans her face livid with the strain of assuming her easy look of piety and propriety.

Well done, Mrs. Grundy! your sentiments are excellently good. But perhaps such a capital speech is too much for your poor nerves. Perhaps you require some repose after that, and, perhaps, some sort of pick-me-up too. No! that word is too profane for ladies' ears, we beg your pardon. We understand you. Here you are—the smelling salts. You forget, Mrs. Grundy, the *punkab* is overhead and in full swing, don't tire your delicate hand with fanning.

Do you require the thermantidote? *Bearab!*—No? Don't care for it? All right. No 'thanks,' please, only try to snatch a bit of a nap while we record a bit of a social event which you, Mrs. Grundy, need not trouble yourself to know about.

Death has plucked away another "star" from the native stage. The heroine of the "Star" boards—Srimati Kiran Kumari—is dead, having fallen a victim to the fell epidemic of smallpox of late raging in the city. The dead actress was a rare flower of her profession—another young genius who promised to burst before long into full bloom and splendour. In so young an age, she betrayed extraordinary talents. To natural versatility and a clear fancy, she joined a good fund of vivacity and a nervous pluck that removed every obstacle before her. On the retirement of the former heroine from the stage—an actress of unrivalled ability, she was chosen out, while yet very young and in the initial stage of her apprenticeship, to fill the vacancy, to the mortification of the veteran lady artistes who had all hoped for the prize promotion. It was a nervous step in all conscience for both the veteran manager and the young novice. But the trepidation was all over with the first night of the experiment. The sudden and irrevocable resignation of the lady "Star" had plunged the manager into a sea of despair, and the wreck of his bark on the rocks ahead of incompetency seemed imminent. Indeed, the success of the rather bold experiment averted what may be called a financial disaster. The young novice proved to be the real pole-star of the manager's hope to save his theatre from the impending peril. That very night she re-assured all hopes and belied all fears. The test she was put to was trying for the nerves of any actor or actress in the world. She had to interpret *Chaitanya*, perhaps the most difficult of Bengalee dramatic characters, and in her delineation of it she proved herself thoroughly deserving of the exalted lift, if not equal to her glorious predecessor. Ever since she was fixed to fill all the title rôles and she filled them with equal credit. Her great drawback in the acting of these old parts was the brilliant triumphs of her predecessor, the glowing tints of which could never vanish or fade from the memories of her audiences. She knew this and wisely contented herself by imitating the great actress even at the risk of being considered affected and artificial—the inevitable result of all imitations. But soon the day of her true appreciation came. The new drama of the realistic school was placed upon the boards, the title rôle being allotted to her. As *Sarala* she might be said to have made her real *débüt*, and as *Sarala*, it is enough to say, she can never be forgotten, for, even now, at the mention of the picture, many a playgoers' eyes must glisten with a tear. In short, if her imitations were wonderful, her own work was simply marvellous, and *Sarala* proved the greatest of financial successes to her employers. The Star Theatre has sustained in her death, occurring so soon after that of the inimitable "Bel Baboo," a loss which is beyond repair, unless indeed the old heroine reappears on its boards, while the lovers of the Native drama have lost one who, perhaps born to be society's curse, wonderfully converted herself into a boon which afforded them very high and healthy intellectual treats.

S.

#### KILLING IN PLAY.

Narail, June 17, 1890.

At present the townlet of Narail is in great excitement. It has been of late the scene of a tragic occurrence. It came to pass in the following way. On last Friday morning, some of our boys, confined within doors on a rainy day, betook themselves to card-playing, as a means of whiling away their time. There was, as usual, a lot of idle spectators around. One Shuklal Ghosh, a boy of 18 or 20, son of the late Baboo Wooma Charan Ghosh, was among the number. This jolly blade of a young Bengali was cutting jokes and mischievously telling each other's "hands." This annoyed all, but particularly roused the anger of one of his opposing set in the game. This was Ramlal Rakhit, who, now and then, threatened Shuklal with his displeasure. The boy was not to be stopped, however; he went on as before with fatal pertinacity. Ramlal grew furious. He forbade the imp of mischief again and

again, but it was "crying only in the woods." At last, losing all patience, Ramlal suddenly got up, darted to the next room and produced a goodly stick capped with a steel ball. Gentle reader, it is needless to say what followed next—the stick fell and knocked the poor boy on the head. It was a thoughtless blow resulting in fracture. The boy died the next day at 3 A.M., for sheer want of proper treatment. Serious as was the case, had proper care been taken, he might have survived this accident.

Now, while all were engaged with the boy, our hero Ramlal took to his heels, and no one knows, as yet, his whereabouts. Wherever he may be, whether in British dominion or in alien lands, he will be brought to justice. I only pray that when the time comes, justice may be tempered with Mercy. It is evident from the above that the act was done in a fit of juvenile passion and not of malice aforethought. I hope and trust that the public will not be remiss in coming forward to save the poor boy from unnecessary severity.

A. MITRA.

### "THE LOST RING."

Carry gentle reader your imagination a century and a half back, when the sun of Clive's genius was just rising in the horizon of fame and when the sky of India was overcast with clouds. In Bengal the able and prudent Ali Verdi had just died and the sceptre had passed to his "spoiled grand child." At that time lived in the busiest quarter of the town of Moorshedabad, a Mukim-cleet to their Highnesses, the Nawabs. He was a man popularly believed to be rich as Cræsus and his articles were quite objects of admiration and boast in the zenanas. No wonder that reports of his wealth reached the ears of the ruling Nawab, leading the Prince to covet in secret the subject's colossal fortune. Only the too alarming news of Clive *auté portus* gave him far other occupation and he therefore waived his intentions for the present. But soon an opportunity presented itself. One of the Nawab's Secretaries had taken a Christian lady for his wife, and she was very handsome. Then it followed as a natural sequence that offices and honours were lavished on the husband for the very reason that Siraj became a slave to the captivating charms of the lady. From what we have said it is evident that she had a strong hold on the Nawab's mind. To her were now turned his eyes and he bethought himself of making her his instrument in carrying out his long-cherished aims.

One gay summer evening, a richly liveried chaise of four-in-hand, apparently of the Prince's stable, pulled up before the gates of the Mukim Bahadur. In the twinkling of an eye, a man in military costume alighted and helped a lady, a perfect *blondé* of resplendent beauty, out of the carriage. In swan-like gait the lady, hand-in-hand with the man in whiskers, began ascending the steps of the grand staircase in front of the building. The Mukim in great hurry and excitement ran out to meet the happy pair half way down. There making a low and prostrate *salaam*, peculiar only among the Orientals, he escorted the twain round the whole edifice and conducted them into the great hall, where lay temptingly displayed the hoarded "wealth of Ormuz and of Ind." To give an adequate idea, or to attempt it even, of the splendour of that hall would beggar even a bold poet's imagination. They, after closely inspecting the whole collection for many hours, made purchases of *bijouterie* of no considerable price, and left the premises much gratified and in excellent humour, after promising to call again shortly. The Mukim was much honoured by their short visit and was quite out of himself with joy. It is quite ludicrous to state that the Mukim in his grey hairs was deluded by the sweet smiles of rosy lips—alas! the delusive smile that had once ruined old Adam and brought woe to this earth. In his ecstasies he forgot to make an inventory of the articles sold that evening.

O how soon time fleets away! Months followed months in rapid succession. It is six months since, one evening the Mukim suddenly found himself to be the happiest mortal under the sun. But as Dame Nature has enunciated the great laws of action and reaction and as every act has its counterpart, so obeying Nature's behest, grief follows joy as truly as joy succeeds sorrow. One day the Mukim found to his utter confusion and dismay that a diamond-ring "of the purest ray serene," the best of the lot, was missing. O what a fall! O what a change! From the happiest of mortals enjoying ethereal bliss, he began to consider himself to be the most miserable and unfortunate of created beings. He minutely searched all the corners but to no purpose. The city *Kotwal* was immediately communicated with. It now furnished the tavern with idle gossiping and wild conjectures for the whole week following, and the story getting distorted from mouth to mouth swelled to enormous proportions till at last the repeaters themselves gave it up apparently in disgust of repeating it too often and as quite stale. As goes the proverb "after storm comes a lull," so it happened now. People began to forget all about it, in process of time. But meanwhile the *Kotwal* was not idle. He had employed many smart hands to trace the whereabouts of the culprits and to bring them, if possible, to justice. One of these, a Feringhee, and more shrewd than the rest, had hit upon a capital idea. He began his

researches in quarters where success was least possible or dreamt of. He well disguised himself as a Mogul, made friends with the eunuch guards of the Nawab's Harem. It so happened one day that he picked up some stray hints from the unguarded chat of these quite innocent and unsuspecting creatures. He more than ever persevered in those quarters with redoubled energy and vigilance, until his labours were completely crowned with success and he was chiefly instrumental in unravelling one of the most enshrouded mysteries that is ever recorded. A decent looking Mogul *chuprasi*, one bright morn, ushered himself into the arcana of our well-known happy pair, who were lounging listlessly in their drawing-room, a perfect fairy land in miniature. He making low *salaams* presented them a bill, in the name of such and such Mukim for payment. A moment's examination of the contents made them stagger back a little and stare at each other. A silence prevailed. It was long before they recovered from their utter surprise. In the meantime, the *quasi* Mogul was surveying them from the corner of his eyes. His look met theirs which made them draw back again. After they had recovered sufficiently, the lady with an arch smile playing on her lips, slowly approaching the detective, took a ring out of her fair fingers, and handed the same to the supposed *chuprasi* remarking that, as they were not apprised of its high price till very then, they have no mind to retain it any more. The man snatching the ring—the identical "lost ring"—returned back, in great triumph, to his master the *kotwal*. The latter returned the same to its owner, pressing him, however, to prosecute the parties before a court of justice. He with his characteristic timidity stubbornly refused to comply. In the event of his consenting, it is doubtful whether he would have been able to bring the culprits to grief, for the apparent reason of the law being in their own hands, and moreover he would have to run a considerable risk of losing the Prince's favour.

Now that our hero did not push his case further, it but behoves us we shall drop the curtain here. Thus ended the story of the mysterious lost ring.

We cannot well conclude this without unconditionally apologising to those of our readers of the fair sex who may consider their susceptibilities wounded and their weak vanities brought to light in bold relief by the present authentic narrative.

Next must we apologise to those who may be deluded by the title of the story—"The Lost Ring"—and who may expect to find in it something akin to the immortal story of the Lost Ring of the towering genius of Kalidasa. Last we must ask pardon of the shade of Kalidasa, for the seeming presumption involved in our title.

M.

## An Old Official Paper.

### ACQUISITION OF SURPLUS LAND FOR RESALE TO PAY THE COST OF NEW STREETS.

From the Secretary to the Commissioners for the improvement of the Town of Calcutta.

To W. Grey, Esq., Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Dated Calcutta, 13th March, 1856.

[Concluded from page 274.]

15th. The portions of land marked G and C belong to the same proprietors. After the verdict obtained in the case of the portion F on the 23rd March, the Commissioners instructed their Solicitors to serve notice for purchase of the portion G, 200 feet in width, but offering to take the whole of the remainder of the plot to the West. Further proceedings however were not taken till the receipt of the Government letter of the 8th of June No. 1023 conveying the sanction of His Honor to the purchase of the further portions C and D, for the purposes of the Gas Company, the portion C, belonging to the same proprietor, as the portion G, the Commissioners directed their Solicitors to issue a fresh notice including so much of G as is tinted on the plan 200 feet wide, and referred to in the reference, with the portion C, so as to proceed with the whole case under one process.

The notice was accordingly served on the 27th June 1855, a reply was received from the proprietor's Solicitors dated 12th July naming Rupees 300 per Cottah, as the price at which they were willing to dispose of the land, and intimating that in the event of the Commissioners declining to give this rate, they desired that the settlement of compensation should be referred to a Special Jury. On the 29th September the Commissioners' Solicitors offered Rupees 175 per Cottah, for the whole of the land, assuming the average of the whole between Rupees 150 and Rupees 200 for different portions, no reply being received, the warrant to the Sheriff for summoning a Special Jury was delivered on the 3rd October, and afterwards withdrawn in consequence of the interference of the Doorga Poojah Holidays.

A letter was received from the proprietor's Solicitors on the 4th

October offering to sell to the Commissioners the portion of land (C) at Rupees 175 per Cottah, but they could not accept that offer as regarded (G); on the 2nd November steps were taken by the Commissioners' Solicitors for the summoning of a Special Jury, and on the 7th November the Surveyor, as the representative of the Commissioners, attended at the office of the Sheriff, with the representatives of the opposite party, to agree upon eight Jurymen for the purpose of the enquiry, this having been done, a meeting of the Special Jury was arranged for the 17th November, and afterwards postponed for their convenience till the 24th; a further postponement for the convenience of the Sheriff took place to the 12th December, when the verdict of the Jury was given, fixing the price of the whole of the land at Rupees 175 per Cottah, this being the exact amount which had been offered by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners on receipt of this information, immediately directed their Solicitors to take the necessary steps for obtaining possession, and on the 19th paid Rupees 160 fees for the Special Jury in the case. On the 26th of December the Commissioners were informed by the proprietor's Solicitors, that it was intended to move the Court to quash the inquisition before the Sheriff on three grounds, as will be seen by the annexed copy of the judgment delivered in the case, as published in the *Hurkaru* newspaper dated 13th February 1856 (reproduced in *Reis and Rayyet* of the 31st May, 1890), the chief of which however appeared to be, that no such consent as is contemplated in the Act had been given by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and also that no such consent could be regularly given, inasmuch as the Commissioners in taking these lands, for the purpose of dealing as they proposed to deal with them, were acting in excess of the powers vested in them by the Acts.

On the 8th February 1856 the cause came on in the Supreme Court when the Chief Justice delivered the judgment of which a copy is annexed, by which the rule *Nisi* was made absolute with costs, in other words the inquisition of the Sheriff was quashed, and the whole proceeding declared informal *ab initio* and the right of taking land in excess of the bare width of the street denied.

16th. It is to this fact, in connection with the other cases which the Commissioners have had in hand,—but more especially as to the bearing of the decision on Municipal Improvements generally, that I am directed to draw the special attention of His Honor, and to solicit his interference to endeavour to amend the Law.

17th. It is with respect to the carrying out the instructions of Government contained in the correspondence noted in the margin (Commissioners' letter No. 1872 dated 1st June 1855,) for the purchase of the remaining portions of land required for the Gas Company's works that the Commissioners are now chiefly anxious, in prosecuting this new thoroughfare, the further portion C is still required for this purpose (Government letter No. 1023 dated 8th June 1855); but with the recent decision of the Supreme Court before them, the Commissioners do not feel justified in again endeavouring to procure this, or any other land, by putting in force the powers of the Act 22 of 1847, which has proved so utterly insufficient for the purpose; they desire therefore to lay the whole case before Government in its present position with a view to immediate and radical correction.

18th. So far as the proposed street is concerned the Commissioners believe, with the present law which is said to prohibit the taking of a frontage for any purpose whatever, that any further attempt will be a useless waste of the public funds, and they have therefore directed their Solicitors to stop all further proceedings pending the passing of a new Act.

19th. This then is the result of the endeavours of the Commissioners extending from the 28th December 1854 to February 1856 upwards of a year, during that period the Act 22 of 1847 has been put in force, in all the various modes of procedure of which it is susceptible, viz., by submission to petty Jury, special Jury, arbitration, and amicable negotiation. In these several cases, (the statement of which is abbreviated as much as possible) the amount of labour has been very considerable, and the delay arising from various causes incidental to the peculiar tenure of property in this country, and more especially to the operation of this Act 22 of 1847, has been productive of the most serious vexation and annoyance. A large portion of the time of the Commissioners and of their officers, has been given to the several cases, the Surveyor in particular, the Chief Executive officer of the Conservancy has been required to devote so much time to these cases as, to a considerable extent, to deprive the usual operations of the conservancy of his valuable superintendence which is so necessary to their proper execution. The estimated outlay for a great and *bonâ fide* public improvement, amounting to upwards of one lac of Rupees has been resisted and frustrated, and all works of a similar character cannot of necessity be proceeded with.

20th. The time required for negotiating the purchase of any given parcel of land appears never to be less than from 5 to 6 months, and even then, possession to commence public works cannot be obtained, while the legal expences, where the plots are small equal, and even exceed, the purchase of the land—and

for larger parcels, the costs bear a considerable proportion thereto. The costs in fact are as large for obtaining one Cottah, as for ten Biggahs of land, all this the Commissioners submit to be utterly obstructive to progress, and to improvement, and to carrying out the provisions of the Act for which they were appointed.

21st. As before stated this portion of the proposed new street, to extend the whole length of the Town, was selected as less expensive, and offering fewer difficulties than any other part of the line; it is in fact merely covered with huts, there is no reason to hope therefore, that any further attempts of a similar nature in any part of the town, would afford better results than these now attained; but there is every reason to fear that the success attending the present opposition, would increase the difficulties the Commissioners would have to contend with. The project after the outlay of Rs. 28,552 must therefore for the present be abandoned. (This amount does not include the costs incurred in the case of the land C and G.)

22nd. As Commissioners for the Improvement of Calcutta I am directed to state, the Board are of opinion, that the opening out of new streets and improving existing ones, is a duty they are called on to perform, second only in importance to the complete and efficient drainage of the town; this latter is really a matter of life and death; the former, while having a direct influence in improving its sanitary condition, by improved ventilation, will be imperative in several instances if a new general system of drainage is to be carried out, and is most desirable for the convenience of traffic, and for the general beauty of this metropolis of India. To make new streets without securing some sort of arrangement for building leases, and thus obtaining respectable and decent frontages, seems to the Commissioners to be preposterous, of what public benefit or sanitary improvement they ask would it be to make a road 100 feet wide, from Colootollah to Machaooa Bazar Street, leaving the sides in their present filthy disreputable state, or to be made even worse perhaps at the option of the owners? It is not in their judgment either expedient or equitable that a few miserable hovels along the sides of a splendid opening should reap the whole of the advantage of the outlay. The enhanced value of the frontages, bought with the town funds should become the property of the town for public purposes of an approved character; and unless this principle can be carried out Calcutta must remain as it is, and the Fund saved after much economy and forethought, turned to other objects.

23rd. It is beyond question, that of all parties benefited by the opening out of a new street, those through whose property the improvement is carried, derived infinitely greater advantage by the increased value given to their surrounding property than any other portion of the public. By the operation of the present law, which according to the recent decision of the Supreme Court, it appears does not give power to the Commissioners to take and resell land for frontages, or even to take and to retain it, imposes on the public generally, the entire and *excessive* cost, of the purchase of the land, from those very individuals who are most benefited by the improvement; this the Commissioners submit is unjust to the general public, and entirely obstructive to all future progress on works of this nature.

24th. For these reasons the Commissioners earnestly and respectfully request that steps may be taken to enact an entirely new law, for the procuring of land for public purposes; that to avoid delay after the expiration of a reasonable notice for purchase is given, they should be empowered to take possession, leaving the settlement of compensation, &c., for after adjustment; and that when taking land they should have power to take, not only the actual quantity for the street surface, but also an additional portion within fixed limits on either side of the Street, with sufficient frontage for resale under such conditions as they may choose to impose for the improvement of this city, as is the case in all other European towns, and without which no improvements can be made. This subject has been repeatedly (more particularly in their letter No. 1448 dated 29 June 1854, and in letter No. 2234 dated 15 Dec. 1855 para. 7 forwarding their Report and the new Conservancy Bill), and recently urged upon the consideration of Government, but the Commissioners again address His Honor thereon, feeling certain that the experience of the operation of the present law, will shew its utter insufficiency for carrying out public improvements.

25th. In conclusion, the Commissioners observe that in the proposed resale of lands for the benefit of the public, there is nothing new. It is a practice which they understand is followed in carrying out improvements in the Metropolis both of England and France, and the secret of success in both these instances, forced sales of property should, and will ever obtain for the proprietors a liberal compensation; and with this opinion, the Commissioners would again ask for a law, which while it made this liberal compensation to all individuals affected by its operation, yet should overrule their right so to use, or withhold their property as to prevent the public good.

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Your obedient servant,  
(Sd.) W. CLARK.

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TRAVELS & VOYAGES IN BENGAL

BETWEEN

Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,

BY

SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

Formerly Minister to the late

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,  
(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1890.

No. 4.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE BOAT HORN.

BY WM. O. BUTLER.

O, BOATMAN! wind that horn again,  
For never did the list'ning air  
Upon its joyous bosom bear  
So wild, so soft, so sweet a strain!  
What though thy notes are sad and few,  
By every simple boatman blown,  
Yet is each pulse to nature true,  
And melody in every tone.  
How oft in boyhood's joyous day,  
Unmindful of the lapsing hours,  
I've loitered on my homeward way  
By wild Ohio's brink of flowers,  
While some lone boatman from the deck—  
Poured his soft numbers to that tide,  
As if to charm from storm and wreck  
The boat where all his fortunes ride!  
• Delighted Nature drank the sound,  
Enchanted Echo bore it round  
In whispers soft and softer still,  
From hill to plain and plain to hill,  
Till e'en the thoughtless, frolic boy,  
Elate with hope and wild with joy,  
Who gambolled by the river's side,  
And sported with the fretting tide,  
Felt something new pervade his breast,  
Change his light step, repress his jest,  
Bent o'er the flood his eager ear  
To catch the sounds far off, yet dear—  
Drank the sweet draught, but knew not why  
• The tear of rapture filled his eye.  
And can he now, to manhood grown,  
Tell why those notes, simple and lone  
• As on the ravished ear they fell,  
Bound every sense in magic spell?  
There is a tide of feeling given  
To all on earth, its fountain heaven,  
Beginning with the dewy flower,  
Just oped in Flora's vernal bower—  
• Rising creation's orders though  
With louder murmur, brighter hue—  
That tide is sympathy! its ebb and flow  
Gives life its hues, its joy and woe.  
Music, the master-spirit that can move  
Its waves to war, or lull them into love—  
Can cheer the sinking sailor mid the wave,  
And bid the soldier on! nor fear the grave—  
Inspire the fainting pilgrim on his road,  
And elevate his soul to claim his God.

Then, boatman! wind that horn again!  
Though much of sorrow mark its strain,  
Yet are its notes to sorrow dear;  
What though they wake fond memory's tear!  
Tears are sad memory's sacred feast,  
And rapture oft her chosen guest.

### LOVE IN SORROW.

WHAT shall I do for thee? Thou hast my prayers,  
Ceaseless as stars around the great white throne;  
No passing angel but to heaven bears  
Thy name, wreathed round with some sweet orison;  
Yet evil on thy path may come and go,  
Taking deliberate aim to lay thee low,  
While I stand still, a looker-on, to prove  
The penury and silence of my love!

How can I comfort thee? my tears are thine;  
Full duteously upon thy griefs they wait;  
If thou art wronged, the bitterness is mine,  
If thou art lonely, I am desolate;  
Yet still upon thy brow the darkness lies,  
Still the drops gather in thy plaintive eyes,  
The nails are sharp, the cross weighs heavily—  
I cannot weep away one pang for thee!

The midnight deepens—and I cannot guide;  
The tempest threatens—and I cannot shield;  
I must behold thee wounded, tempted, tried,  
Oh, agony—I may behold thee yield!  
What boots that altar in my heart, whereon  
Thy royal image stands, unbreathed upon,  
And pure, and guarded from irreverent glance,  
With a so vainly jealous vigilance?

Oh, were this all! But no—I have the power  
To grieve thee by unwary tone or deed,  
Or, niggard in my fear, to miss the hour  
For comforting with hope thy time of need,  
To hide, too shyly, half the love I feel,  
Too roughly touch the wound I seek to heal,  
Or even, (oh, pardon!) wayward and unjust,  
To wrong thee by some moment of mistrust.

Yet I would die for thee, and thou for me;  
We know this of each other, and forgive  
Those tremblings of our frail mortality,  
So prompt to die, yet so afraid to live.  
Lift we our eyes to heaven! Love greets us thence  
Disrobed of its earthly impotence,  
Even human love—below, still doomed to be  
Stronger than death, feebler than infancy!

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

## BENEATH THE WAYSIDE TREE.

BENEATH the wayside tree  
 A pale one sat and sang her tale :—  
 "The gorse upon the common blooms, the clover on the lea ;  
 That Love should bud and fail !  
 "I had a lover true,  
 But now he's gone far, far away ;  
 And the new things have grown old, and from the old things have  
 sprung new,  
 Since last he came this way."  
 "Let the new things grow old,  
 From old things let new spring again !  
 True love is neither new nor old, one ever—for, behold !  
 I love thee now as then !"  
 His frame was no more young,  
 Wrinkled his brow, his hair grown gray ;  
 Yet round him not less tenderly her arms the pale one flung ;  
 And life for both once more was May.

IVAN T.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE weather is seasonable—with a vengeance. The rains are in full swing all over Bengal and Upper India. Here we have been completely drenched.

A CORRESPONDENT from Jhang writes to the *Civil and Military Gazette* :—

"You extend your sympathy to Jacobabad, but what about us? Temperature on 16th at 10 P.M. 106! We are not shown in the weather report. Has science failed to construct instruments to record such high temperatures, or does Government fear their publication making the task of finding our successor too difficult? Rain since October last something under an inch! Railway distant some 60 miles. Intervening journey a perfect nightmare of horrors. Two of us started on a few days' leave, went 20 miles and had to return. We could not face the hot wind, though it was about midnight."

That is a very Purgatory to be sure. But Hell is not far off in the same direction, if the travellers to Central Asia from Burnes downwards may be believed.

THE Port Officer has advised the commanders of vessels in the port not to permit their officers and men "to bathe in the river, as, besides the treacherous under-currents, there are numerous sharks and alligators that lay under the banks on the off chance of getting a victim." The warning concerns a far wider circle than those formally addressed. We all had better forego the pleasure of a swim in the cool water in the present season.

BAD news for the gods and goddesses of fashion up in the Hills. His Highness of Cooch Behar will not enliven Simla this season. We only hope this means no failure of health in our young and amiable Chief.

WE learn from the *Pioneer* :—

"The Maharaja of Patiala has bought the racing pony Little Wonder II., which supposed (*sic*) to have a chance for the Civil Service Cup."

THE new Civilization is introducing new crimes among us. One of the most notable is suicide by boys and young men disappointed in educational examinations. On the publication, lately, of the results of the last University examination, there have occurred some deaths of the kind among students in Calcutta and other places in Bengal. All the three suicides in Calcutta, mentioned in the papers, were plucked in the First Arts.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Morning Post* brings into prominence the remarkable success of a Bengali in the last Calcutta and Allahabad Examinations. Sarat Chunder, son of Rai Aubinash Chunder Banerjee Bahadar, Subordinate Judge of Agra, has passed with highest Honors the last B. A. Examination in both the Universities. The Calcutta Examination commenced on the 17th March and that of the

Allahabad on the 24th, the text books being different. The father may well be proud of such a prodigious boy. We only hope the progress made by the boy in his studies is real and substantial and not simply to "pass."

A REMARKABLE case of self-immolation has just taken place at Palghat, Madras. It was in essence a suicide of a broken heart—and in the *modus operandi* a male *suttee*. A poor Nair had loved above him and, disappointed in winning the forbidden fair one, burnt himself to death on the burning pyre, after the regular Indian manner.

IN Trichinopoly, they wanted to try vaccination with assinine lymph. But our Southern brethren would have none of it. Benighted though they are called, they have too much self-respect to introduce anything subhuman into their blood. The Sanitary Commissioner reports that some castes look upon the donkey as an unclean animal and a goddess of ill-luck, and if its lymph is persisted in, it will render vaccination which is already unpopular more difficult. That is all nonsense. The Trichinopolitans only object to embrand themselves and their race. And very properly so.

THE new phase of Woman Emancipation in the New World, is bicycling, locally called coasting. There is already a school for the purpose in St. Louis. The course consists of three lessons only. Ladies do not mind riding twenty miles a day and find coasting gentler, pleasanter and more invigorating than any other mode of conveyance.

A HINDOO Purdasee at Bombay took a fancy to a Banya boy of 12 in his neighbourhood, and took him, unknown to his guardians, to Surat and other places and fed and clothed him and felt himself happy. For his fancy he was prosecuted for kidnapping. The Purdasee pleaded guilty, and the Magistrate sentenced him to one year's rigorous imprisonment!

A SUB-ACCOUNT clerk at the Aligarh Post Office, Baldeo Charn, has been sentenced by the Sessions Judge to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for embezzling Rs. 750. There are other charges regarding other sums amounting to Rs. 6,900, but the Judge thinks Baldeo has been sufficiently punished, and has accordingly applied for permission of the High Court to drop the other charges.

THE European manager of Marcks and Co., Limited, watchmakers, jewellers, &c., Poona, is charged with misappropriation of a large sum of money in the Cantonment Magistrate's Court. On the case being called, the defendant did not enter appearance, but an application on his behalf was made for adjournment on account of his illness. The Magistrate enquired when would Burby be well and, being informed in about a week's time, readily assented to the postponement. But which is the next day to be fixed? "Mr. Merwanjee: Thursday, 26, will suit both my learned friend and myself. Mr. Gungram Bhao: The reporters of the press say that the day will not suit them, as it is the day on which Lord Harris will make his first appearance on the cricket field and they think it ought to be a general holiday. His Worship: I am sorry I cannot meet the gentlemen's wishes, I would like a holiday myself, but I am afraid I cannot take it."

A CEYLON paper thus speaks of the effect of the contact of the human body with a jelly-fish :—

"While a Mr. Lyford was bathing at Bentota, his hand came in contact with one of these medusæ, and he immediately felt a twinge. The back of the hand soon afterwards began to swell, and was covered with large blisters. For about three days there was no pain. After that, great pain was felt, then the swelling subsided, and the hand recovered its full usual strength, but not so the fingers; though they look all right, there is a numbness about them, which is very uncomfortable, and a sensation like an electric shock is felt right up to the shoulder when the tips of the fingers come into contact with anything, especially steel, although about a month has elapsed since the contact occurred."

A CHAMAR woman after living for some years with her husband, of the same caste, gave him up, betook herself to Mahomedanism and was taken as a wife by a Mahomedan, Kareem by name. The new union too proved unhappy and the wife preferred to live separate from the husband. But Kareem had not ceased to regard her as his wife, and one day, finding a coreligionist, Faizoo, with his Bebee charged him

with adultery. The Cantonment Magistrate of Mhow found Faizoo guilty, convicted him and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50. There was an appeal to the Judge of the Appellate Court at Indore. The case was argued by Khan Bahadur Khory, and Mr. Tucker quashed the conviction and acquitted Faizoo. The point contended for was that Kaveem the complainant was no husband of the woman, and that, under a ruling of the Bombay High Court, the second marriage of the woman in the life-time of the first husband, was void, it being bigamy.

THE Lofoten (Norway) cod fishery has closed. The season has been highly fruitful. Thirty millions of fish have been taken valued at 7,250,000 crowns. The number of fishermen engaged is given at 30,324.

A LONDON paper says:—

"It is being observed with great satisfaction by philanthropists that there is a very marked falling off in the prison population of the country during the past decade. Out of 113 prisons, no fewer than 57 have been altogether closed. Male prisoners are fewer by 28 per cent; females by some 45 per cent. A noticeable decrease has taken place also in the number of children under 16 years committed to gaol. The importance of this last fact is only realised by those who remember that it is an ascertained fact that there is scarcely an habitual criminal in the country who has not been imprisoned as a child. Many of those who make up the prison statistics are persons of drunken and disorderly habits, of whom one recently said: 'I'd sooner be in prison than outside it; the food is better, and the work nothing like so hard.'"

Is this the effect of education? When the first measures for diffusing instruction among the people were taken, in the earlier years of the Long Peace, there followed a large accession of crime.

MR. Mackenzie, the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, is for raising the age all round for the Civil Service. But, following Sir T. C. Hope, he thinks there should be a limit to the number of natives in the Service, and that now rather than hereafter, when it might be considered invidious. He fears that the raising of the age, without such a limit, would overstock the Imperial Service with educated Natives with "fantastic conceptions of progress" to the prejudice of "the safety of the Empire and perpetuation in the administration of Western ideas and modern civilization."

ANOTHER fire from spontaneous combustion broke out on Thursday night at Bombay—at the Jewraj Balloo Mill at Tardeo. The fire was quickly put down. The damage is given at Rs. 10,000.

THERE was a foot race at Poona on the 26th, between Corporal Sawyer, of the Royal Fusiliers, and Private Homer, of the Worcester Regiment. Distance 135 yards, and stakes one thousand rupees a side. Homer won.

LADY Lansdowne goes to England on a short visit, leaving Bombay on the 18th July and returning before the Season in Calcutta.

EARLY in August, Lord Lansdowne goes on an excursion along the Thibet Road for some days. He may go up to Chini.

*Holloway's Pills.*—Any dyspeptic sufferer aware of the purifying, regulating, and gently aperient powers of these Pills, should permit no one to cloud his judgment or to warp his course. With a box of Holloway's Pills, and attention to its accompanying "Directions," he may feel thoroughly satisfied that he can safely and effectually release himself from his miseries without impairing his appetite or weakening his digestion. This most excellent medicine acts as a nervine and bodily tonic by aiding nutrition, and banishes a thousand and aying forms of nervous complaints. An occasional resort to Holloway's remedy will prove highly salutary to all persons, whether well or ill, whose digestion is slow or imperfect, a condition usually evinced by weariness, languor, listlessness, and despondency.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

REPORTS have reached Cairo that Osman Digma's army has left Tokar, marching northwards.

As an evidence of august satisfaction at the last Anglo-German convention regarding Africa, Emperor William has decorated Count Hatzfeldt with the Order of the Black Eagle. Major Wissman has been ennobled too.

Prince Bismarck disapproves of the English protectorate over Zanzibar, as prejudicial to the German element there. The German Colonial Company is dissatisfied with it too, as is manifest from its abandonment of the idea of a banquet to the Major for his services.

France objected to the English protectorate over Zanzibar as against the Anglo-French Convention of 1862. There was correspondence between the two Cabinets. The explanations are supposed to be satisfactory. Does that explain the seizure by the British Cruiser *Emerald* of the two British lobster factories in Newfoundland, on the ground that their continuance would be a violation of the *modus vivendi* with France?

Mr. Monro having resigned and not been taken back as was once hinted, Sir Edward Bradford has succeeded as Chief Commissioner of the London Police, his place in the India Office in the Political and Secret Section being filled by Major General Samuel Black, Bengal Staff Corps.

Major Panitza has not succeeded in his appeal against the sentence of death.

There is trouble again in Armenia. A serious revolt is reported. There have been several engagements between the Kurds and Armenians, and many persons killed.

The Brazilian charter granting a federal system of government has been proclaimed.

Owing to obstruction, Government has withdrawn the clause in the Licensing or Local Taxation Bill empowering County Councils to purchase and extinguish licenses, and put in a clause allowing the sums voted for that purpose to accumulate until Parliament lays down the way for its appropriation. That is encouraging perpetuity, so opposed to the spirit of modern legislation. The publicans in the meantime have been assured that the money so accumulating under the amended Bill will be applied to no other purpose than the extinction of licenses. A later telegram says that the Speaker has ruled that the Government proposal of the perpetuating clause is without precedent. The Cabinet has now decided to withdraw all the licensing clauses of the Bill.

The American Silver Bill keeps on moving backwards and forwards. The Comage Committee having reported against them, the House of Representatives rejected the amendments made by the Senate, and sent the Bill back with a request to replace it before the Conference Committee of both Houses.

Sarah Bernhardt had overdosed herself with chloral after a performance. With great difficulty she could be brought back to consciousness.—A few years back she would, in all probability, have taken a dose of chlorodyne. Even angels cannot do without stimulants and narcotics.

Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, retains direct connection with India. His Royal Highness has been Gazetted Honorary Colonel, 4th Bengal Cavalry.

The Central News Agency telegraphed on the 25th that "Romesh Chunder Mitter, of Calcutta, has received the honour of Knighthood." It has not explained what it means. The retired Judge is already a Knight.

Count Kalnoky is seriously ill of dysentery.

The President of the Republic of San Salvador, General Francisco Menindez, died suddenly after a banquet at the Capitol. There is suspicion of poisoning.

THE Turkish soldiery in the last war were supplied with saw-dust biscuits. But contractors are contractors all the world over, though doubtless there are contractors and contractors. Matters are scarcely better in Western Europe. What disclosures were made in France during the struggle for existence with Germany! These things are recalled by a question put in the British House of Commons on June 3.



It appears that during the late sports at Dover a British trooper broke his sword in striking at a lemon. It must be too finely tempered steel that becomes bisected in twain under the formidable resistance of a fruit like a fresh lemon. The Government did not deny the *soft* impeachment, but promised a full report which has been called for.

THE *Scotsman* complained of bad food supplied by the Commissariat Department in the Chin-Lushai expedition. The Commissary General-in-Chief has now reported on the matter. He finds that the unfavorable reports are gross exaggerations, and have little or no foundation in fact. The stores were already condemned by the Commissariat Department, before the troops could be reduced to inferior rations. Under the system followed it could not be otherwise and it was so as a fact. All the condemned articles were replaced by good ones before distribution. The Major-General Commanding the Burma District bears high testimony to the Commissariat arrangements. He is of opinion that never in any campaign of like difficulty had the troops fared better.

THE  $4\frac{1}{2}$  Per Cent. Loan of 1878 and the Transfer Loan of 1879,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. portion including the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  Per Cent. Loan of 1880, mature on the 15th September 1893. They will be discharged at par on that date. But three months' notice of repayment must be given on the 15th June 1893. At the same time, it is left to the holders to have their holdings transferred into the ordinary 4 per cent. Loans. The Government of India have accordingly authorized the Public Debt Office, Bank of Bengal, Calcutta until 30th December 1890 to deliver 4 per cent. Promissory Notes or Stock Certificates in exchange for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Securities of the above loans upon the following terms:—

"(1) Rs. 100 of 4 per cent. Promissory Notes or Stock Certificates will be delivered for every Rs. 100 of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Securities received, and any interest (accrued and not already paid) on the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Securities up to the last preceding half-yearly date for the payment of interest, and also the excess interest payable upon them up to the date of maturity (15th September 1893), will be paid in cash. This excess in the case of Securities on which interest has been drawn up to 14th March 1890 is Re. 1-12-0 per cent.

(2) The Promissory Notes or Stock Certificates delivered will be of the Loan of 1854-55, and interest will run upon them from the half-yearly date of that loan next following the last half-yearly date of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  Per Cent. Loan (namely, 30th June if the Securities are presented for conversion between 15th March and 14th September, and 31st December if presented between 15th September and 30th December).

(3) Anticipation interest at 4 per cent. will be paid for the period (3 months and 15 days) between the last half-yearly date for payment of interest upon the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Securities received, and the date from which the interest will run upon the Promissory Notes delivered in exchange. The amount of this anticipation interest is Re. 1-2-8 per cent.

(4) A brokerage of 4 annas per cent. will be paid to the person who tenders the Securities.

(5) The Securities tendered for transfer should be receipted in the following form:

Received in lieu of this note a note of the same value of the 4 Per Cent. Loan of 1854-55 bearing interest from 30th June 1890 (or 31st December 1890 if tendered after 14th September 1890)."

THE papers relating to the Chota Nagpore agrarian disputes trace those disputes to almost an ancient date. They have taxed all the resources of successive rulers of Bengal. The best revenue officers at their disposal have been deputed to cope with the work. The highest officials have brought their personal influence to bear on the contending parties towards a pacification of the difficulty. Leniency and sternness have both been resorted to. Surveys and registration of lands with enquiries into the various kinds and classes of rights claimed therein have been, for a long course of years, in progress at great expense and trouble. The present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has personally visited the district and conferred with landlords as well as tenants, and endeavoured to reconcile their differences. But all to little purpose. The differences seem to be irreconcilable, and the worst feelings continue to prevail between the two classes.

We have been led to these remarks by a letter which appears in the *Englishman* of the 17th instant, reporting an explosion of the pent-up feelings which exist between the landlords of Chota Nagpore and the Roman Catholic supporters of the Kolh tenantry. Here is the letter:—

"RANCHI, JUNE 11.

It is now two months since his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor made his tour through the Lohardugga district, leaving behind him, as all fondly thought, a track of peace and quietude. Late events, however, go to show that one village at least is not in as happy a state as it

might be. There is a small colony of Roman Catholic teachers (German) near Mandu, and two of them have been in the habit for some time past of daily teaching in the village. After they had left their pupils on the 22nd of May last, the zemindar of the village and some of his people beat two of their pupils severely, and the next day when the teachers arrived he turned them out of the village, saying that he would shoot them if they returned again.

On the following day, the priest himself, accompanied by his teachers and others, proceeded to the village and found the zemindar seated in the verandah of his house surrounded by several villagers. Words passed between them, and eventually the priest turned to go away. No sooner was his back turned than the zemindar took up a gun and covered him. Fortunately some one warned the priest, and he immediately dismounted and called for his Winchester. I forgot to mention that he had two guns and a revolver with him, besides the Winchester rifle. It appears that the two fired simultaneously, the priest's bullet lodging in the wall and the zemindar's pellets taking effect in the priest's arm, chin, and sola topee.

By this time all had made themselves scarce except the priest, who, seeing a head suddenly appear round the corner of a pillar, promptly fired, and, as it turned out eventually, wounded the zemindar's brother in the upper part of the arm. What happened after this appears to be a matter of some doubt, as everyone has his own tale. So we must leave it for the trial, which is now proceeding, to divulge.

What effect this event will have on the district it is hard to say, but it is to be hoped that the guilty party will receive such a punishment as will prevent anything of the kind recurring. The case has been investigated by Mr. Dawson and Mr. Byrne of the Police, and the trial is now proceeding before Mr. O'Brien, C.S.—Boy."

IT is telegraphed from Poona that Mr. Scott, of the Deccan Brewery Company, was drowned on Wednesday evening in one of the vats. Dr. Barnes, of Kukee, ascribes the death to asphyxia due to the large amount of carbonic acid gas generated in the vat.

THAT accident reminds us that the stench from indigo vats is horrible too, and we wonder how those engaged in the process of the manufacture can stand it. In fact, many trades have processes equally offensive and deleterious. Perhaps the worst is gas manufacture. It has always been a marvel to us how men and animals manage to live in the immediate neighbourhood of gas works. Thus there is a considerable settlement of huts and poor dwellings and shops opposite the main works at Naikeldanga for the supply of this town. In what misery must the people pass their days in such a place! What must be the effect on their health of breathing such an atmosphere! Are they beyond the pale of protection of the Health Officer?

WE read—

"At Adelaide, South Australia, a gentleman who had resided for some years in India, gave an address on the country and its people. In the course of his remarks he said he had been vastly impressed by the enthusiasm for education displayed by even the poorest of the inhabitants, an enthusiasm which unfortunately had not any parallel either in England or the colonies, but something approximating to it existed in Scotland. In India a poor man having to support a family on an income of fifteen rupees a month would devote three rupees a month to the higher education of one of his sons."

What is stated about the British Islands is true enough, but of late years some parts of the European Continent beat the Scotch in the passion for education. In India, the cause of the phenomenon is simple. In this country, among both Hindus and Mahomedans, the poorest are usually the highest classes.

SOME one with more leisure than work has calculated that

"One of the fastest writers among the public men of to-day is Admiral Porter, whose brain works like the wheel of a dynamo, throwing off sparks at every turn, and whose pencil rushes across the paper at almost a telegraphic speed. Admiral Porter wrote his history of the United States navy in eleven months, and during this time his average was at least 75,000 words a month, or nearly 2,500 words a day, including Sundays. The book is as big as a dictionary, and it contains from 700,000 to 800,000 words. During many of these days he did not write at all, and his average during his working period ran as high as 5,000 words a day."

That does not look to us—and we are rather slow coaches ourselves—a thundering outcome of extraordinary rapidity of mind. Many journalists habitually turn out as much literary matter. Of course, such literature is rarely of much consequence.

WE read:—

"Every one in the East knows how beautifully the rice is served, thoroughly cooked, yet the grains remaining separate and distinct, and not in a sodden mass, as is too often the case at home. The following recipe for cooking rice has been given by a skilful Japanese cook. It will be well to state that the Japanese rice pot is used only for

cooking rice; its peculiarity consists in a heavy wooden cover, which rests by its weight on the rim of the pot, so as to fit snugly, and yet allow the steam to force its way under it. The rice is first washed thoroughly in cold water, rubbing hard with the hand till all milkiness passes off and the water runs clear. It should then stand all night in water; the three essentials:—1. The rice must be thoroughly washed, rubbing it hard in several waters before boiling. 2. The amount of water used in boiling the rice is the same, by measure as the amount of rice to be boiled—pint for pint; or cup for cup. (It will be found almost impossible to cook a very small quantity of rice in this way) 3. When once the lid has been put on the pot, after stirring the rice into the boiling water, it must not be removed till it is ready to be served."

So there is hope for Europe when her sons show a respect for the rice—one of the most delicate, inoffensive, innocent and healthy meals—in every sense—in the world. As for serving it, Europeans—and Japanese too, we may add—have no idea of the elegant form in which cooked rice is in Bengal served for eating.

IN America they are riding the phonograph to—marriage. It is said,

"A man waited upon the minister with a phonograph. The minister spoke into the apparatus the questions and the bridegroom the responses of the marriage ceremony. The impression was then posted to the bride one hundred miles away, and she and the minister of her village went through the same process, the last minister pronouncing the couple man and wife."

That is the very *reductio ad absurdum* of the contractual form of marriage. We wonder how the Courts will regard it. We suppose it could not be recognised without a change in the law. We really expect a considerable alteration in the law in various directions to bring it into harmony with the progress of science and the arts of civilised life. Great changes must take place in particular in the procedure and the law of evidence. If a phonographic marriage is admissible, why not phonographic depositions? Such evidence would be a natural supplement to the provisions dispensing with the attendance in court of men of rank and veiled Oriental ladies. For the rest, we envy not those who cannot wait for a meeting to be united in the bonds of wedlock. We are not sure that we understand them. Do they hope to consummate by proxy through the medium of some Edisonian invention—some "internal machine"? They surely cannot have friends—they probably care for none. They who have no time to meet for marriage cannot have leisure for friendship or love, involving as either does the interchange of little attentions. They are too occupied for remembering God or man, to say nothing of duty to either. They are in too great a hurry to go to Heaven to all. If called, they would perhaps like to send a representative. They need not care—they may have unconsciously secured admission to another place.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1890.

### SANITATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

SANITARY improvement continues to be unsatisfactory. The cause of this is chiefly financial, and the new policy adopted by the Local Government of granting loans on easy terms to public bodies for the prosecution of sanitary works, is intended to supply the necessary remedy. How far in the long run this system of giving loans will go in accomplishing the end in view, it is yet too early to say. For the present, it is satisfactory, however, to notice that during the present year Municipalities have applied in several cases for loans, and the Government is doing everything to encourage such applications. As regards municipal expenditure from current income for sanitary purposes, Dr. Gregg is far from satisfied. He remarks in his last report: "It will be seen that on the whole Municipal Commissioners are doing what they can to improve the sanitary condition of their towns; but although a good deal has been done, and is being done, I am again compelled to remark that in many cases municipal income is wasted

on temporary works and on works of minor importance, while works of a more needed, substantial, and lasting nature, such as drainage, water-supply and public latrines are neglected."

The state of things as regards rural areas under the administration of the District Boards is still more unsatisfactory. The following remarks recorded by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal would seem to indicate that the imposition of a sanitary cess cannot be far off:—

"The Sanitary Commissioner's report does not touch on the work of sanitation under District Boards. The truth is that, although the promotion of sanitation is a duty entrusted under the Local Self-Government Act to District Boards, little or no progress is made in this direction, because the Boards possess no funds for the purpose. The Boards in Bengal are not vested with powers to impose local taxation to meet the requirements of local sanitation. And yet no grievance presses more hardily on the people than those which are created by the insanitary condition of the country. Constant complaints come to the notice of Government, through the vernacular press and elsewhere, of the necessity of improved drinking water, and in a hardly less degree of improved drainage, from almost every district of these provinces. The agency for the execution of sanitary reform in rural areas, and the means by which such reforms may be executed, are questions now under the consideration of Government."

The Sanitary Board has now been constituted. It consists of Sir Henry Harrison, Member of the Board of Revenue, as President, and Colonel Mc Neile, Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government in the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, and Dr. Gregg, the Sanitary Commissioner, as members. A whole time officer will be placed at the disposal of the Board as Sanitary Engineer. This officer would be the right-hand man of the Sanitary Commissioner, accompanying him on his tours, working in concert and concurrence with him in the preparation of designs, plans, and estimates, guiding the municipalities in getting up projects, and doing inspection duty while the works are in progress. The Sanitary Board will be the executive agency through which the Government will act in the Sanitary Department, and Sir Stuart Bayley expresses a hope that, if judiciously worked, it will exercise a powerful initiative and a valuable control in all departments of sanitary work.

Financial and administrative help being thus provided by the Government, it remains for the local authorities to develop more efficiency of administration in themselves. So far their work in the Sanitary Department has not been much to their credit. Even in a comparatively simple matter like the keeping of vital statistics, they have been remarkably careless. The Sanitary Commissioner in his last report brings to the notice of Government certain facts in regard to the registration of these statistics in towns which are simply discreditable to the Municipal Commissioners. He says while the approximate standard of birth-rate in India is 40 per thousand, or perhaps even higher than this, there are no less than 15 Municipalities in which the statistics are so imperfectly recorded that the ratio is less than 10 per thousand. Among these is no less a favored municipality under the chairmanship of a pet of the district officers than the South Suburban Municipality, where the ratio is about 7. In four municipalities—Muktagacha, Jhalokati, Gobaridanga and Nasirabad—the rate is less than 5 per thousand. These, however, may be pardoned for their sequestered situation. But what are we to say when centres of intelligence, population and wealth like Dacca, Kishnaghur, Berhampur, Midnapore, Jessore, and Patna show no better results? Well may Dr. Gregg say that when the registration in important Municipalities, at the head quarters of districts, is still so defective, it is hopeless to attempt

registration with any approximation to accuracy in rural areas.

Equally discouraging is the result of registration of deaths in Municipalities. The South-Suburban town is again conspicuous, says the Government, for its imperfect registration. These statistics in regard to many municipalities are utterly unreliable. It is rather curious how the results could so widely differ in two municipalities, touching each other geographically. The Government Resolution points out with dry humour that the two newly created Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpore and Manicktolla, where, in the former case, a mortality is registered of 38.9 per thousand, and in the latter only 14.5 per thousand, afford a marked illustration of good and bad work in adjoining localities. And Manicktolla is a municipality which has always since its formation been jealously kept under an official Chairman.

Altogether, there is much room for improvement in the ways of our newly created municipalities. Failure in such elementary, though important, duties brings discredit on the system. Such mistakes as are now pointed out by the Sanitary Commissioner are certainly avoidable by diligence, and more attentive supervision of the work. The Municipal Commissioners cannot complain of the want of guidance and counsel from Government officers. The normal rates of birth and death are known things. The methods of going to work so as to approximate those rates are laid down by the Sanitary Department for their help. Dr. Gregg has been specially at great pains to teach them in this subject, and if still they fail, and what is more curious, are unconscious of their failure, the sooner they divest themselves of the ambition of shining as local somebodies, the better for the cause of Local Self-Government.

#### JAIL ADMINISTRATION IN BENGAL.

THE last was a busy year with the Jail Department in Bengal. Dr. Lethbridge had his hands quite full. The total number of admissions was the largest since 1879. The daily average number of convicts rose from 12,378 in 1888 to 13,591 in 1889. The increase is accounted for by the ruling high prices of food-grains leading to a large number of convictions for theft and other minor offences against property. In support of this view, a statement of offences against property in the Patna Division, in which considerable scarcity prevailed during the year, is given by the Inspector-General. The details of such crimes in the Districts of Mozufferpore, Chumparun and Durbhanga, in which the pressure of the scarcity was the greatest, still further bear out the view. These details show that true cases of burglary and theft nearly doubled in these districts in 1889 as against the previous year.

The prevalence of high prices led naturally to increased expenditure on account of prison diet and hospitals. In regard to the latter item, another cause which has contributed to the increase is stated to be the more liberal scale of diet now allowed to sick prisoners.

The recommendations of the Jail Committee for increasing the sleeping space for each prisoner have chiefly affected the central jails, in which there has been a reduction of nearly 4 per cent. of prisoners in the year. The district and intermediate jails generally had sufficient accommodation to meet the re-

quirements of health, but it was otherwise with the central jails. The recommendation of Dr. Lethbridge to reconvert some of the intermediate jails into district jails, awaits the consideration of the Government, which is likely to deal with the question on a large scale after the effects of the scarcity on the number of the jail population have passed away.

There is a slight decrease in the number of releases of convicts on appeal, but this is not accepted as an indication of improved judicial administration. On this subject, the Lieutenant-Governor observes: "There had been a steady increase in the number of such releases since 1882, and the slight decrease of last year, although it occurred in a year of numerous admissions, does not show any marked improvement in what is an unsatisfactory feature in the criminal administration of Bengal."

The number of convicts transported increased from 797 in 1887 and 803 in 1888 to 829 in 1889. These statistics are for the whole country. The numbers for Bengal are 97 and 119 for the last two years. The steady increase is the effect of orders relaxing the rules which formerly regulated the selection of convicts for deportation. In the number of executions there was an unusual decrease from 21 in 1888 to 17 in the year under review.

The jail administration is to be congratulated on its improved control of Burman convicts. Their conduct is pronounced to have been on the whole good. The Government, however, inculcates caution in treating them and discourages overmuch of confidence in them. "The Burmese," says the Government Resolution, "are a dangerous class of prisoners on account of their instability of character, their impulsive nature, and their great impatience of restraint, but their capacity for work is superior to that of other native convicts, and the Superintendents are naturally inclined to appoint them freely to jail offices. It is not, however, safe to have a large proportion of these men as overseers and convict warders, for even holding offices of trust is not sufficient to restrain their longing for freedom. The Jail Committee have therefore proposed the introduction of a ticket-of-leave system for them, a measure which has been advocated by this Government for the last three years. The question is now under the consideration of the Government of India."

The proportions of criminals in regard to race and religion remain almost unaltered. During the year 1890, they were about 61 per cent. Hindus, 35 per cent. Mahomedans, 1.24 per cent. Christians, 0.36 per cent. Buddhists and Jains, and nearly 3 per cent. of all other religions. The number of juveniles admitted in 1889 was 434 against 306 in the preceding year—a rather large increase. Both the Reformatory schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh are said to be doing excellent work. The number of female convicts also shows an increase from 1218 to 1280. 87 per cent. of prisoners admitted during the year were unable to read and write, 9.48 were able to read and write a little, and 3.48 to read and write well.

There is an increase of sentences to simple imprisonment for which an explanation is necessary. This was particularly the case in the four districts of Singbhum, Manbhum, Puri and Patna, and the Government has directed that the matter should be enquired into. The Government in noticing a slight decrease in the number of re-convicted prisoners, observes: "The recent rules regarding the identification and classification of habitual offenders have

been worked with great care both by the Jail and Police Departments; still the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that much more remains to be done." The punishment of habitual criminals is not often sufficiently deterrent. The Inspector-General says that there are in the central jails 300 or 400 incorrigible thieves for whom transportation for life is the only effective punishment. Experiments in the system of anthropometry on the model of jail administration in Paris have been recommended for the sanction of the Government of India. The number of persons imprisoned for failing to give security for good behaviour had been somewhat rapidly increasing since 1884, but the last year shows a slight falling off.

Strict discipline continues to be enforced among the jail guards, and their improved appearance and efficiency have been noticed by the Government with satisfaction. The discipline among the prisoners has also improved.

The death-rate shows no improvement. Overcrowding was the cause of unhealthiness in some of the jails, but this defect is being gradually remedied. The chief cause, however, of the present rate of mortality is stated to be the fact that the health of the prisoners of the year under report was greatly affected by the general poorness of the crops in many parts of the province. The principal diseases were cerebro-spinal fever and cholera. The first proved very deadly and the Lieutenant-Governor has directed a special enquiry into the matter. As a set off, as it were, there is a bright side to the picture. It is satisfactory to learn from a statement given in the jail report that there were considerable numbers who left the jail in better health than they entered.

#### THE REIS & RAYYET DEFAMATION CASE.

THE local event of the week is a drama of which we are the unenvied and unfortunate hero. The phenomenon is—*Reis & Rayyet* in court! Ordinarily, this would be nothing particular. To be rightly or wrongly charged with libels is the inevitable fate of public writers—a common incident of journalism. But there are circumstances, of an accidental character perhaps, in this case which separate it from its everyday fellows. One of these peculiarities may be mentioned. This journal is in its ninth year, and though anything but a meaty-mouthed organ, the charge of defamation undergoing investigation in the Police Court is the first case, either of a criminal or civil nature, which has ever been brought against it. The editor has been dabbling in printer's ink from before the Mutinies, having edited a Calcutta European daily for several weeks at the beginning of 1856 and afterwards joined as contributor to the defunct *Hindu Intelligencer* when he was a student at College, and published a pamphlet on the events of 1857 towards the end of that year in London. In this long career of an outspoken publicist of thirty-five years, during which he has, wittingly or unwittingly, touched the corns of no end of persons, high and low, he had never received a process of court on account of anything ever written or published by him until he was called to appear in the Police this week. This call at the fag end of his life on an old journalist—old sinner caught at last if you will—invests the case with a peculiar interest in the eyes of all such as have watched him for any length of time. The other peculiarities we are not permitted to touch. For one thing, the case is *sub judice*, and that itself, for all men brought up in English principles, is sufficient reason for reticence. Although we have always combatted this among other notions, legal, political, moral, social, and literary, which we in our humble sincerity regard as noxious popular or class prejudices or errors, we must respect it ourself in our own case. Besides, we have no wish to say aught which may be construed into prejudicing the cause of the prosecutors, as we would avoid prejudicing our own.

It is no doubt a task at once difficult and delicate to reconcile our professional duty with the obedience we all owe to the law and

the profound respect we always feel for Her Majesty's administrators of justice. We shall try to perform it as best we can. For, whatever may be the case with other papers, in this connection, it is obviously expected of us that we should not content ourselves with giving the Police report like our contemporaries. Some explanation, seems urgently due from us to the public.

On the 17th May last, in the usual course of business, we noticed in a subleader headed "Disease, Accident and Death" the deaths which had recently occurred in native society of its more prominent members. In that article we gave, upon such information as we possessed, an estimate of an important member of the Hindu community, Baboo Deno Nath Mallik, (one of those just deceased,) who had not, in our judgment, presented to his countrymen, either as a public or a private man, such an example as from his great position he might and should have done, concluding with the best wishes for his sons, whom we wished to make a departure from the parental model. Immediately after the appearance of the article we were told that, as we wished and anticipated, it had been thankfully received by the family. A few days thence, however, we were startled by the news that efforts were being made to proceed against this paper in the Courts. In our next impression, that of the 24th May, in criticising some of the notices of the deceased in a different vein, in some of the other journals of the metropolis, we reiterated our view and alluded to those efforts. We treated the matter cavalierly, because of the feeling already mentioned in the family and the general opinion in town. Doubt was removed when, in the following month, we received a letter from Babu Ganes Chunder Chunder, as attorney for Babus Jogendra Nath Mallik and Jogendra Nath Mallik, sons of the late Babu Denonath Mallik, expostulating on their part with us for the articles of the 17th and 24th May as containing "imputations of the grossest kind on the character and position of my client's father recently deceased, and having naturally caused them the deepest pain and annoyance" and, after complaining of the publication in the terms of the law, calling upon us for full retraction and ample apology, on pain of being proceeded against in court. Friends on both sides now intervened and led us to expect that the matter would not be pushed to extremity but be amicably settled. But as, in the dilatory ways of our people, nothing definite was done, we, in our issue of the 14th June, prominently, under the head of Notice to Correspondents, acknowledged receipt and intimated to our correspondent that his letter was "under consideration." Our correspondent did not wait, however. In three or four days came the great Hindu festival of the Rath Jatra of Jagannath or the Lord of the World's Ride in his tower-chariot. On that auspicious day, on which Hindus delight to begin any interesting ceremony or arduous operation, he hurried to the Police Court, applied before Mr. Handley, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, and obtained summonses against the Printer and the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* respectively, and had them served—that on the Editor as he was waiting for the appearance in all his glory of the Lord of the World. Under the circumstance, our "consideration" remained locked up in our breast, though even now we have an article in proof never published headed "Babu Deno Nath Mallik once more." Pursuant to summons, we appeared as defendant in the Police Court on last Thursday. In whatever light the pleader's art might represent us, we can honestly say that we had no intention whatever of hurting the feelings of Babu Deno Nath Mallik's sons, and, strange though it may seem, the thought never struck us that what we wrote might be construed to be an offence against them. Seeing that we had unwittingly done so, we at once through the mouth of our counsel expressed our sincere regret. The editor having assumed all the responsibility of our action, the prosecution did not press the case against the printer, but they insisted on the editor pleading guilty. This was not done.

Then after some formal evidence for the prosecution was recorded, the case was adjourned to next week.

We wrote, as we believed and still believe, in the interests of the public. Ours is an old society and we conceive it to be the duty of every man who claims to be a leading member of it to do all he can to conserve the best that there is in it. Babu Deno Nath Mallik certainly was a leading member of our society, and we wrote of him as we did as a matter of duty, without personal bias of any sort and, as we have said, without intending to hurt the



feelings of any one, much less his sons. We see they have taken offence at what we wrote, and once more disclaiming any intention of giving offence, we thus publicly apologise to them.

### THE TIPPERAH RAJ.

SIR,—Your leaderette which appeared in the "Reis and Rayyet" of 31st May on the appointment of Rai Bahadur Umakant Das as minister to the Raj, reveals an amount of statesmanship and political foresight which none sees better than do the Tipperah men. It is a pity that you do not deal with the causes of the Maharaja's debts and embarrassments.

From the extracts published in the "Englishman" in the year 1885 or so from the diary of an Englishman, apparently Mr. Skrine, it appeared that he attributed all, if I remember aright, to the "eye-shame" of the Maharaja and the evil counsels and machinations of the Dacca men whom he styled "the Scotchmen of the East." That the Maharaja is not above "eye-shame," is quite true. He does not and cannot say "no" to any prayer. With rare goodness His Highness believes all his servants, rather too much; and among them some happen to be more confidential than others with whom the real power rests; and they in their turn have an interest in the disorder of the state. Being full of the milk of human kindness, he will not starve the family of a corrupt officer by dismissal, or otherwise punish him. It is widely known that had His Highness been surrounded by men of virtue, ability and wisdom, they, by utilising his virtues, instead of lending themselves to his failings, could perform achievements to the lasting glory of the Maharaja and themselves over and above raising the Raj to a model state.

Now I intend to return to Mr. Skrine's "Scotchmen of the East." I feel bound to say that our Dacca brethren have not deserved this epithet. Notwithstanding, it is certain that the natives of Tipperah have more interest in the welfare of the state than men of any other district who may come to serve the Maharaja for money and scarcely for love. There is not a man in Tipperah, whether Independent or British, who has not or whose forefathers have not eaten the Maharaja's salt. The distinction "Independent Maharaja" is a subject of pride and glory to them. They, an overwhelming majority of them at least, look with reverential awe and veneration upon this prince, inasmuch as there is great religious merit in beholding a real Hindu Prince—*Rajdarsan*. Besides, both talukdars and rayyets know that they are no units in a soulless body politic, but are under a prince who is affectionate as a father. They can and do, during any misfortune, obtain pardon of a year or two's rent or at least permission to keep the rent in arrear. Not only that, the Maharaja usually makes liberal grants during marriages or sadhis or other important ceremonies to his people. The whole district is supplied with timber, burning fuel, bamboos, rattans, thatching stuff, cotton and other necessities of life for a nominal price. The Gods and Brahmans of the Hindoos are supported by the Maharaja. Yet the natives of Tipperah are being successfully eliminated from the Maharaja's service. Among the many high officials only two belong to this district. They however have no power in the central administration of the state. The *Bhadra* of this district generally belong to the landed interest or are otherwise substantial men; and any loss that they may occasion to the state can be easily recovered, but not so in the case of the Dacca men. Out of 57 officers in the *Chakla Kacheri*, or the head office of the Zemindary of Roushunabad, at Comillah, only 15 belong to this district; and in the *moffusil* under the jurisdiction of *Chakla Kacheri* out of 60 posts 24 fall to the Tipperah men. Those of the officers that belong to this district only fill the rank and file.

In the leaderette you say "A minister supported by the British Government and carrying the prestige of one who has long held the office of Assistant Political Agent at the court is not only a guarantee for reform but the only resource against bankruptcy and dismemberment—maybe the only safety for the old principality." For all that the Rai Bahadur will not find it smooth sailing all over. Already in his attempt against the favourites, he has not been able to achieve any appreciable success. He will have to show much pluck and courage in his fight with them; and if he has the welfare of the old principality at heart, as I am sure he has, he should take no rest until the territory of the Maharaja is cleared of their presence. He should take good care that neither they nor their friends have access to His Highness. Favourites have since the creation proved themselves of the Devil's crew. How many kings, lords and wealthy men have they ruined! How the favourites of the Maharaja ruined the late lamented Babu Nilmony Das who did right yeoman's service to the Maharaja's state! His Highness wept over his death only too late. Nor was the Roman hand of the statesman who succeeded him permitted to touch them. Then the eyes of the people and the selection of their Maharaja fell upon the excellent and intelligent Thakur Sahab Dhananjay, blessed with a hereditary capacity for administration.

He, after deliberate and mature consideration and consultation with men of known ability and integrity, submitted a Budget which provided for retrenchment and economy and a scheme calculated to increase the revenue of the state as well as to purge it of the favourites. In due course of time, His Highness asked the opinion of his favourites upon the Budget; and the Maharaja was of course convinced that Dhananjay Thakur Sahab—the brightest jewel of a nobleman at the court—was only a green youth—although he was wellknown to have for many years successfully administered the entire Southern half of the principality. Indeed, his successor, Baboo Dino Nath Sen, M. A., Joint-Inspector of Schools, spoke of his predecessor's Budget as incapable of any improvement. But he too having failed to get it passed was glad to hurry off to rejoin his own post in the British Service. He was succeeded by Babu Mohini Mohun Bardhan, B. L., Government Pleader, Comillah. After pinching the favourites, it was reserved for this weak and vacillating minister to be won over to their side. He quarrelled with his old friends and after their support was gone he was easily insulted and forced to resign. These favourites in fact enjoy a monopoly of real power in the state without appearing to have anything like it, for the arch favourites hold no responsible position. In every good and important undertaking the ostensible minister is hampered by these favourites who are the virtual ministers. For the doings of the latter the former is responsible. When these favourites think of ruining any high official, their preliminary step is to close to him all the avenues of access to the Maharaja. Letters to His Highness are carefully intercepted in the way. Had the Maharaja known that his favourites are his enemies, he would certainly pray

"Ye sacred powers, whose gracious providence

Is watchful for our good, guard me from men

From their deceitful tongues, their vows, and flatteries."

But the Maharaja cannot perceive all this. Verily, these hangers-on live a charmed life! In a land of mysteries and miracles where every Tipperah or Kuki is believed by himself and ignorant Bengalees to possess the secret wherewith to hold captive the wildest of tigers and perform other wonders, a handful of parasites is ruining the state. Who will rescue the Maharaja out of their hands?

SECRET.

Tipperah, June 25, 1890.

### THE REIS AND RAYYET DEFAMATION CASE.

THE POLICE COURT.—JUNE 26.

(Before A. P. Handley, Esq., Offg. Chief Presidency Magistrate.)

This case had a near chance of being struck off the boards yesterday (June 26). When called on before the Chief Presidency Magistrate neither of the prosecutors was in court, and his worship was on the point of dismissing it in consequence of the default, when one of them put in an appearance and asked for a short postponement to admit of his counsel, who was engaged in another court, attending. The request was granted, and the case put back until 11 o'clock. When taken up at that hour, Messrs. Garth and Woodroffe, junior, instructed by Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, appeared for the prosecution, and Messrs. Henderson and A. F. Abdur Rahman, instructed by Baboo N. C. Bose, and Baboo Kanyelal Mookerjee, Pleader, represented the defendants. Before the facts of the case were enquired into, Mr. Henderson represented to the magistrate that his client, Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, was in indifferent health, and he begged that as a special concession he might be allowed a seat alongside of his counsel instead of being compelled to go into the dock. This having been agreed to, Mr. Henderson again rose and addressed the magistrate. He said that to save the time of the court he would state at once that Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee admitted the responsibility of the articles complained of, and expressed his sincere regret for the pain their publication has caused the relatives of the deceased gentleman to whom the obituary notices had referred. He had no idea that the notices would have caused the pain they were said to have produced. Efforts had been made to compromise the case, and now that his client had publicly expressed regret for his error of judgment, he hoped the magistrate would consent to the withdrawal of the charge against his client. He was instructed that the prosecution would offer no objection to a compromise.

Mr. Garth wished to know if, by expressing regret, Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee pleaded guilty. Unless that was done, he (Mr. Garth) could say nothing more at present; if there was no plea of guilty, he would have to go on with the case. He desired it to be thoroughly understood that his clients were prepared to prove their case. He did not press the case against the printer, but Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee must plead guilty to having publish-

ed the libel before he, Mr. Garth, would say anything further on the matter.

Mr. Henderson said that if the prosecution were not prepared to accept the apology tendered and the expression of regret for the publication, his client would plead not guilty.

Mr. Garth desired to say that, by accepting this apology and expression of regret without the plea of guilty, the effect would be that it would be thought the case had been compromised. There was no suggestion of a compromise, and he therefore suggested that there should be a plea of guilty recorded. There had been an expression of regret tendered, which was as much as pleading guilty.

His Worship did not see how there could be an expression of regret unless the person was guilty.

Mr. Henderson submitted it did not amount to that.

Mr. Garth said it must be remembered that his client, through Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, had called upon the defendant, by a letter, dated 6th of June, for an apology, but none was tendered. On the contrary, in the current number of the paper, *Reis and Rayyet*, there appeared a most insulting paragraph in answer as notice to correspondents:—"Gonesh Chunder Chunder.--- Under consideration." This was simply a gross aggravation of the offence. If the defence were not aware that the articles would cause pain, as stated by their counsel, and now expressed regret, why was it not done when they were called upon by letter, unless they thought the complainants were devoid of all feeling? They were asked for a public apology to be tendered in a public way, so that the public would understand that the family did wish to vindicate their father's character. If, on receipt of the letter from Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, they for the first time became aware that pain had been caused, why did they not apologise and express regret in the next issue? Instead of this, there was a grossly insulting and impertinent paragraph in the notice to correspondents (in issue of 14th June), which only aggravated the offence.

After some consultation with his client and attorney, Mr. Henderson said that the course he would propose to take was that he would, on behalf of his client, consent to the papers in which the articles appeared being put in, and would admit responsibility. He would ask for an adjournment in order to consider what course to adopt. He wished to place no obstacles in the way of the prosecution, or put them to any expense, and there was the statement of his client admitting responsibility of the articles.

His Worship thought there must be a plea, and he could only grant an adjournment by consent of the prosecution.

Mr. Garth said he was very willing that the defence should have reasonable time to consider whether there would be a plea of guilty or whether the case was to be proceeded with, but the time should not go over to-day. All the witnesses were present, and his client did not wish to be put to more expense than was necessary.

His Worship observed that the defendants had already had a week to think over what they were going to do.

Mr. Garth suggested that the defence should have half an hour or an hour the most to consider what course they would adopt.

Mr. Henderson submitted that was not enough, and asked for at least another day.

His Worship decided that he could not do so unless the other side consented. The defence had a week to consider the matter, so that it was not a thing which had been suddenly sprung on them. They must have known that they would either have to fight the case out or plead guilty.

Mr. Henderson said his client admitted responsibility and publication of the articles, and would consent to the issues in which those articles appeared being put in, so as to save the prosecution any expense; and then an adjournment might be granted to some other day in order to consider whether the case would be proceeded with or a plea of guilty recorded with the expression of regret.

His Worship observed that if the case was proceeded with, he would send the case to the Sessions, and would therefore have to take the depositions on Sessions paper. There was not only one article, and publication would have to be proved in the regular way.

After some consultation between counsel, Mr. Garth proceeded to prove publication, and the following witnesses were then examined:--

The information of Chooney Lal Dutt:--I live at No. 18, Oekoor Dutt's Lane. No. 1 forms part of No. 18. My uncle, my cousins, and myself all live here. I know Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee. He edits *Reis and Rayyet*, at No. 1. The press is also at No. 1. Mutty Lal Bose is the printer of the paper *Reis and Rayyet*. I see them here. They are the defendants. The office of the paper is at No. 1. These are issues of *Reis and Rayyet* dated 17th and 24th May and 14th June. These copies were issued from No. 1.

Mr. Henderson produced the letter of the 6th June from Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, which was tendered by Mr. Garth, and marked as an exhibit.

The information of Nogendro Nath Mullick:--I am one of the complainants in this case, and the eldest son of Deno Nath Mullick, deceased--that is, the Deno Nath Mullick referred to in the articles in *Reis and Rayyet*. The accusations made against

my father in that paper are false. They have caused pain and annoyance to me and the rest of the family. They are such as to lower my family and myself in the estimation of the Hindoo community.

Mr. Henderson said he would reserve cross-examination in the event of the case being proceeded with.

Mr. Garth submitted that his Worship should now frame a charge.

His Worship observed that it would take a considerable time to frame the charge, which was practically drawn in the summons. The charge would, of course, be under Section 501.

After this, on the application of Mr. Henderson, the case was by consent adjourned till Wednesday next at 11-30 A.M.---The morning papers.

#### TRANSFER RULES FOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

I.---A student, before he is admitted to a high school, shall be required to produce a transfer certificate from the head-master of the school (of whatever class) in which he has last been reading. He should be accompanied by, or should present a letter of application from, his father or *bonâ fide* guardian, whose name should be registered in the admission book of the school. His father's name and place of residence should invariably be registered, in order to secure identification. If he has failed at the previous Entrance examination, and applies for admission in the following session without having joined any other school, the Registrar's receipt shall be accepted in lieu of a certificate. The fact of his admission, with the date, should be written across the face of the Registrar's receipt.

II.---The certificate shall run as follows:--

"Certified that \_\_\_\_\_, son of \_\_\_\_\_, an inhabitant of \_\_\_\_\_ was in the \_\_\_\_\_ class of the \_\_\_\_\_ school up to \_\_\_\_\_, and left with a \_\_\_\_\_ character. All sums due by him to the school have been paid. He has (or has not) passed the annual examination for promotion to the \_\_\_\_\_ class. His age on leaving is believed to have been \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months."

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Head Master.

III.---Application for the transfer of a student must be made by his parent or *bonâ fide* guardian, either personally or by letter (registered, if necessary), to the head-master of the school which he is leaving; and when so made the certificate is to be given without any avoidable delay. The only grounds on which it can be refused are (1) gross misconduct, (2) failure to pay the sums due to the school, including schooling fees and fines and transfer fee (if any). If a certificate is refused, the cause of refusal shall be notified in writing to the applicant. If the certificate is not received within three days of the payment by the student of the amount (if any) due to the school, the matter may be referred to the Inspector of Schools, or to the Director of Public Instruction, as laid down in Rule XII.

IV.---Any instance of "gross misconduct" on the part of a student, whether followed or not by expulsion, must be at once reported to the Department, failing which no future action can be taken on it. A student expelled for misconduct cannot be admitted to another school without the express sanction of the Department.

V.---For the purposes of the transfer certificate, the date on which a student presents his application for transfer, or the date of the receipt of the letter (Rule III), shall be regarded as the date upon which his connection with the school ceased; and no fee shall be charged to him for any subsequent month. But if the student does not pay the sums due from him to the school within three days of his receiving intimation of their amount, he shall be treated as "absent without notice" until such sums are paid, subject (as regards any further sums so accruing) to the limit stated in Rule VI.

VI.---A student quitting a school without notice shall be liable to pay fees, together with fines for absence, for one month subsequent to that in which he last attended the school, after which his connection with the school shall be considered to have ceased.

VII.---A student quitting a school, except at the close of a session, shall be liable to pay a transfer fee before obtaining his transfer certificate. The transfer fee shall not (except under special orders of the Department in the case of free schools) exceed the ordinary monthly fee of the class.

VIII.---The session of each school ends in the month in which the annual examinations for promotion are held, and preceeding that in which the new classes are formed. For students sent up to the Entrance examination, the session ends in May.

IX.---If a student withdraws from a school after the Durga Puja vacation, he shall be liable to pay fees in that school up to the end of the session.

X.---A student shall not be sent up to the Entrance examination until he has paid all sums due to the institution in which he has been reading, including fees up to the end of the session in May.

XI.---When a student of the first or second class has held a scholarship, free studentship, or half-pay studentship, under express stipulation in writing, signed by himself and his guardian, that the whole or a portion of the sum drawn by or remitted to him shall be refunded to the school in case of withdrawal from it within a

certain period, the transfer certificate may be withheld until the sums so due have been repaid, provided that the amount so claimed shall not exceed the amount actually drawn or remitted.

XII.—The transfer of Government scholarship-holders and free students shall be subject to the previous sanction of the Inspector or Joint Inspector of Schools, or (in the case of schools attached to first-grade colleges) of the Director of Public Instruction, which will be withheld unless satisfactory reasons are assigned for the transfer.

XIII.—A student shall not, on admission to a school, be placed in a class higher than that in which he was in the school he has quitted, or if he has passed the annual examination for promotion, than the next higher class. This rule shall apply to admissions to the three highest classes. Thus, a student failing at the annual examination of the fourth class of one school cannot be admitted to the third class of another.

XIV.—If a student has been absent from a school for a full year, and if the Inspector of Schools or the Director of Public Instruction (*vide* Rule XII) is satisfied that his absence was not due to misconduct or rustication, the preceding rule may, with the sanction of the Inspector or the Director, as the case may be, be relaxed in his favour.

XV.—The fact of a student applying for admission without having undergone the annual examination of his old school must be regarded, unless the reverse is certified to by his former head-master, as sufficient evidence of his not having been fit for promotion. He should not therefore be admitted into a class higher than that in which he was in the otherschool.

XVI.—After admission under the foregoing rules, no student shall be promoted to a higher class before the next annual examination of the school. The application of this and the preceding rule shall be confined to the three highest classes. (See illustration, Rule XIII.)

Note (1).—It would be a violation of this rule to send up a student to the Entrance examination before he has been promoted in due course to the first class of the school.

Note (2).—The annual examinations are held at various times from December to February. In the case of a student admitted under Rule XV, the "next annual examination" means the annual examination held in the following session.

Note (3).—The annual examination will not be recognised in any school which has not been *bond fide* in existence from the beginning of the session.

XVII.—The *provisional* admission of a student to a school will not be recognised. No student will be regarded as belonging to a school unless and until his name is entered both in the admission book and on the register of a certain class.

XVIII.—A student who has failed at the test examination of his school shall not be sent up to the Entrance examination as a student of any other school, nor shall he be sent up to that examination as a private student.

XIX.—All questions arising between one head-master and another respecting the enforcement of these rules shall be referred, as soon as possible, to the Inspector or the Director (*vide* Rule XII).

XX.—If a student be found producing a false document or making a false statement as to his attendance at any school, he shall be liable to expulsion, and shall be reported to the Department.

XXI.—Willful transgression or colourable evasion of any of the foregoing rules will render a school liable to forfeit the right of sending up candidates for junior scholarships, and to be reported to the University for further penalties.

### THE NIMTOLLAH BURNING GHAT.

This is the chief place in Calcutta for the disposal of the Hindoo dead. This Burning Ghat, as it is popularly called, is not exactly the old site, but it is, as it must be and has always been, immediately on the river. The town having steadily encroached on the Hooghly, the ghat has many a time shifted its situation. The present structure is the construction of the Port Commissioners, who have at no small cost improved the river bank.

The Hindoos do not bury but burn their dead. It is undoubtedly a quick and sanitary process. The horror hitherto attached to cremation is decidedly dying out. Modern civilization has fairly begun to look kindly on it. The practice is slowly but surely gaining on Christian Europe. It is about to be tried in Manchester. The only place in England where as yet the plan of burning the bodies of the dead has been substituted for that of allowing them to slowly moulder—and fester away into ashes, under five feet of earth, or much less—is Woking Cemetery, near London, although many great cities on the Continent have for some years practised the system on rather a large scale. The experiment at Woking has been satisfactory, although it has had to contend with a great deal of hostile prejudice; and on April 25th the Manchester Cremation Society resolved upon the formation of a company to establish and carry on a crematorium in the neighbourhood of that city. The names on the directorate include that of the Duke of Westminster.

The old ghat could scarcely be approached. The Hindoos bitterly complained of the inconveniences experienced by them in the performance of their sad duty at the ghat. But those days are gone by and the present ghat has ceased to be the dreadful place associated in the Hindoo mind with *sabhan*. In 1856, we find the Municipal Commissioners for the Improvement of the Town of Calcutta, reporting to Government as follows:—

"In para. 56 of our last Annual Report, we alluded to the contemplated improvement of the Hindoo Burning Ghat at Nimtollah, and the removal of the Skinning Ghat altogether from its present locality, which being in close contact with the Burning Ghat, leads to a most offensive and objectionable collection of birds of prey, and of odour from the carcasses of the animals, which are daily deposited there, to the number on an average of about one hundred, and thereby a serious objection to the respectable Hindoo community, whose religious customs compel them to resort to the place. A plan and estimate were drawn up by our Surveyor for the improvement and ornament of the site, with additional conveniences for the sick and their attendants, which was circulated by the Native Members of the Board amongst their friends; and we have now the satisfaction of stating that, through the munificence of Baboo Ram Narain Dutt, of Wellington Square, one-half the entire cost, which is estimated at Rs. 5,000, has been promised to be defrayed by himself; in consideration thereof, and with a view to promote a great improvement, which when effected, will, we have no doubt, be highly appreciated by the native community, we have decided to defray the remaining portion of the expense from the Conservancy Funds, and we further are directing our endeavours to make the improvement complete by removing the Skinning Ghat altogether away to a locality quite out of the precincts of the Town, and where its disgusting presence will be productive of no inconvenience to the public, as is now the case. We have received repeated complaints of the nuisance now arising from these places, but up to this time have been unable to make permanent arrangements for their removal."

The Skinning Ground has long been removed far away from the city. It is not to be denied that the Burning Ghat by itself cannot but be somewhat of a nuisance in the midst of a populous and busy city. During the sixties, there was a movement to make the Burning Ghat follow the Skinning Ground. There was a great Hindoo outcry. The Hindoo corpse is sacred. None but relatives and caste-men are permitted to touch it. Hindoo feeling prescribes the carrying of the dead on the shoulders of kith and kin. Hindoo scripture, at any rate, permits no other conveyance of the dead than that on the shoulders of fellow Hindoos. The Hindoos scouted the idea of sending the remains of their near and dear ones as goods by railway or any other impersonal agency to a distant Burning Ground. The agitation was echoed by the Press at home. Among others, the *Spectator*, conducted by a former distinguished Anglo-Indian editor, strongly supported the Hindoo movement. The late Ramgopal Ghose surpassed himself by a wonderful strain of pathetic oratory against the proposition for the removal of the Ghat. By the effort of one brief hour the man, who from his life and conversation in disregard of Hindoo orthodoxy, was regarded as the impersonation of the Iron Age, became the idol of the people, and though dead for many years, is still regarded with affectionate gratitude. The end of it all was that the Hindoos escaped the contemplated outrage. Not only did the Commissioners vote with Ramgopal, but the Government, at whose instance the innovation was proposed, abandoned the idea. The Nimtollah Burning Ghat was saved, and it was made the decent place that it is shown to be in our illustration.

The process of cremation is cheap and simple. A pyre of wood is erected. The corpse is washed and robed in new clothes, a few *mantras* are uttered by the son or the nearest relative, the corpse is then laid on the pyre and fire applied to it, when it is reduced to ashes in two or three hours. The whole, ordinarily, costs only Rs. 3-7 for adults, and Re. 1-11-8 for minors under 10 years, according to the tariff fixed by the Municipal Commissioners. Paupers are burnt at the other Ghat—adults for Re. 1-8, and minors for annas 13-6 only—and absolute paupers for nothing, the charge being borne by the Municipality.

In former days, a sore grievance of the poorer part of the population in especial was the tyranny of the firewood vendors. In the absence of a fixed tariff, they stuck out for absurd prices, and kept up an indecent wrangle which not unoften degenerated into a row, while the corpse was suffered to lie neglected and decomposing under a tropical sun. The complaints were so many and numerous that some of the Native Justices of the day were induced to arrange for a definite price. The negotiations ended in a monopoly. We find the last Municipal Act of 1881 as also the present (1889) empowering the Commissioners to grant licenses for the sale at the Burning Grounds of the articles used for cremating corpses, and to prescribe a rate for the sale of such articles. Under the law, the Municipal Commissioners have the full control of the Burning Ghats, but they are not competent to close one unless another is available within a convenient distance. Both Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne have visited the Nimtollah Burning Ghat.—The *Empress*, June 1.

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the five belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1890.

No. 431

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE MASSACRE OF GLENCOE.

Do not lift him from the bracken,  
Leave him lying where he fell—  
Better bier ye cannot fashion :  
None beseems him half so well,  
As the bare and broken heather,  
And the hard and trampled sod,  
Whence his angry soul ascended  
To the judgment-seat of God !  
Winding-sheet we cannot give him—  
Seek no mantle for the dead,  
Save the cold and spotless covering,  
Showered from heaven upon his head.  
Leave his broadsword, as we found it,  
Bent and broken with the blow,  
That, before he died, avenged him  
On the foremost of the foe.  
Leave the blood upon his bosom—  
Wash not off that sacred stain  
Let it stiffen on the tartan,  
Let his wounds unclosed remain,  
Till the day when he shall show them  
At the throne of God on high,  
When the murderer and the murdered  
Meet before their Judge's eye !

Nay—ye should not weep, my children !  
Leave it to the faint and weak ;  
Sobs are but a woman's weapon—  
Tears befit a maiden's cheek.  
Weep not, children of Macdonald !  
Weep not thou, his orphan heir—  
Not in shame, but saintless honor,  
Lies thy slaughtered father there.  
Weep not—but when years are over,  
And thine arm is strong and sure,  
And thy foot is swift and steady  
On the mountain and the muir—  
Let thy heart be hard as iron,  
And thy wrath as fierce as fire,  
Till the hour when vengeance cometh  
For the race that slew thy sire !  
Till in deep and dark Glenlyon  
Rise a louder shriek of woe,  
Than at midnight, from their eyrie,  
Scared the eagles of Glencoe.  
Louder than the screams that mingled  
With the howling of the blast,  
When the murderer's steel was clashing,  
And the fires were rising fast.

When thy noble father bounded  
To the rescue of his men,  
And the slogan of our kindred  
Pealed throughout the startled glen.  
When the herd of frantic women  
Stumbled through the midnight snow,  
With their fathers' houses blazing,  
And their dearest dead below !  
Oh, the horror of the tempest,  
As the flashing drift was blown,  
Crimsoned with the conflagration,  
And the roofs went thundering down !  
Oh, the prayers—the prayers and curses  
That together winged their flight  
From the maddened hearts of many  
Through that long and woful night !  
Till the fires began to dwindle,  
And the shots grew faint and few,  
And we heard the foeman's challenge,  
Only in a far halloo.  
Till the silence once more settled  
O'er the gorges of the glen,  
Broken only by the Cona  
Plunging through its naked den.  
Slowly from the mountain summit  
Was the drifting veil withdrawn,  
And the ghastly valley glimmered  
In the gray December dawn.  
Better had the morning never  
Dawned upon our dark despair !  
Black amidst the common whiteness  
Rose the spectral ruins there ;  
But the sight of these was nothing,  
More than wrings the wild dove's breast,  
When she searches for her offspring  
Round the relics of her nest.  
For, in many a spot, the tartan  
Peered above the wintry heap,  
Marking where a dead Macdonald  
Lay within his frozen sleep.  
Tremblingly we scooped the covering  
From each kindred victim's head,  
And the living lips were burning  
On the cold ones of the dead.  
And I left them with their dearest  
Dearest charge had every one—  
Left the maiden with her lover,  
Left the mother with her son.  
I alone of all was mateless,  
Far more wretched I than they,  
For the snow would not discover  
Where my lord and husband lay.  
But I wandered up the valley,  
Till I found him lying low,

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

With the gash upon his bosom  
And the frown upon his brow—  
Till I found him lying murdered,  
Where he wooed me long ago !

Woman's weakness shall not shame me !  
Why should I have tears to shed ?  
Could I rain them down like water,  
O my hero, on thy head—  
Could the cry of lamentation  
Wake thee from thy silent sleep,  
Could it set thy heart a throbbing,  
It were mine to wail and weep !  
But I will not waste my sorrow,  
Lest the Campbell women say,  
That the daughters of Clanranald  
Are as weak and frail as they.  
I had wept thee, hadst thou fallen,  
Like our fathers, on thy shield,  
When a host of English foemen  
Camped upon a Scottish field—  
I had mourned thee, hadst thou perished  
With the foremost of his name,  
When the valliant and the noble  
Died around the dauntless Græme !  
But I will not wrong thee, husband,  
With my unavailing cries,  
Whilst thy cold and mangled body,  
Stricken by the traitor, lies :  
Whilst he counts the gold and glory  
That this hideous night has won,  
And his heart is big with triumph  
At the murder he has done.  
Other eyes than mine shall glisten,  
Other hearts be rent in twain,  
Ere the heathbells on thy hillock  
Wither in the autumn rain.  
Then I'll seek thee where thou sleepest,  
And I'll veil my weary head,  
Praying for a place beside thee,  
Dearer than my bridal bed.  
And I'll give thee tears, my husband,  
If the tears remain to me,  
When the widows of the foemen,  
Cry the coronach for thee !

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

LADY LANSDOWNE leaves Bombay on the 18th July.

LORD LANSDOWNE, immediately after her departure, strays into Pangi, seventeen miles beyond Chini, doing the trip by some fifteen marches, in eight days. Hope he'll not be caught by some Tartar chamois-hunting on the Northern slopes of the Himalayas.

It is too early to say when the Viceroy goes on his cold weather tour. It is likely His Excellency tours through Rajputana, starting from Agra about the end of October.

THE Lieutenant-Governor starts on his monsoon tour on the 21st July, arriving at Hooghly on that day, and visiting Burdwan, Krishnagpur, Berhampore, Moorshedabad, Rampore, Beulah, Maldah, Bhagulpore, Monghyr, Bankipore, Arrah, Buxar, Ghazipur, Chupra, Hutwa, Sadowa, Bettiah, Motihari, Mozufferpore, Gya, Durbhunga, Purneah, Rungpore, returning to Darjeeling on the 25th September.

IN two months more, Colonel Conway-Gordon, the Director-General of Railways, leaves for England, making over charge to Major Sargeant at Simla. Major Brackenbury relieves Colonel Sargeant in charge of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway on the 15th instant.

THE Mohunt of Tripati must live out his sentence in jail. Lord Con-nemara does not see why the sentence should be further reduced.

The High Court has already done what could be done in his favor. The petitioners for his release were not well advised in the matter.

DURING the next calendar year 1891, Government will not offer for sale more than 57,000 chests of Bengal opium or more than 4,750 chests in each month. Of these 4,750 chests, not more than 2,500 will consist of Benares and not more than 2,260 of Patna opium. Any reduction in quantity will be notified three months previously.

IT is difficult for our times to realise the awed surprise with which the invention of printing was regarded by the contemporaries of Gutenberg and Faust and even of Caxton. People considered it a black art and believed those in the secret to be the creatures of the Devil. Indeed, we have to this day the phrase *devils* applied to compositors.

The following story to the same purport has lately appeared in *Enrope*. "When printing was introduced into Paris, one of the earliest works printed was *Euclid's Elements*. The workman perceiving that he had to intercalate circles, squares, triangles, etc., into the text, believed that the book treated of sorcery, and was calculated to evoke the Devil, who would carry him off in the midst of his work. The employer insisted, and the printer concluding that his ruin was contemplated, died of fright a few days later."

THE Abbe Desgodins, Vicar Apostolic of Tibet, who has laboured as a missionary for 35 years on the Eastern frontiers of that country, has lately brought to France for publication the manuscript of a dictionary of the Tibetan language in Latin, French, and English.

A LOW Hindu was brought up before the magistrate at Bombay for theft in a dwelling house. Two persons had entered it in the afternoon, of whom one escaped. The other too would have followed suit—at least would not have been touched as a woman, but for the fact of being caught in the act of carrying away two silver drinking cups, belonging to a Bhatia. It was no common being. This intruder performed a miracle. A strange transformation scene now took place. On touch the woman vanished ! and the—man remained !—with all his imperfections and sins on his head. His womanhood was all a pretence—indeed a mere matter of a petticoat. That taken off, he disclosed himself in his native hideousness as a depredator of the vulgar male order. To account for his being found there in female attire, he pretended, and tried to prove that the complainant was in the habit of indecently assaulting him. He was an old offender, however, having only ten days before left jail on completing a sentence of six weeks' rigorous imprisonment. He was again convicted and sentenced to sixteen weeks' hard labour.

THERE was a regular fight in the Esplanade Police Court, Bombay, between two Mahomedans being the complainant and the defendant in a case there. Before the hearing, the latter seeing the former went up to him for amicable settlement. He was repulsed. Thus words rose high and from words they went to blows, till the police in attendance arrested and the magistrates fined them for disorderly behaviour Rs. 2 each.

THEY commemorated the defence of the Lucknow Residency on the 11th June last, at the Holborn Restaurant, after the British fashion, by a dinner which is held annually, to keep up the memory of the bloody mutinies. General C. A. Barwell presided, and there were present 14 members including some who were infants at the time of the siege, besides three of the relieving force. The most noticeable feature of the festive gathering was that, after the usual loyal and special toasts, at the instance of Sir Joseph Fayrer, a warm tribute of praise and gratitude was accorded to the natives of India who were faithful to the English at a time when the temptation to side with the enemy was so strong.

LAST month, 36,095 persons visited the Indian Museum—Europeans 484 male and 163 female ; Natives 27,424 male and 8,024 female ; or an average of 1,640 during the 22 days it was open to the public.

IN the Bombay High Court, one Edalji Jamsheji Makhania sued Shapurji Adarji Kalfati for Rs. 10,000, being damages for the loss of services of his daughter Kuvarbai. The plaintiff and the defendant with their families lived in the same house, in Cowasjee Patel-street, but on different floors. There grew up an intimacy between the

defendant and the plaintiff's daughter aged 21 years who, on account of the illness of the mother, managed her father's household. She eventually left her father, according to the plaint, being enticed away by the defendant. To console himself in his grief, the father instituted the suit, estimating the loss in rupees, and basing his claim on the English principle and precedents. The parties, we find, have settled their claims and differences out of Court.

\*\*\*

THE Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the appointment of a Deputy Secretary and the abolition of that of Junior Under-Secretary in the Foreign Department of the Government of India. That came into effect retrospectively from the 17th May last. Accordingly, Mr. Under-Secretary W. J. Cunningham becomes Deputy Secretary but will continue to officiate as Secretary; Mr. H. S. Barnes, Political Agent of the 2nd Class and Officiating Under-Secretary becomes Under-Secretary but continuing to act as Deputy Secretary, Mr. J. A. Crawford, Junior Under-Secretary and Officiating Political Agent of the 2nd Class, goes back as a substantive Political Agent of the same class; and Mr. G. R. Irwin, Political Agent of the 3rd Class and Officiating Junior Under-Secretary, officiates as Under-Secretary.

\*\*\*

WE much regret that Mr. M. V. Joshi, the Patriot of Poona, who a short time ago proceeded to England with such commendable pluck and self-sacrifice, has been driven back by ill-health.

..

BOMBAY has lost one of her worthiest citizens in the late

"Mr. Jehangier Burjorji Wacha, an old Elphinstonian, a merchant, and an useful public citizen. He was a J. P. and a Fellow of the University. To the day of his death he was one of the Trustees of the Students' Literary and Scientific Society, and in this capacity rendered valuable service to it. His papers on the Undulatory Theory of Light and a Chapter in the History of India before that body marked him out as a deep thinker and a man of erudition. He was a silent worker."—*Native Opinion*.

..

A BRAHMIN aged about forty had fallen into a public well. A crowd of spectators immediately assembled round the mouth of the well, but only to make a noise. Just now one Narayan Jagannath Datar, a clerk in the Office of the Reporter on the Native Press, was passing that way and, attracted by the concourse, came to enquire what it was all about. He found the poor fellow in the well struggling desperately. Without a word or a moment's hesitation, good Narayan doffed his clothes and jumped into the well. At considerable risk to himself, he tied the body of the Brahmin to a rope and asked the bystanders to take out the man. Here is a hero among the much abused native clerks. We hope the incident will be formally reported by some of our Bombay friends to the Royal Humane Society for its medal. And might not the Government too go out of its even tenour, by way of encouraging courage and manliness among the people, to notice such a brave good Samaritan's deed? It would surely be some compensation for the sneaking worthlessness that is habitually favoured and not rarely even exalted.

..

NEWS comes from Dacca that the case between Ralli Brothers and the Nawabs about the obstruction of a road—the latter appealing against the orders of the trying Magistrate Mr. Rattray—has been referred by Judge Cameron to the High Court.

..

A BRAHMO of Barisal went to court to proceed criminally against a strolling company of players. This company, which combines a hippodrome show with dramatic representation, had not only in its advertisements ridiculed the Brahmo community but also gone the length of performing a play misrepresenting and reviling the Brahmo religion itself. Hence the prosecution. But it was not proceeded with, the players apologising, and the Brahmos being not particularly anxious to send them to jail or smash the company—even though they do not consider the latter's profession an innocent one.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

It is telegraphed from Madrid that the Sagasta ministry has resigned and will be succeeded by a new Conservative Cabinet with Senor Canovas as President.

SIR Frederick Roberts being detained in India, Sir Redvers Buller succeeds Lord Wolseley as Adjutant-General. Mr. Stanhope stated in the House of Commons that Government was unwilling hastily to decide the question of the abolition of the post of Commander-in-Chief of the forces. The War Minister also announced that Government had accepted the proposal of Lord Hartington's Committee to establish a Naval and Military Council to discuss all matters affecting the War and Marine Departments. The Council will be presided over by the Premier and be a Committee of the Cabinet. All departments will be represented. It is further proposed to form a Military Council consisting of Civil and Military officers of the War Office, as also a Council to decide questions relating to promotion.

That will be but a multiplication of wheels within wheels—an aggravation of the present difficulty—a leap from the frying-pan to the fire! The modern political mind seems incapable of going beyond government by public meeting. They implicitly believe there is safety in a crowd. But they forget the evil of a multitude of councillors—even wise councillors. Of all spheres of action, war is the one that least admits of the interference of a number of heads of equal authority working by a majority. Councils upon councils for war administration! Do these great statesmen forget that councils of war never fight? Under the least real pressure of circumstances all these boards would be swept away, and under danger the nation will install a dictator as a necessary measure of safety.

THE House of Commons is in no mood to entertain the complaints of the Maharaja of Cashmere as put forth by Mr. Bradlaugh. The House would not accede to his request for a Select Committee to enquire into the deposition of Maharaja Pertab Singh. The House also declined, by 226 votes against 88, Mr. Bradlaugh's motion for adjournment in order to discuss the Maharaja's removal from the government of his own territory. There was a long debate, in the course of which Sir John Gorst explained that the step was taken in the interests of the people of Cashmere.

It is reported from Belgrade that the Serbian Consul at Pristina was murdered by Arnatus in his own house, and that the Serbian Government have demanded satisfaction from Turkey for the murder of their Consul.

The gas men of Leeds struck work and for two nights the city was left to darkness and the military. The employers were then forced to accede to the terms demanded.

Cambridge has beat Oxford in the cricket match by seven wickets.

The Uncovenanted Inquiry Committee under the presidency of Sir John Gorst have commenced work. On the 2nd instant, six witnesses were examined. Witnesses from India will be allowed privilege leave but not their expenses.

The General Act of the Anti-Slavery Conference at Brussels has been assented to by all the Powers represented, except Holland which has taken six months to consider the matter. Is it to be the British Parliamentary six months?

The Premier Sir William Vallance Whiteway, denies the reported excitement in Newfoundland over the fisheries question, and yet is confident of an early satisfactory settlement.

The Reichstag has finally passed the Army Bill. Simultaneously with that news is telegraphed the resignation of General Von Verdy du Vernois, the Prussian War Minister.

The English revenue returns for the June quarter shews an increase of half a million each in stamps and excise.

The Duke of Connaught has been Gazetted a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

It was reported on the 30th June that the Argentine National Bank of Buenos Ayres had suspended payment. In consequence, there was panic on the Bourse, the shares fell fifty dollars, the collapse, including further lowering of the currency, exceeding fifty million dollars.



Next day, however, the President of the Bank explained there was no stoppage but only suspension of payment of the quarterly dividend to increase the reserve. This reminds us of the action brought by Francis W. Addie against the Foreign and Colonial Exchange Bank to recover £62,180 penalties for publishing in Victoria an advertisement containing misleading statements as to its capital. The suit has just been decreed by the Victorian Full Court (Melbourne.)

THE last census just completed of the United States gives a population of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  millions, or an increase of 14 millions in ten years.

MR. Stanley's book on Africa is out. It has been named "Darkest Africa." It appears that Mr. Stanley offered Emin Pacha the option of returning to Egypt or remaining in the Equatorial Provinces, the Congo State assuming the government over them with Emin as Governor; or to establish Emin and his followers north-east of Lake Nyanza in the name of the Imperial British East Africa Company.

THE Ministry have found the need of public support. On the 28th June, they held a monster Conservative and Unionist *fiat* and demonstration at the Crystal Palace. There were present the Hon'ble E. Stanhope, Lord Knutsford, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Goschen, Lord Halsbury and several members of the House of Commons. There was a mass meeting at the large central hall at which, at the instance of Sir Algernon Borthwick, a resolution of confidence in Government was unanimously passed. Mr. Balfour denied that the Unionist Government had been shaken by the African Treaty, it had rather removed every probability of a difference with a close ally.

It is too late now to condemn for any practical purpose the Anglo-German Convention regarding Africa. It was signed by the representatives of the two Powers on the 1st July. The Russian press is disposed to regard the agreement as part of a secret Anglo-German alliance, and recommends as a set off an alliance between France and Russia.

MAJOR Panitza has after all been shot dead. In the presence of the whole garrison, he met his fate courageously and fell pierced by 21 shots.

For murdering a German merchant eight years ago in the interior, four Arabs have just been hanged at Bagamoyo.

THE Simla session of the Supreme Legislative Council opened on Thursday, the 3rd instant. Three measures were to be brought forward but only two could be taken up. The first was the introduction by the Law Member of a Bill to amend the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, one of the monuments of the misdirected genius of Sir James Fitz James Stephen. In moving to obtain leave for the purpose, Sir Andrew Scoble stated the principal object to be the rectification of sec. 54, so as to render the previous conviction of an accused person irrelevant where the Crown sought to prove previous conviction for the mere object of shewing that the accused is a bad character and therefore likely to have committed the offence charged to him. It has been remarked by Mr. Justice Pigot in *Queen-Empress vs. Kartick Chunder Dass*, that while the English Legislature shields an accused from prejudice, the Indian Legislature makes express provision for prejudicing him. The Bill will not, however, be passed at Simla; only the preliminary stages will be settled, the final consideration being reserved for the Calcutta meetings. And very properly so. Where is the reason or the rhyme either of legislating for India away from it, in Little Tibet or Chinese Tartary? We wish advantage might be taken on this occasion to purge the Act of all such Gallic innovations on the noble principles of British criminal jurisprudence introduced by the same hand.

The other measure, brought forward by the Home Member, was the Bill to amend the Cattle Trespass Act. It has been decided that the Act of 1871 affords inadequate protection to planters, and that further legislation was necessary to provide against cattle trespassing in planting districts and near towns. It is proposed to give Local Governments the power to increase, in any area where cattle are allowed to stray, the fines leviable for animals impounded and to extend to other animals the special provision now made in the case of pigs.

The Census Bill, not being ready, could not be introduced.

A POINT of law of interest to the struggling professional classes has just been decided. It has been held by the High Court that

the subscribers to the General Family Pension Fund are not a company, association or partnership for the purpose of carrying on business having for its object the acquisition of gain by the association or by individual members, within the meaning of section 4 of the Indian Companies' Act. W. H. Kraal sued J. H. Whympster to ascertain whether the Fund was not registerable under the Indian Companies' Act. It came on as a special case before Messrs Justices Wilson and Pigot, and was argued by Mr. Woodroffe on behalf of the plaintiff and Mr. Evans for the defendant, on the 28th, 29th and 30th May last. Their lordships took time to consider their judgment. It was delivered on Wednesday last, the 2nd July, by Mr. Justice Wilson. The *Statesman* thus summarises the judgment:—

"The judgment, which dealt very fully with the arguments advanced on both sides, both as regards the cases cited and the law on the subject, said that the matter had come up before their lordships in the form of a special case submitted for the opinion of the Court under section 527 and the other sections of chapter XXXVIII Civil Procedure Code. The first question submitted to the Court, and the only one their lordships proposed to answer, was whether the subscribers to the General Family Pension Fund were a company, association or partnership for the purpose of carrying on business other than that of banking, which had for its object the acquisition of gain by the company, association, partnership, or by the individual members thereof, within the meaning of section 4 of the Indian Companies' Act, 1882? If the Fund came within this description, then undoubtedly it would require to be registered under the Companies' Act; but if it did not, then registration was unnecessary. In order to bring the association within the meaning of the section in question it must, *first*, be formed for the purpose of carrying on business, and, *secondly*, it must have for its object the acquisition of gain: the acquisition being either by the association or individual members. It may be assumed the association was formed for the purpose of carrying on business. That being allowed, the real question remained whether its primary object was the acquisition of gain. Among the sources of gain suggested were the forfeiture of all past payments on non-payment of subscriptions regularly, and the accumulation of a large and increasing reserve fund derived from surplus of contribution over expenditure. This accumulation, it was urged, was a decided gain to the association, inasmuch as it was applied towards lessening contributions from members. Their lordships did not think that any of these could be looked upon as sources of gain to the business, which was intended for mutual benefit, and they could not therefore hold that the acquisition of gain was one of the objects of the business of the Association."

THE Principal of the Residency College, Indore, is to be *ex-officio* Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India. Is the amalgamation intended to be an aid to the education of the princely students? Are they to be initiated into the mysteries of diplomacy? Is it to give the Principal jurisdiction in certain possible contingencies? Or, is it to lend the pedagogue the prestige of the caste political? Even on the lowest ground, as adding dignity and weight to the authority of the Principal, we regard this a move in the right direction. For the same reason, we think it was highly proper to reward the services of the head of the Education of Bengal with a Knighthood. It was a visible recognition of the importance of the department, and a public expression of the interest of Government in the cause of national instruction.

THE *Deccan Times* of the 26th June opens with a short leading article headed "The Police and Zenanas," in which the Calcutta case of trespass and breaking into the Zenana brought some time ago against a European Inspector and a native sergeant of Police by one Nobodeep Chunder Ghose is noticed. We need not give the particulars which must be fresh in the mind of the reader. The officiating Chief Magistrate dismissed the complaint, with the following expression of opinion:—

"Although I hold that a police officer can enter a Zenana in charge of an offender, I hope it will be understood that I do not approve of such a course. In a country like India, where Zenanas are regarded as sacred, the police cannot be too cautious whenever they have to deal with female apartments. As far as I can gather, this is the first case in which this question has arisen, and now that I am constrained to hold that a police officer may break into a Zenana, in search of an offender accused of a cognizable offence, it may be well to consider whether section 48 should not be extended to Calcutta. It must be remembered that many comparatively light offences are classed as cognizable here. In England a police officer can arrest, without a warrant, only in most serious cases, such as murder or forgery: here if two men quarrel and have a scuffle, and one dislocates the top joint of his little finger, it is considered a serious offence, and the police may arrest the offender without any warrant being necessary. As a warrant can always be applied for and obtained in Calcutta in a few minutes such powers would seem to be unnecessary."

In this connection we cannot say that Mr. Handley exactly suited the action to the word, the word to the action. Yet there is no conflict. On

the contrary, there is a fine and ample appropriateness between his action—by which we mean his order—and his speech. The latter is a necessary complement of the other. The judgment is the best justification of the order, because of its straightforward sensible explanation. As our Southern contemporary writes—

"This is a very practical, business-like way of considering the matter, and no doubt so far as the Presidency and the larger towns of India are concerned where a warrant can be obtained in a few minutes, it would be as well for all parties if the police would make it a practice to apply for a warrant before searching a house. In many places in the mofussil, however, where Magistrates are few and far between, great difficulty is sometimes experienced by the police in procuring warrants, and much precious time must necessarily be lost in a great number of cases before a house can be searched. On the other hand as the Magistrate pointed out, the police in India can—and do—take cognizance of a number of cases of a trivial nature, and the unrestricted right of search in such cases opens the door to the police *Zoolum*, which forms such a constant topic of complaint among Natives. The Zenana question too, is one that requires very delicate handling, and though it must be admitted that the police very seldom abuse their authority in this direction, still it might be as well if it were rendered compulsory for the police to obtain a warrant before proceeding to enter rooms set apart for Zenanas."

We commend to the attention of the public and the authorities these words as the evident outcome of knowledge and experience. The writer indeed has had opportunities of comparing the methods of two different states and systems and their respective practical results. Residing now in a native capital, he must be specially aware of the jealousy with which the people guard the privacy of their homes and the women's apartments in particular.

Mr. Handley's judgment discloses a real blot in the criminal procedure governing the Presidency Towns. There does not seem to be sufficient ground for the difference between the law here and the law in the country at large. We hope the subject will attract the attention of the public, so that the legislature may be moved to remove the anomaly.

LAST month, the Municipal Commissioners by a resolution requested the Health Officer to withdraw certain remarks he had made on the action of the Complaints Committee. Dr. Simpson has thus answered to the Secretary the resolution:—

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memo. No. 2552, dated 16th June 1890, and I have in consequence carefully reconsidered my note of the 20th March addressed direct to the Chairman, and I can find nothing in it which incorrectly represents my views, or which is exaggerated or which in my judgment ought to have wounded the susceptibilities of the Sub-Committee, and I regret that I cannot, therefore, consistently with my duties as Health Officer of the city and my own self-respect, withdraw the remarks referred to."

The Commissioners at their last meeting would not take up this matter but have taken time to consider their next resolution. We are sorry for our Commissioners, the more so for the singular absence of harmony among themselves on a question of honour of the whole body. The Europeans think it none of their business. They all vote solid for the Commissioners' humiliation, though many of them think—rightly or wrongly—and say—"aside"—their officer was to blame. This unhappy division in the municipal camp on the one occasion in which our representatives (for all are more or less directly representative) might be expected to present the spectacle of a united phalanx, is, to our mind, the most disheartening part of the business. For the rest, the Commissioners have brought their situation themselves. It never does to push an advantage to the extreme. It is neither honourable nor expedient to reduce a man to the dust because he is down, or back one because he happens to be in your power. Cruelty or harshness is not even policy. In the long run it never pays to act according to the cynical cry of—"Kick him, he has no friends," or "No mercy! the fellow is completely in our clutches." Under the mysterious government of the universe, the fellow may possibly prove a Tartar. As for friends, they start up from the ground as it were. For, after all, the Almighty is the friend of the weak. Power and all advantages are a trust which should not be abused. The Commissioners, as they expect respect, should show it themselves to others—even to their servants. We believe Dr. Simpson's original remarks were not quite so respectful as they should have been. But, even at the worst, a lapse of language is not a grave offence. It would have been enough if the Commissioners had noticed it and passed it over—with a warning at most. They cannot have forgotten the difficulty they experienced in getting a proper Health Officer. Surely, they were not going, even if they had the power, to dispense with the services of so remarkably competent an officer as Dr. Simpson, specially invited from

Europe for the purpose! If they had observed moderation, the public feeling would have gone against *him*. Instead, we are afraid, they will now find all the sympathy with their officer.

THERE is an interesting letter in the correspondence columns of the *East* giving the news of the Tangail subdivision. After giving an account of a pro-Congress meeting on the 4th June, the writer regrets the spirit of opposition to the Congress among the Mahomedans supposed to be fomented by a Mahomedan B. A. who is the Rural Sub-Registrar of Pakullah.

"At a recent Congress meeting held at Delduar the seat of the four Mahomedan Zemindars of Atia, at the instance of Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan, the able Editor of *Ahamadi*, this gentleman opposed the meeting and denounced the Congress. Subsequently an anti-Congress meeting was held at Karatia, probably at the instance of the same gentleman."

The writer then remarks—

"It is much to be regretted that many people oppose the Congress through ignorance. A pamphlet in Bengalee explaining in an easy way the objects of the Congress is a want which is keenly felt by the friends of the Congress."

Why so? Are there no such tracts in the vernacular? We know the celebrated "Old Man's Hope" was translated into Bengali by a member of the Tagore family, as into the vernaculars of other Provinces too by different hands. So, doubtless, other tracts. Is there no Bengali version of Mr. Hume's no less famous Dialogue on Representative Government? We have not seen any. Our Dacca contemporary's correspondent has touched on a real flaw in the management of the movement. In an agitation in the name and interest of the nation, with so much energy and money freely expended in the composition and printing and publication of pamphlets and papers in English, it seems incredible that there is no Congress *vade mecum* in the language of the millions of Bengal.

Here is a short paragraph of local news from the Tangail letter in the *East*:—

"The Bhattacharjee Talukdars of Bethair have become notorious for their internal quarrels. Although the contending parties bear near relations to each other and occupy the position of spiritual guides in the Hindu society, their conduct with regard to each other is brutal and despicable. Not many years ago, in a dispute between them a murder was committed and then recently one member of the Bhattacharjee family was brutally assaulted and now in a squabble two men have been badly wounded. The present case is now under inquiry and we hope full justice will be done to it by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Tangail."

It appears that

"Influenza is raging furiously in the town and the interior of Tangail. Such a fell disease, spreading its infection like a wild fire is altogether new here."

The writer contemplates with anxiety the possibility of the new disease reappearing periodically, like Cholera and Small-pox. He may well feel alarm for his poor countrymen. The worst about these maladies is their tenacity of existence. They may be crushed to all appearance, but they are not wholly eradicated. Once they are in a country, they are never out of it. They settle in the land, lurking in some obscure corner—holding possession of some unfortunate constitution—until at a favorable moment they again spring upon others and once more spread apace with the old virulence! Thus, we still hear of cases of dengue, from time to time. So may it be with this nasty Influenza—God forbid!

THE Lieutenant-Governor returns to the capital next Friday, reaching Sealdah at 11 in the forenoon. Sir Stuart Bayley holds the Durbar for conferment of titles on the 15th, and starts on his monsoon tour on the 21st.

THE Damooda has burst its bank or rather breached its embankment, and there is distress. A telegram to the Lieutenant-Governor says:—

"The villages of Lakhara, Barugram, Nasipore, Bolorampore, Gungarampore and Salindanga in the district of Burdwan, on the right bank of the Damooda, are in great distress, for two new breaches on the Damooda embankment have occurred during the recent unprecedented flood. Cattle and implements of agriculture have floated away, many houses have been thrown down and others dilapidated. Standing crops are destroyed and arable land covered with sand. Many people are houseless, the rice granaries are destroyed and the distress is great. Immediate relief is necessary."

THE Maharani of Cooch Behar has given birth to a son—her fifth child, and there is rejoicing at the capital.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1890.

### THE REFORM OF THE POLICE.

THE subject of crime and of more effective control of crime is receiving careful consideration at the hands of the Government of India as well as of the subordinate Governments. Some improvement on our present methods may well be expected to be the result of an overhauling of the whole question. But the prospect of reform in the *personnel* of the police does not appear quite promising. Reform to be effective in this as in other matters is mainly a question of cost, and it is, indeed, much to be regretted that, whenever a large increase of expenditure has to be faced as the prime condition of a reform, our Government fight shy of the situation. The same is the case in the present instance.

Of course, there are other factors in the problem of improved criminal administration, besides the police. Some of these do not involve the necessity of increased expenditure. The administration of the criminal law by courts of justice is susceptible of amendment, particularly in regard to a stricter enforcement of the law against habitual offenders and the greater prevention of crime. A better system of tightening the hold on habitual criminals—stricter enforcement of provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code relating to their punishment—more solidarity between the rural and the regular police as well as between the police of one province and another and the Government police and the police of Native States—all these are desiderata which may be removed without necessarily incurring a great increase of expenditure. Administrative changes in these directions may reasonably be looked for from the movement now on foot. And these changes will have no doubt their due effect on the control and prevention of crime. But there is no adequate reform without an improvement of the police. This must be admitted to be the chief factor, and it is as regards this, that the question of reform, from its dependence on important financial issues, presents the greatest difficulty.

So far at any rate, as Bengal is concerned, there appears to be much divergence of views between the Local and the Supreme Governments, as to what should be considered adequate pay for the police—adequate, that is, to the nature of its duties, and for the purpose of improving its efficiency and character. The following extract from a letter of the Government of India to the Bengal Government will show how the case stands between the two Governments:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor expresses the opinion that the head constables should not as a rule be placed in charge of thanas or outposts, and should not be employed in the investigation of offences. These functions the Lieutenant-Governor would restrict to sub-inspectors, but adds that to carry out this improvement it would be necessary to increase the number and pay of this class. If this view of the Lieutenant-Governor only implies that no officer should be employed in the investigation of crime, whose pay and position do not fortify him against the temptations attaching to his employment, the Governor-General in Council fully concurs in it, but it seems to His Excellency in Council that if the position of head constables is improved, there is no reason why they should not be more generally employed in the conduct of investigations. Sub-Inspectors in Bengal are at present divided into five grades, on Rs. 30, Rs. 50, Rs. 60, Rs. 70, and Rs. 80, respectively, while head-constables are divided into four grades, on Rs. 10, Rs. 15, Rs. 20, and Rs. 25. These rates and this gradation of pay seem to His Excellency in Council to require reconsideration, and he would suggest that the class of sub-inspectors might consist of three grades, on Rs. 50, Rs. 75, and Rs. 100, while the head-constables in charge of police stations or posts might also be divided into three grades, on Rs. 25, Rs. 30, and Rs. 40 a month, with a station-house allowance varying according to the importance of their charge from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 a month.

"In making these suggestions the Governor-General in Council does not wish that the precise scale of pay proposed should be regarded

as absolutely fixed: it will be for the Local Government to say whether it is sufficient or more than sufficient, having regard to the circumstances of Bengal, it must however be considered as essential that the position of investigating officers should be improved without delay. There appear from the latest information before the Government of India to be 904 sub-inspectors and 2,351 head-constables employed in Bengal, and some set-off against the increased expenditure involved in the above proposals might possibly be secured by increasing the number of head-constables and decreasing the number of sub-inspectors employed in charge of police stations.

"The question of the position of inspectors is not referred to by the Government of Bengal. Their pay at present ranges from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250 a month, and they have for all practical purposes no prospect of advancement beyond a first grade inspectorship. The Governor-General in Council would be glad if the minimum pay of an inspector could be raised to Rs. 150, and he thinks that deserving and competent inspectors might be promoted as deputy magistrates and collectors in the provincial service, especially as the work of many deputy magistrates and collectors must, the Governor-General in Council apprehends, tend to become more and more purely magisterial.

"With reference to what is said below with regard to prosecutors, it seems desirable that a certain number of the officers attached to the Courts should have the rank of inspector, but no one should be eligible for such a post unless he has passed either the Pleader's examination so far as it relates to Criminal Law and Evidence or an examination of equal difficulty to be prescribed by the Local Government.

"The pay of constables in Bengal ranges from Rs. 6 to Rs. 9. The Governor-General in Council fears that Rs. 6 is too low a rate of pay and he would be glad if it could be arranged, that no constable should receive less than Rs. 7 net pay.

"I am now to ask that the preceding remarks may be taken into his Honour's consideration and a scheme submitted with the usual proposition statement which while paying due regard to financial considerations will place the police of Bengal upon a satisfactory basis as regards pay and promotion."

The scale of pay suggested by the Supreme Government is scarcely likely to secure the desired end. That Government profess their entire concurrence in the necessity of improving the pay and position of the lower grades of the police service so as to fortify it against temptations, but this object can only be attained at a cost which the Government do not appear at all prepared to incur. The proposals of the Government of Bengal do by no means err on the side of over-liberality. Probably, this Government would recommend a more liberal scale of expenditure if there were not those very financial considerations in their view on which the Government lay so much stress. But as Sir Auckland Colvin, in a trenchant minute which he has written on the subject, roundly says, there is no hope of any reform unless the Government of India were prepared to sanction a sufficient increase of expenditure and that from the Imperial exchequer. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces and Oudh speaks out freely:—

"As I have already said the Government of India must be prepared, if the results of any such inquiry are to be of use, to contribute to the resulting increase of charge. If it is left to the Local Government to furnish the funds which may be deemed necessary, I feel little hesitation in saying that the inquiry had better not be set on foot. I have already expressed my conviction that suggestions for reform, emanating from the Government of India and requiring considerable increase of expenditure, unless accompanied by practical proof of the desire of the Government of India for reform by the contribution of substantial financial aid, have, if costly, little chance of being cordially adopted by local Governments, or activity prosecuted to completion."

The question is put by Sir Auckland in its just lights. No half-measures would avail. The one remedy is a liberal scale of pay, and if the finances of the Imperial Exchequer would not allow it, the present enquiry had better not been started. For the rest, the scale recommended by the Government of India would be attended with some increase of expenditure without any corresponding advantage.

### SIR RICHARD GARTH ON THE CONGRESS.

No one probably has read Sir Richard Garth's recent letter in the *Times* on the Congress's demand for elective Councils without admiring the judicial temper which he brings to the consideration of a vexed question. His views do great honor to himself and to the position he lately filled in this country as its highest judiciary. We do not agree in all that

he says on the subject of Lord Cross's Indian Councils Bill. He is far from satisfied with this moderate measure. His free-born English instincts are repelled from a measure, which, while it makes some cautious advances, leaves the whole initiative in the hands of the Executive Government. We feel, however, differently, and are thankful for the concessions which it offers. These concessions mark one stage of the experiment in administrative progress, and an experiment is wisely approached with caution. All the same, however, do we acknowledge Sir Richard's calm and independent deliverance on the subject. Apart from the merits of the question, it is such example of fairness and impartiality in individual Englishmen that goes a great way to invest the race with the respect it enjoys in general estimation. Here is a late high functionary of the State and an Englishman who feels no hesitation in condemning a Bill deliberately devised by his own Government at a peculiar juncture. Sir Richard Garth's opinion of Lord Cross's Bill is expressed in the following terms in his letter to the *Times* :—

"What we do want in the Councils (and in this I believe I am quite in accord with your correspondent) is a selection of the best men, as honest and independent as we can find, to represent all classes and interests of the community. We want to see the landed interests, the trading, commercial, and manufacturing interests, the legal and judicial elements, fairly and properly represented.

But it seems to me, in the first place, that the Government Bill, in its present form affords no sufficient room for a representation of this kind; and, in the next place, I think that no selection of additional members will be satisfactory to the public which is made by the Government itself.

I wish I could take a favourable view of the Government Bill, but it really seems to me in its present shape to concede little or nothing.

There are now ten additional members of the Supreme Legislative Council selected by the Governor-General. The Bill says that there must be ten, and there may be sixteen, such members, but still all selected by the Governor-General; and whether he appoints the six extra members or not is entirely at his own option.

The Bill certainly provides that a discussion of the Budget should take place in each year, and allows questions to be asked of the Government officials; but it is impossible to say what these provisions mean, without knowing the rules and conditions by which the proceedings are to be regulated, and which will be entirely under the control of the Secretary of State.

It will be observed that there is no power given to move for the production of papers or accounts, and, however objectionable any item of the Budget may be, there is no means of taking the opinion of the Council upon it. I confess I should have thought that some more liberal measure of reform at the present important juncture might have been both politic and advisable. But at the same time I am bound to add that if anything could justify the Government in shutting its doors to any reform at all, it would be the extravagance and danger of the Congress pretensions as disclosed by Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill."

Sir Richard condemns Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill in more unequivocal terms. As the opinion of an eminent judicial officer and of one in sympathy with the cause of liberal administration in this country, his words must possess peculiar interest at the present time. We therefore quote him *in extenso* :—

"When Lord Dufferin made his now famous speech at Calcutta, on the eve of his departure, I confess I was one of those who thought that he did the Congress an injustice by imputing to them an intention to introduce into India a Parliamentary system such as that which prevails in Great Britain. It seemed to me that at that time there was nothing in the Congress programme, nor indeed, in the less-guarded utterances of some of their more zealous partizans, to warrant any imputation of the kind.

But it turns out now that Lord Dufferin was right. His keener instincts had evidently divined what was the real aim and object of native ambition, and he did well to warn his European friends against the danger which threatened them.

For it is indeed, in my humble judgment, a most serious danger. Much as I desire to see a wholesome reform in the Legislative Councils, much as I deplore the many grievances of which our Indian friends have reason to complain, I believe it would be far better for us all that matters should remain in their present condition than that Mr. Bradlaugh's proposals, even in a modified form, should pass into a law.

The result of his Bill would inevitably be to place all the elective seats in the Councils in the hands of the Hindoos, to the exclusion of all the other great sections and interests of the community except the Mahomedans. Under Clause 27 of the Bill, which professes to protect the interests of minorities, the Mahomedans might secure a small proportion of the seats in each electoral body; but whether this would avail them anything in obtaining admission to the Councils is another matter. The Hindoos would command nearly four-fifths of the vote,

and it is probable, therefore, that none but Hindoos would be elected.

Need I add that such a result would tend to set class against class, would be productive of the bitterest feelings of animosity, and would be utterly destructive of the very purpose for which the reform of the Councils has been so much desired.

The truth is that, in order to remedy the defect of the Councils, we want no representation of the bulk of the people, the great majority of whom are unable to read or write and are quite incapable of independent thought or action. Popular representation in the present state of things must needs place all the power in the hands of Hindoos and no one knows this better than their Bengalee leaders."

The Congress has been hoist in its own petard. Its tactics are bringing their own punishment. It is most unfortunate from every point of view that Mr. Bradlaugh ever launched an extravagant and impracticable scheme like his Bill. From the first it was doomed itself, but that it threatens the other measure with miscarriage is a great mischief which yet will be realized. One by one the Congress is losing its friends and supporters. The other day a pillar of the movement gave way in the person of no less a man than Sir T. Madhava Row. And now another sympathetic friend is gone. Sir Richard's opposition to the Congress programme is a serious embarrassment. They hounded Sir Madhava after his resignation, but how will they take Sir Richard Garth's changed attitude? Sir Madhava has never shown himself to be a partizan, any more than Sir Richard Garth. It is the extravagance of the Congress that is repelling its own friends.

## THE REIS AND RAYYET DEFAMATION CASE.

THE POLICE COURT.—JULY 2.

(Before A. P. Handley, Esq., Offg. Chief Presidency Magistrate.)

The adjourned case of defamation against Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, Editor, and Mutty Lal Ghose, Printer, of *Reis and Rayyet*, at the instance of Baboo Nagendro Nath Mullick and his brother Baboo Jogendro Nath Mullick, sons of the late Baboo Deno Nath Mullick, was resumed to-day. Mr. Garth, instructed by Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Henderson, with Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, instructed by Mr. N. C. Bose, and Baboo Kany Lal Mookerjee, for the defence.

Mr. Henderson said that since the last occasion, when the case was adjourned for the purpose of considering what steps the defence would take, his client had given very careful consideration and serious thought to the matter, and having consulted with his friends and counsel on the subject, he had, as advised, come to the conclusion to plead not guilty to the charge. In fact, there was a legal difficulty in pleading guilty to a charge of defamation, which, as stated in the summons, alleged intention to hurt or wound the feelings of a person. His client had no such intention. Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee considered the deceased, Deno Nath Mullick, to be a public man of the Hindu community, and in the acceptance of the word in native society—in any other sense there could hardly be a public man in a country without a Parliament, or public life, as understood in Europe—and, recognising him as such, considered the discussion of his life was of public interest and the general good. In discussing the life of the deceased as a public man, Dr. Mookerjee never intended to hurt the feelings of the sons, or to cause pain to any of the members of the family of the deceased gentleman. On finding that the articles did cause pain and hurt the feelings of the complainants and the family, he had, on the last occasion, expressed sincere regret. He now again expressed regret and desired to state that in the publications in question he had no personal malice or animosity against the deceased or any of the members of his family. Under the circumstances, he could not plead guilty, and therefore denied the charge. At the same time, the defence were anxious not to throw any obstacle or opposition in the way of the prosecution, and even now, although pleading not guilty, he would not go into the case, but would ask the Court to try it here and dispose of the case at once.

Mr. Garth declined to accept an apology on those terms and without a plea of guilty. He thought that what had been said aggravated the offence, as the articles were of such a nature as must have hurt the feelings of any decent son of any father. The explanation that the defendant did not think the articles would hurt the feelings of the sons of the deceased, or cause pain to any of the deceased, or cause pain to any of the members of his family, and had no intention of doing so, could only mean that he considered the sons were wholly lost to all sense of decency and respect for their father, and would not mind what was said of him. Mr. Garth,



under the circumstances, must press the charge, and ask the Court to commit the case to the Sessions.

His Worship observed that, as both parties were Hindoo gentlemen of position, he thought the case ought to be committed to the Sessions, where it might be tried by a mixed jury of Hindoo and European gentlemen. His Worship then directed that the charge, as stated in the summons, be read out to the defendant Dr. Mookerjee, who was then to be asked to plead to it.

Dr. Mookerjee said he was perfectly aware what the charges were, and there would be no necessity to read them over. He would simply plead not guilty.

His Worship, addressing Mr. Garth :—Am I to understand that the charge against the printer is withdrawn?

Mr. Garth :—Yes, your Honor.

His Worship to the defendant :—You reserve your defence?

Dr. Mookerjee :—Yes, your Honor.

His Worship :—Do you desire to call any witnesses?

Dr. Mookerjee :—No, your Honor. Not at present.

His Worship :—You are then committed for trial, and warned to be present at the High Court at the opening of the next Sessions.

No recognizances were taken nor sureties demanded.

### THE INDIGO DISTURBANCES AT MAGURAH.

Since the memorable case of the Rev. Mr. Long, and the day of the late Baboo Harish Chunder Mookerjee, these Indigo disturbances were kept alive like ash-covered and smouldering fire, ready to burst in all fury with every puff of blowing wind. They have, as is generally supposed, never totally died out, but almost from year to year give out sparkling flames. Although, after the famous Indigo Commission, several factories and concerns in Bengal have been closed, and the indigo production is becoming a decaying trade every year, yet several factories do still exist and close at our doors. The Nowhatta concern of Magurah, under Mr. Savi, was one such. During the weak régime of Sir Rivers Thompson and when good Mr. Barton was the responsible district officer of Jessore, matters threatened to assume a serious character, but they were only stopped in time by the prompt measures of Messrs. Barton and Monro, the then Magistrate of Jessore and Commissioner of the Presidency Division severally. The indigo planters of Magurah were threatened with the displeasure of the Government of Bengal and some fled the country. This was in 1882. For a time all was calm and quiet. But with the present régime the depredations have once more commenced and in a more serious way. However well-meaning our present ruler may be, he seems too much under the influence of officialdom. To add to the rayyet's misfortunes, they have got a Divisional Commissioner who, undistinguished for firmness or sagacity, lets matters proceed in a leisurely way. Now the high pressure of agitation in Parliament is going to be put on the Government, we may yet have the satisfaction of finding our gods, snugly perched at different points in the Himalayas, shake off their lethargy.

The people are harassed both in Court and out of it. They have civil and criminal cases in numbers hanging over their heads. And if the present state of things continues any longer, the rayyets will be ruined irretrievably. Though the calamity may begin at Magurah yet it will surely not end there. It will sweep over the whole of India. So their case ought to be considered as a national one. The loss, on the other hand, of the planters, supported as they are with funds from the great Calcutta firms, is comparatively slender and superficial. Although they cannot continue their business with constant losses, yet they are not in danger of being ousted from their homesteads. If matters go dead against them, still an easy remedy is left them, *viz.*, filing a schedule in the Original Side of the High Court. Moreover, these planters are helped openly by friendly officials. With the active co-operation of these and their own full and heavy purses, they seem determined to make an Ulster of Magurah.

Messrs. Barrow and Gupta, two former District Magistrates of Jessore, disclosed startling facts regarding these disputes and censured the planters strongly. The latter perceiving an evil wind blowing exercised their influence with the authorities and had them transferred thence. Afterwards they got a Magistrate of their own liking. Mr. Luson, a young civilian, not of the highest reputation, was placed in charge of the two Sub-Divisions of Magurah and Jhenidah. He summarily disposed of the cases against the rayyets and became quite a terror in so short a time. He was biased, we do not mean consciously partial, and succeeded in serving the planters. One fact does not suggest itself to our Anglo-Indian contemporaries. Is it not singular that crimes are reported to have increased in Magurah since the advent of a European Joint-Magistrate were all was quiet under the Bengalee Deputy Magistrates? They do not seek to know the reason, which is evident. Mr. Luson has got a huge magnifier in his head, otherwise how could he regard the very simple affair of throwing some clods by the indignant rayyets on the planters as if it were the bombardment of a fortress? Can a man imagine the half-starved peasants of

malarial Bengal capable of driving away the well-fed Europeans? However absurd and ludicrous it may seem to others, Mr. Luson actually went to the Benodepore *bat*, near the scene of the disturbance, armed *cap-à-pie* and with equally armed sentinels. He must have been reading ghost stories in a book of Mrs. Crowe's before he set out on his journey, or dreaming the night previous of spectres, hobgoblins, "visions and chimeras dire," of

"Evil thing that walks by night

In fog, or fire, by lake, or moorish fen,

Blue meagre hag, or stubborn unlaid ghost

That breaks forth his magic chain at curfew time."

How else could he have been so agitated in both mind and body as to take such a fright? He appears to have been panic-struck. The whole affair so upturned his cerebral organ as to give him his only excuse for what he did.

By the latest news from the spot, Magurah is in a state of chaos, and who is responsible for this? As misfortunes never come alone, since the notorious Benodepore assault case, referred to above, a contingent of military police is employed there. And the effect of the display of the bayonet supplemented by the *lal pagri* upon the poor and illiterate peasants may be better imagined than described. The people fled from their hearth and home leaving behind their property to the tender mercies of these myrmidons of authority, and they have not yet come back. How can they come? who knows what may befall the returned fugitives? We are not ready to charge on the police every act of lawlessness that is reported from there. But it stands to reason that wherever the police backed by the military makes its appearance, *zulum* follows as a consequence, and there is no contending it.

Just now our educated countrymen, proud of the Western lore they have received, are moving in Congress and out for representative assemblies. What credentials have they got for the exercise of such important functions? Can they be declared fit for sitting in the Utopian Parliament of India as the representatives of the masses? Are they able to express the views of the people? As long as, we say, they do not prove themselves capable of helping the poor rayyets out of their difficulties, so long there is no guarantee that they are fit for self-government. For self-government must accompany self-abnegation. The present furnishes them with a good opportunity of proving their claim. Let them help the poor men of Magurah not by writing a few leaders in the newspapers or by stump oratory, or by the shedding of crocodile tears but in a more methodical and practical way. And let them make these oppressions things of a by-gone age and of the past, otherwise God will never help those who know not how to help others in need of such service. Let them, in fine, be up and doing.

C. C.

### MONGHYR.

Jamalpure, 1st July 1890.

I am glad to inform you that the Monghyr Collectorate fraud case has come to an end. The defendant Baboo Poornoo Chunder Ghosh, who was alleged to have been implicated in the matter for passing a bill of Rs. 25 twice, has after all been honorably acquitted. But the question is, who is responsible for the large outlay already incurred in defending the case. The poor clerk had to secure the services of Mr. T. Palit and Mr. Lall Mohan Ghosh, Barristers-at-Law, from Calcutta.

The tide of reduction in the Railway offices has not yet subsided. Rumour has it, that both the Coaching and Goods Divisions of the Traffic Audit branch here, are shortly to be amalgamated. The Pav Department, Dinapore District, is likewise to be amalgamated with that of Jamalpure District. The Traffic Manager's Office, Calcutta, and that of the Deputy Traffic Manager, Jamalpure, are both to be removed to Allahabad, that being the central position of the line.

Cholera has broken out in the native quarter of the town, especially at Nayagown and its vicinity, in an epidemic form. No less than a dozen cases occurred, of which half the number, chiefly among Bengalis, proved fatal. The case of a young Bengalee Baboo treated by Baboo Ootool Nath Bose, homœopathic practitioner, has proved wonderfully successful. The small doses of medicine administered at intervals of 3 hours soon brought round the case which threatened to end fatally. The patient can now be safely said to be out of danger, and he is fast improving.

A fatal case of smallpox occurred at Janjheera, close to the European quarter of this town. The local Municipality has taken steps in right earnest, they are burning sulphur in the public streets and bye lanes. There is a proposal also to erect a shed for cholera patients and to engage a native Doctor in connection therewith. The suggestion is good no doubt in all respects, but as the disease is already upon us and if the shed cannot be built all at once, I would humbly suggest either to hire a house or to make a temporary shed, the sooner the better, to meet the crisis. The lower class of Beharis as a rule mainly die, untreated and uncared for. Baboo Dabendra Nath Chatterjee deserves thanks of the native community at large, for his indefatigable exertions and trouble in attending the patients right through without the least grudge.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER: OR SOME RESULTS OF THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

The following paper was read before the East India Association, by Herbert J. Reynolds, Esq., c. s. i., on Monday, May 19th, 1890, the Most Hon'ble The Marquis of Ripon, K. G., c. c. s. i., being in the Chair:—

At the late meeting of the Indian Congress in Bombay, it was resolved to petition the Government to extend to other parts of India the Permanent Settlement concluded a hundred years ago by Lord Cornwallis for Bengal and Behar. It does not seem likely that this request will meet with a favourable response. The land-tax is by far the most important item of the public receipts, and it is the present policy of Government to retain for the State a reasonable share of the profits which must accrue from the progressive rise of rents, and from the extension of cultivation. Even the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is powerless to grant a permanent settlement of the smallest plot of land, without the sanction of the Governor-General in Council; and this sanction is only conceded under special circumstances, and for areas of inconsiderable extent and value.

At the same time it is significant that the request should have been made, especially when we take into account the origin and composition of the body from which it proceeds. That an assemblage of Zemindars should petition for a permanent settlement would excite no surprise. But it must be borne in mind that the Indian Congress does not specially represent the land-holding classes. Of the great Zemindars of Bengal and Behar, the Maharajah of Durbhungah is the only one (so far as I am aware) who has declared in favour of the Congress, and the great majority of the delegates are professional men, whose personal interests would rather lead them to desire a continuance of the present system. We see, therefore, that an influential meeting of our Indian fellow-subjects, a meeting which we can hardly deny to be well-informed, and which is not actuated by any selfish motives, has expressed a deliberate opinion in favour of an extension of the principle of a permanent settlement of the land-revenue; and the subject is of sufficient importance to demand the attention of this Association.

I do not, however, propose to discuss in this paper the general question raised by the resolution of the Congress. I do not feel myself competent to offer an opinion upon the point whether a permanent settlement is desirable in the North-West Provinces or the Punjab, or even whether the rayyetwaree system of Madras is better or worse than the Zemindary system of Bengal. My Indian service has been passed under the Government of Bengal, and I wish to confine myself to those matters upon which I can speak with some measure of experience and knowledge. I shall only venture, therefore, to submit, as a contribution to the formation of a sound opinion on the subject, a few remarks on some results of the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, and to add a suggestion regarding the policy which the Bengal Government should pursue in concluding some important settlements which will shortly be undertaken in that Province.

Among the many criticisms which have been levelled against Reg. i. of 1793, two—and only two—may be admitted to be of some weight and validity. It is unquestionably true that the settlement was made on very imperfect information, and without the careful inquiry which ought to have preceded so important a measure. A still more serious defect was the omission to define and safeguard the rights of the actual cultivators of the soil. The confidence which the Regulation expressed in the moderation and humanity of the Zemindars, the anticipation that they would devote themselves to the improvement of their estates, and the welfare of their tenants, was not justified by the results of the experiment. The long struggle which ensued has at last been closed by the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885, an Act which for the first time has placed both parties under the equal protection of the law, an Act which has secured the landlord in the enjoyment of his fair rent, and has maintained the tenant in the possession of his rightful holding.

The other charges which have been brought against the settlement can be successfully repelled. It has been said that the assessment was so excessive as to ruin the Zemindars who accepted it, and that this is proved by the large number of estates which were brought to sale for arrears within a few years after the settlement was concluded. But a little consideration will show this charge to be unfounded. The sale of the estates was due to the apathy and mismanagement of the Zemindars, who failed to understand that the Government was really in earnest when it declared that sale would be the inevitable penalty of default. Those who allege the assessment to have been inequitable are bound to show how it happened that there was never any difficulty in finding purchasers for the estates, and that the purchasers found it perfectly feasible to satisfy the Government demand. It should also be borne in mind that a large proportion of the estates which were brought to sale were purchased by the dewans and managers of the original proprietors, men who were fully aware of the real value of the properties. The fact that men of this class freely bought the

estates, and made large profits from the purchase of them, is a sufficient answer to the allegation that the assessment was unreasonably high.

On the other hand Lord Cornwallis, after being abused by one set of critics for having exacted too much, is blamed by another set for having demanded too little. The Permanent Settlement it is said, by limiting the Government demand in perpetuity, was a wanton sacrifice of the resources of the State for the aggrandisement of a particular class in one Province of the Empire. The consequence has been that Bengal has never since borne its fair share of the public burdens. In the Bombay Presidency, the incidence of land-revenue is Rs. 234 to every 100 persons of the population; in Madras it is Rs. 134; in the North-West Provinces, Rs. 129; and in the Punjab, Rs. 109; but in Bengal 100 persons pay only Rs. 55 of land revenue. If the Bengal land-tax could be levied at the rate which prevails in Bombay, the land revenue of Bengal, which is now about 3 crores 85 lakhs, would amount to about 16 crores of rupees; and the difference between these two sums represents the annual amount which the short-sighted liberality of Lord Cornwallis has flung into the lap of the Bengal Zemindars. And even this is not all. The disproportion may be, and probably will be, even greater hereafter than it is at present. It may well be the case, that, by the end of the twentieth century, the operation of natural causes will have increased the land-revenue of other provinces of India, without any undue pressure upon the people, to double the present rates. But so long as the British Raj shall endure, the Permanent Settlement of 1793 will be an insuperable bar to any substantial increase in the amount of land-revenue now contributed by Bengal to the public treasury. The territories administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal extend over about 140,000 square miles, and of this area 120,000 square miles are permanently settled, a tract about equal to the area of the United Kingdom. Throughout the whole of this vast region, the land-revenue, the most important item of the public receipts, is fixed in perpetuity at a sum which can never be increased, while the demands on the public purse are becoming more urgent year by year. To the end of time, the tax-payers of Madras and Bombay must pay a higher land-tax than would otherwise be necessary, to atone for the error which Lord Cornwallis committed in sacrificing the just claims of Government for the benefit of the Zemindars of Bengal.

This is, undoubtedly, a grave indictment. It admits, I believe, of a full and complete answer; but that answer can only be given by a consideration of the results of the settlement as a whole. An examination of those results will perhaps lead us to the conclusion that the Permanent Settlement was a wise and statesmanlike measure; that politically it has been a tower of strength to the Empire; that, from a social and economic point of view, it has stimulated the prosperity, and fostered the intelligence, of the Province; and that, even from a strictly financial stand-point, the surrender of an increased land-tax has been in some measure compensated by the steady development of other branches of the public revenue.

The first result of the Settlement which I shall notice is, the great increase of cultivation by which it was followed. It is a trite saying, that the magic of property is able to convert sand to gold, and to turn a wilderness into a garden. The saying was never better exemplified than in the case of Bengal. The best-informed authorities were of opinion that, at the time of the Settlement, fully one-third of the cultivable area of Bengal lay uncultivated and waste. At the present day, there are whole districts in which it is scarcely possible to find a plot of unoccupied land. The sportsman has to go further and further afield in the quest of big game, and a tiger in Hooghly is almost as rare a phenomenon as it would be in Hampstead. Even the islands on the shores of the Bay, exposed as they are to inundation from stormwaves, are cultivated down to the very edge of the water. Unfortunately, no precise figures are available to show what the actual increase of rent and cultivation has been. We know, however, that the Settlement was based on an estimated rental of about 3½ crores of rupees, while the present rental is not less than 20 crores. The uncultivated area, which was reckoned to be one-third when the Settlement was made, is now believed not to exceed one-thirtieth. The marvellous change which has transformed the aspect of the country, is unquestionably due to the feeling of security produced by the Permanent Settlement, to the conviction that the worker would be left undisturbed to reap the labour of his hands and would not be compelled to share with the State the fruits of the prosperity he had created.

The next result of the Settlement has been to make Bengal the most loyal province of the Empire. It has bound up, as nothing else could do, the interests of the people with the stability of the Government. The native newspapers may sometimes put forth articles not inspired by the best taste, or couched in the most temperate language; but I have no hesitation in saying that the sentiment of Bengal is thoroughly and even ardently loyal, and that the mainspring of this loyalty is the Permanent Settlement. Not a single soldier is necessary to maintain the internal tranquillity of the

Province. It may be said that this is due, not to the loyalty of the people, but to their cowardice. But such language will be held only by those whose idea of the Bengali is derived from the clerks in Calcutta offices, and from the famous passage in Macaulay's essay. The Bengal peasant is a man of different stamp from Macaulay's caricature of him. The boatmen and fishermen of the Eastern districts are a stalwart, hardy, and courageous race, prompt to assert their rights, and to combine in an organized resistance to what they deem oppression. Their resolution has been tested in two serious conflicts, in which they have come off victorious. Thirty years ago they rose up against the indigo-planters, and the planting industry is now extinct in Dacca, Mymensingh and the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, and has lost its objectionable features in the few districts of Bengal in which it survives. Thirteen years later, the determined stand made by the peasantry of Pubna in 1873 against the exactions of their landlords, was the first act of the drama which culminated in the passing of the Tenancy Law of 1885. It is surely no trifling safeguard to the Empire, that some millions of such men as these should be animated by a spirit of fervent attachment to British rule. And this attachment is largely based upon the conviction that no Power which might succeed that of England, could be trusted to respect and maintain the great Settlement of Lord Cornwallis.

Thirdly, the effect of the Settlement has been to facilitate the transfer of the ownership of land to those who were likely to turn it to the best advantage. It was the Regulation of 1793 which first recognised the right of the Zemindars to sell the whole or any part of their lands at their pleasure; and this power was freely exercised. The large unwieldy estates of the presettlement era, as they fell into arrear, were sold piecemeal to purchasers whose object was to make them a profitable investment. The number of landholders was greatly increased, and the character of the landholding classes underwent a marked change. The feudal relation of chieftain and retainer was replaced by the commercial relation of landlord and tenant. Even in the great estates which escaped dismemberment, the same result was carried out by a different process. The Zemindars found it convenient and profitable to grant out their lands in putnees and other similar tenures, at fixed rentals in perpetuity, thus reducing themselves to the position of mere annuitants in receipt of a rent-charge, and raising the putnidars to the virtual status of proprietors. From the standpoint of romance and sentiment, this change is perhaps to be regretted; but there can be no question of the great material benefit which it has produced. It has brought the land into the hands of those who were determined to make it pay; and it has stimulated the industry of the whole of the vast mass of agriculturists, as the humblest rayyet has felt it within his power to rise to the rank of a tenure-holder. A noticeable instance of the beneficial effect of sub-infeudation will be found in the condition of the district of Backergunge. The peasantry of that district enjoy a greater measure of material comfort and well-being than the corresponding class in any other part of India, or perhaps, even of the world. This is mainly due to the system of land-tenure. The chain of sub-infeudation, extending sometimes to as many as six or eight links between the Zemindar and the rayyet, has bound up the interests of a very large proportion of the people with the progress of agricultural improvement. I have been told that travellers from the Upper Provinces have spoken with wonder and admiration of the state of things they have witnessed in Backergunge, the substantial comfortable homesteads, surrounded by clumps of bamboos and fruit-trees; the abundance of brass utensils and silver ornaments; the sleek cattle, and the well fed children. This Arcadia might never have been realized if the great Zemindari had not been broken up and sub-leased under the operation of the Permanent Settlement.

Another result of the Settlement, which seems of sufficient importance to deserve notice, has been the extinction and disappearance of the putwaree or village accountant. It is worthy of notice that this official has perished in spite of the strenuous efforts of the Legislature and the Executive to keep him alive. The Government failed to perceive that the old order had changed and that under the new régime which the Settlement had introduced, the putwaree had become impossible. He was essentially a village officer, the servant at once of the Government and of the Zemindar; and so long as the village belonged to a single landlord, or to a number of landlords acting in partnership, there was nothing, in theory at least to prevent the putwaree doing good and useful service. But when the village lands were split up among a number of estates, the property of separate, and sometimes mutually hostile, landlords, the

functions of the putwaree could no longer be performed. This change as I have remarked, was not understood. The Government continued to pass Regulations, and the Board of Revenue to issue Circulars, directing that putwarees should be duly appointed, that their stipends should be regularly paid and their accounts punctually submitted; and these orders invariably remained a dead letter. A last attempt to revive the putwaree was made by a Lieutenant-Governor of more than ordinary vigour and resolution, Sir George Campbell; but the logic of facts was too strong for him, and his efforts were as fruitless as those of his predecessors had been. There is nothing, however, which we need regret in his disappearance of the putwaree. He was generally an unprincipled rascal, who either colluded with the Zemindar to oppress the rayyets, or conspired with the rayyets to defraud the Zemindar; and, for all statistical purposes, his accounts were absolutely worthless. For the future, the provisions of the Tenancy Act will make it unnecessary for any village official to keep the accounts of individual rayyets, while the village accounts will be kept, in a much better style than they were ever kept by the putwaree, by the Union Committees established under the Act for Local Self-Government.

The most important result of the Settlement still remains to be noticed; I mean the effect it has had in creating and fostering the growth of a middle class in Bengal. The march of civilization and progress is impossible in any community, which consists of a handful of great nobles at one end of the scale, and a crowd of ignorant and poverty-stricken peasants at the other. Such is, perhaps, the condition of Russia at the present day; such was the condition of Bengal one hundred years ago; such is still the condition of some portions of Behar, which are among the poorest and most backward regions under the Lieutenant-Governor's authority. But, over the greater part of Bengal, the Permanent Settlement has produced a marvellous and most salutary change. I have already spoken of its effect upon the classes connected with the land, whether as owners or in subordinate grades; and it is hardly necessary to say that these form a large proportion of the population. Such men as the putnidars of Burdwan, the jotedars of Rangpore, and the talukdars of Backergunge, are the back-bone of the agricultural community. It is to such men as these that Bengal owes the introduction of jute, a crop which has added so greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the province. It is due to this agricultural middle class that famines have ceased to occur in Bengal, because the people now-a-days have something in reserve, and no longer depend entirely upon the year's harvest for the year's sustenance. But the influence of the Settlement has extended much further than this, and has permeated the whole framework of society. It has given Bengal a leisured class, men who are raised above the necessity of daily labour, and who are able to bring up their sons to a literary career, and to the pursuit of the liberal professions. It is this middle class of the community, daily increasing in numbers, and in influence, and animated by the constant wish to raise itself in the social scale, which has given Bengal its honourable pre-eminence among the provinces of India for educational progress and intellectual activity. It is this which has made possible the careers of such men as Kristodas Pal and Keshub Chunder Sen. The first Indian novel was the work of a Bengali writer of this class, Pearychand Mitter; and the best Indian novelist of the present day is a Bengali Brahmin, Bunkim-chunder Chatterjee, some of whose fictions have been translated into English, and have been favourably criticized in this country. It is owing to this that twelve newspapers are published in Bengal in English, and sixty-six in the vernacular; and of the twelve English papers six are under native management, and are written by native contributors. The avidity with which the advantages of education are seized upon is shown, not only by the 6,000 lads who annually present themselves for matriculation at the Calcutta University, but by the interesting fact that there are seventeen colleges in Bengal which are entirely self-supporting, and receive no grant from the State. The rapid increase, throughout the mofussil, in the number of qualified practitioners in the three great professions of medicine, law, and civil engineering, is an important and most encouraging sign of the times. There is hardly a large village in Bengal which does not count among its residents a medical man who has studied in one of our colleges, and who possesses at least some tincture of Western science. The pleaders before the court of a district judge would compare favourably, for legal knowledge and acumen, with those who appear before the County Courts and Quarter Sessions of our own country. In a large proportion of Bengal districts, the district engineers are members of the native community. I had prepared some figures showing the steady growth of the number of letters passing through the post office, the increased use of the telegraph, the larger deposits in the postal savings-banks; but it seems unnecessary to trouble the Association with these details. The point upon which I wish to lay stress is, that this progress is due, not to the rich, not to the poor, but to the middle class of society; a class which hardly exists in some parts of India, and which owes its vitality and energy in Bengal to the agencies which were quickened into life and activity by the operation of the Permanent Settlement.

(To be continued.)

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## TRAVELS & VOYAGES IN BENGAL

BETWEEN

*Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,*  
BY

**SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,**

*Formerly Minister to the late*

NAWAB FARIDDOON JAH BAHADOOR,

(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

*Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.*

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native news-

papers of Calcutta, a most readable little *brochure* written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1890.

} No. 432

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THREE DAYS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

FROM THE FRENCH OF DELAVIGNE.

En Europe ! en Europe ! Esperez ! Plus d'espoir !  
—Trois jours, leaur dit Colomb, et je vous donne un monde.

"BACK to Europe, again, let our sails be unfurled !"  
—"Three days," said Columbus, "and I give you a world !"  
And he pointed his finger, and looked through the Vast,  
As if he beheld the bright region at last.  
He sails—and the dawn, the first day, quickly leads :  
He sails—and the golden horizon recedes :  
He sails—till the sun, downward sinking from view,  
Hides the sea and the sky with their limitless blue—  
On, onward he sails, while in vain o'er the lee  
Down plunges the lead through the fathomless sea !

The pilot, in silence, leans mournfully o'er  
The rudder, which creaks 'mid the dark billows' roar ;  
He hears the hoarse moan of the waves rushing past,  
And the funeral wail of the wind-stricken mast ;  
The stars of far Europe have fled from the skies,  
And the Cross of the South meets his terrified eyes ;  
But at length the slow dawn, softly streaking the night,  
Illumes the dark dome with its beautiful light.  
"Columbus ! 't is day, and the darkness hath past !"  
—"Day ! and what dost thou see ?"—"I see nought but the Vast !"

What matter ! he's calm !—but ah, stranger, if you  
Had your hand on his heart with such glory in view ;  
Had you felt the wild throb of despair and delight  
That depressed and expanded his bosom that night ;  
The quick alternations as morning came near,  
The chill and the fever, the rapture and fear,  
You would feel that such moments exhausted the rage  
And the multiplied malice and pains of an age—  
You would say these three days half a lifetime have slain,  
And his fame is too dear at the price of such pain.

Oh ! who can describe what the crushed heart must bear—  
The delirium of hope and the lonely despair—  
Of a Great Man unknown, whom his age doth despise  
As a fool, 'mid the vain vulgar crowd of the wise !  
Such wert thou, Galileo ! Far better to die  
Than thus by a horrible effort to lie !  
When you gave, by an agony deep and intense,  
That lie to your labors, your reason, your sense,  
To the Sun—to the Earth—to that Earth, we repeat,  
That you trembled to feel moving under your feet !

The second day's past—and Columbus ?—he sleeps,  
While Mutiny round him its dark vigil keeps :

"Shall he perish ?"—"Death ! death !" is the mutinous cry,  
"He must triumph to-morrow, or perjured must die !"  
The ingrates ! Shall his tomb on to-morrow be made  
Of that sea which his daring a highway hath made ?  
Shall that sea on to-morrow, with pitiless waves,  
Fling his corse on that shore which his longing eye craves ?  
The corse of an unknown adventurer then—  
One day later—Columbus, the greatest of men !

He dreams, how a veil drooping over the main  
Is rent, at the distant horizon, in twain,  
And how, from beneath, on his rapturous sight  
Burst at length the New World from the darkness of night !  
Oh, how fresh ! oh, how fair the new virgin earth seems !  
With gold the fruits glisten, and sparkle the streams—  
Green gleams on the mountains, and gladdens the isles,  
And the seas and the rivers are dimpled with smiles.  
"Joy ! joy !" cries Columbus, "this region is mine !"—  
Ah ! not even its name, hapless dreamer, is thine !

Soon changes that dream from a vision so fair,  
For he sees that the merciless Spaniards are there,  
Who with loud mimic thunderbolts slaughter the host  
Of the unarmed people that cover the coast.  
He sees the fair palace, the temple on fire,  
And the peaceful Cazique 'mid their ashes expire ;  
He sees, too—oh, saddest ! oh, mournfullest sight !—  
The crucifix gleam in the thick of the fight—  
More terrible far than the merciless steel  
Is the uplifted cross in the red hand of zeal !

He sees the earth open and reel to and fro,  
And the wretches who breathe in the caverns below.  
Poor captives ! whose arms, in a languid despair,  
Fall fatigued on the gold of the rocks that they tear.  
Pale spectres ! whose agonized cries, uncontrolled,  
Seek the light of that sun that they're ne'er to behold.  
They struggle, they pant 'mid the pestilent dews,  
And by labor escape the sharp whip that pursues,  
Till a long, lingering death, in the cavern's dim light,  
Consigns them at length to eternity's night !

Columbus, oppressed by this vision of pain,  
Scares it off from his feverish pallet and brain ;  
It dwindles, it melts, it fades from his eye,  
As a light passing cloud in the depths of the sky.  
All is changed !—he beholds in the wilds of the north,  
Full of strength, full of hope, a new empire spring forth—  
Its people oppressed, as the war-cry goes round,  
Seize the peaceable ploughshare that furrows their ground,  
Or that creature of iron which lately they swayed  
As it turned into cities their forests of shade.

They have conquered !—they show him with grateful acclaim  
Their Hero, their Washington—type of that name—

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

O sage Cincinnatus and Cato ! no more  
Need we doubt of thy virtue, or mocking adore.  
He has caused our weak hearts that strange grandeur to feel,  
And conceive what corruption till now could conceal.  
In the council, a Sage by the Hero is seen,  
And not less revered 'neath a different mien.  
He rules, he discovers, and daringly brings  
Down the lightning from Heaven and the sceptre from kings.

At length, o'er Columbus, slow consciousness breaks—  
"Land ! land !" cry the sailors, "land ! land !" —he awakes—  
He runs—yes ! behold it !—it blesseth his sight—  
The land ! O sweet spectacle ! transport ! delight !  
O generous sobs which he cannot restrain !  
What will Ferdinand say ? and the Future ? and Spain ?  
He will lay this fair land at the foot of the throne—  
His king will repay all the ills he has known —  
In exchange for a world what are honors and gains ?  
'Or a Crown ? but how *is* he rewarded ? —with chains !

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

*Native Opinion* writes with feeling severity of our countrymen for their apathy towards their benefactors :—

"While our people glibly talk about the ungracious discourtesy of Anglo-Indians towards their Indian fellow-subjects when retired after competence, what have they to show as emphasising their loyalty to and love for those Anglo-Indians who have devoted their whole lifetime to the welfare of the Indian people? A Bell, an Osborn and to add to their list a Knight has passed away, and what have the people done to give a concrete expression to their love beyond verbal expressions of regret in newspapers, and public meetings. The late Messrs. Fawcett and John Bright did so much for India, and how have the people requited the labours of these really great and noble men ! While an official like Sir R. Temple may for some reason or other have his memory kept as green as ever, there is nothing substantial to mark off the memories of those who have done us no end of good ! Among these may be reckoned the late Robert Knight, and what has Calcutta done to mark his memory ? There was some talk about his memorial, but as time passes every thing he has done will be quite forgotten. We are sorry our people are so forgetful when duty calls them to move and repay a debt of gratitude. Will Calcutta play the same role that we on our side did in similar other matters ?"

"THE Planters of Ceylon have decided to subscribe to a suitable memorial to perpetuate the name of Mr. James Taylor, the successful pioneer of the Tea industry in Ceylon."—Ceylon Paper.

AND will India do nothing for the memory of Robert Knight, the unofficial "Statesman and Friend of India ?"

THE Editor of the *Indian Union* is the true knight who reports one of the most remarkable instances of courage, pluck and devotion in a Hindu woman. He writes :—

"It is not often we hear now a days of female heroism in India, therefore all the more notice should be taken of the bravery of Kariman, an Ahir woman, in protecting Mr. Edward William Maclean of Amlia Bahraitch, against a savage and wounded tiger, single handed. We have often enough heard of English ladies like Lady Eva Quin, Mrs. Mortilli and others, who have shot tigers from the safe security of a howdah, but we have never heard of any of these going out to tackle a tiger on foot. We cannot do better than quote a portion of the Deputy Commissioner of Bahraitch's letter, which shows the cool courage and doubtless intrepidity displayed by this Ahirni, in rescuing Mr. Maclean from the very jaws of the tiger about to devour him.

"The sahib told me to keep cool and reserve my fire till he had had a shot. He fired, and then he and I fired simultaneously. We fired again as the tiger broke. Seeing us he charged, and we took refuge behind a tree. Here the rest of the party who had fled rejoined us. The tiger remained in the nullah. We thought he was prevented from following us by the precipitous bank. The sahib said he would go back to the tiger. I implored him to avoid the danger, but he abused me, and said his face would be blackened if he retreated and left the tiger there. He said he would be killed and not I. I exchanged rifles with the Pahari, and foot to foot the sahib and I returned to the nullah. Directly we reached a crossing the tiger charged us from a distance of 20 paces. We fired, the sahib hitting him in the chest and I in the neck ; but he still came on and knocking the sahib down seized him by the shirt. I broke my rifle over the tiger's head and he turned on me, knocking me down and standing over me. The sahib seized him in order to get him away from me and the animal attacked him again. They struggled and fell together down the nullah. The sahib was more or less conscious, but the tiger was almost insensible. The sahib called out to me to shoot the tiger or he himself would be killed. I ran off and getting the Pahari's rifle I jumped down the nullah and

found the sahib's hand in the tiger's mouth. He told me to shoot by the ear. I fired and the tiger released the sahib. We then hurried away. The sahib had been bitten through a hand and leg and was also scratched. I was only clawed on the head and shoulders. After dressing our wounds the sahib went back and found the tiger dead."

Our contemporary adds :—

"We hope the Government will confer some reward and decoration on this brave woman, for her deed was as noble as any action that ever yet won the Victoria Cross. As Kariman Ahirni will probably be left destitute by Mr. Maclean's death, a subscription should be got up for her, subscribed to by all classes, to keep her for the rest of her life in fairly affluent circumstances. As long as we have women of the stamp of Kariman Ahirni, there is no reason to despair of India. If only our men were endowed like this brave woman we should not occupy our present degraded position. Now that we have at length got a heroine, let us at least honor and make the most of her, and not shame ourselves by our neglect."

We concur in every word.

THE vernacular press is believed to have the monopoly of such stuff as the following, though our graver and rationalistic Anglo-Indian brethren do not disdain occasionally to fill up odds and ends of space with—tales for the marines—Brummagem apples for the simpler daws among their constituents to peck at. We now quote from our Burra Bhai Saheb of Allahabad :—

"A curious tale of the death of a tiger comes from the Sonthal Pergunnahs. A man was seated on a tree at night watching his fields, when he noticed a tiger prowling and sniffing the air and gradually approaching his perch, until it actually came under the *machan*, which it tried to pull down. The Sonthalce, bold by nature, sat fearlessly looking on, considering all the while as to what he should do. Quick as thought he took a red-hot iron, and as the hungry man-eater with open mouth leaped to catch his hanging leg, he dropped the bolt into its mouth and the tiger at once swallowed it— with what result it is needless to say, except that the beast was found not far off the next morning 'stark and stiff.' The only question is 'where did the red-hot iron come from ?"

No, there is another. And a prior one. Our contemporary's question suggests doubt as to the occurrence, by reason of the improbability of the poor lonely Sonthal watcher having to hand such a weapon as a red hot iron. But there is a question in natural history involving the very existence of the man's enemy. This tiger seems kin to the gaping gentry for whose enlightenment and edification the story has been served up. But do tigers shake trees or posts on top of which men might be perched in order to bring them down to the ground ? Above all, do tigers charge with mouths wide open ?

THE night of the 26th February 1891 has been fixed for the next census. It will be taken throughout India with the exception of forest and desert tracts. Mr. J. A. Baines, Bombay Civil Service, has been appointed Census Commissioner for India. The Superintendents of the operations are :

Madras ...	...	Mr. H. A. Stuart.
Bombay ...	...	Mr. W. W. Drew.
Bengal ...	...	Mr. C. J. O'Donnell.
N. W. P. and Oudh ...	...	Mr. D. E. Ballie.
Punjab ...	...	Mr. E. D. MacLagan.
Burma ...	...	Captain R. C. Temple.
Central Provinces ...	...	Mr. E. Robertson.
Assam ...	...	Mr. E. A. Geit ;
Berar ...	...	Captain Warren Hastings.

The administration of census operations will be supported by legislation. A Bill on that behalf has already been introduced into the Governor-General's Council for making laws.

ACCORDING to the *Ceylon Observer*, the total acreage in the Island under tea, coffee, cocoa, cardamoms, cotton, tobacco, rubber, pepper, arnatto, is 686,728, of which as much as 219,487 is now planted with tea, coffee, both of the Arabian and Liberian varieties, having now only 54,680 acres. There are now 1,452 cultivated plantations with 1,211 Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents. All this marks a distinct agricultural departure.

ACCORDING to Dr. Trimen, in his Administration Report of the Peradeniya Gardens, Ceylon, for last year, one of the culms of giant bamboos grew, in April, at the rate of 13½ inches in twenty-four hours.

THE *Bombay Gazette* relates an extraordinary instance of depravity in a group of two legged beasts without feathers :—

"In the High Court the three men charged with the murder of a Hindu lad at Clarke Road were found guilty and sentenced to death.

The case was one of a revolting kind, and was suggestive, in the cupidity of its motives and in the callous brutality with which it was carried out, of the criminality of the peasantry of whom Zola has given an only too vivid portraiture. The prompter of the murder was a man named Pandu, the uncle of the victim; the motive had its origin in a misunderstanding between uncle and nephew as to a small property at Oorun which the latter had inherited. Superstition had come to the aid of avarice, and some curious revelations were made in the evidence as to the old man having consulted various oracles as to the time when the lad was to die. In one instance he tried to persuade a man to offer a cocoanut to his god, so as to bring about the death of the youth Raghunath. The gods were slow in working out their purposes, and men were called in aid—two Mussulmans who, with the mistress of one of them, inveigled him to a liquor house, primed him with drink and then led him to Clarke Road, where in an unscientific but effectual way they hanged him to a tree guard, leaving his body to hang there as a ghastly spectacle to people who might be taking an early ride in the neighbourhood of the race course next morning. The woman's confession was an eye-witness' account of a cruel murder, the motive for which was supplied in Rs. 50 given by the uncle. The woman turned Queen's evidence, and her confession was one of the sensational incidents in a very remarkable trial."

THE amendments to the Evidence Act as proposed in the Bill introduced last week in the Supreme Legislative Council are:—

- "(1) the provision allowing a previous conviction to be proved in all cases will be repealed;
- (2) a previous conviction will be relevant under section 43 when it is a fact in issue or otherwise relevant under the Act;
- (3) a previous conviction will be relevant as evidence of bad character, when such evidence is relevant;
- (4) a previous conviction will be relevant to prove guilty knowledge or intention;
- (5) in cases of offences relating to coining and forgery, facts showing the existence of any state of mind, such as intention or knowledge, will be relevant although those facts do not show the existence of the state of mind in reference to the particular matter in question;
- (6) in cases where the accused is tried under section 234 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, at one trial for three offences of the same kind, the evidence relevant to prove one offence may be used as showing guilty knowledge or intention in the case of either of the other offences;
- (7) the fact that an act formed part of a series of similar occurrences, in each of which the person doing the act was concerned, will be relevant to prove guilty knowledge or intention."

MAJOR M. C. Brackenbury, R.E., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, P. W. D., and Deputy Director-General of Railways, officiates as Manager of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, in Class I, Grade 1 of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.

LIEUTENANT-Colonel H. B. Abbott, Bombay Staff Corps, Additional Political Agent of the 1st Class, and Political Agent in Jhallowar, officiates as a Resident of the 2nd Class and as Resident at Gwalior, during the absence on privilege leave of Major D. W. K. Barr, Colonel E. S. Reynolds, Bombay Staff Corps, Political Agent of the 1st Class, being appointed an Additional Political Agent of the 1st Class and Political Agent in Jhallowar. He will also officiate, in addition to his own duties, as Political Agent in Kotah.

THE beauty of the London season is said to be the young actress Miss Julia Neilson, a girl "divinely tall and most divinely dark, with luxuriant masses of hair of the now fashionable copper shade." Is all that hair all her own, or a purchase, in whole or in part?

BAHAWALPUR is in a bad way, according to a Lahore paper:—

"The frequent change of Prime Ministers in the Bahawalpur State can hardly be conducive to either the general good of the administration or the interests of the State, or of the people concerned; especially as the ruler of the State seems to be gradually resigning his prerogative more and more to the Executive Council, and ceasing to take a continued and sustained personal part in the government of the State, and giving the preference to field sport. The foreign element, too, in the personnel of his immediate advisers, is obtaining undue influence; and no 'Vazir' can remain long at Bahawalpur however carefully selected, because it is not to the interest of the clique in power that he should effect reform. The great and profitable irrigation works constructed by Colonels Minchin and Grey during the *régime* of the British political agency appear to be neglected; and there is apparently good cause for complaint of unchecked local subordinate oppression and disregard of agricultural interests, in consequence of which cultivators of the soil are leaving for British territory, although not perhaps yet in conspicuously large numbers."

THE Honourable Maharaja Partáb Náráyan Singh, Talukdar of Mahdauna, Bahrauli, Abhar, Tulsipur and Bishambarpur in Oudh, Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for making Laws and Regulations, has assumed,

with permission of the Governor-General in Council, the style and title of Talukdar of Ajodhya.

CAMDEN Place, which housed the fallen Napoleon III, will be sold as an estate for building purposes.

IT is reported from San Francisco that one of the peaks, 14,000ft., of Mount Shasta in the Sierra Nevada, California, has entirely collapsed, owing to a volcanic convulsion.

A BOOKSELLER's clerk has won the £10,000 Panama Lottery prize.

THE Indian Contract Act, 1872, and the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, have been introduced into Zanzibar. They come into operation the first from 1st January 1891 and the second from 1st January 1892.

THE duty on opium imported by land into the Presidency of Bombay for exportation by sea from the Port of Bombay has been reduced by Rs. 50 per chest. Accordingly, the duty on such opium when covered by a pass granted at Ajmere will be Rs. 625 and by that granted elsewhere Rs. 600 upon each chest weighing net 140½ lbs. avoirdupois weight.

THE Secretary of State has accorded sanction to the further revised estimate amounting to Rs. 1,22,66,670 of the cost of constructing the portion of the Assam-Bihar State Railway from the River Kosi to Dinagepore including the Manihari Branch, in all 156¼ miles.

ON the closing day of the last month, the Commissioner Mr. Fraser of the Chattisgarh Division laid at Rajnandgaon the foundation-stone of the Central Provinces Cotton Mills. There were great festivities on the occasion. The Chairman of the Mills Company is the Raja of Nandgaon.

THE project for a paper mill at Agra has not succeeded.

*Native Opinion* speaks of Lord Dufferin as

"perhaps one of the most sagacious of the Indian authorities."

That goes without saying. And yet not long ago our politicians almost to a man ignored the truism. And for saying it this journal and its conductors were boycotted. But the gratuitous revilers of Lord Dufferin are all coming round.

PERHAPS *Native Opinion* is no typical example. Our contemporary is far too moderate and sensible, and thinks out of the rut of Irreconcilism. Thus, in the same number, noticing the weakness and divisions of the Conservative party in England, our contemporary writes—

"To us it is a matter of no great concern whether the Conservatives or the Liberals are in power; both have done us good."

It cheers our heart to hear our countrymen talk in this rational strain, without bias in favour of any party or administration or clique in Great Britain. Such language is, however, to the majority of our "politicals," most exasperating—such moderation rank heresy.

GOAHEAD! go-ahead! nothing but go-ahead with Americans! A lady correspondent of an American newspaper, Miss Nellie Bly, has done the globe in 72 days! A male American, George Francis Train, has left the fair circumnavigator behind in the race, by 12 days, having made the tour in two months of 30 days each. No such feats were on record. This trans-Atlantic brace—this hero and this heroine of travel—have distanced in deed the very "fancy's flight" of M. Vernon. That volatile French romancist could only think of taking his readers Round the World in Ninety days—not an hour less.

THE Maharani of Mysore has given birth to another and a third son.

THE Viceroy in his tour to the interior next month will be accompanied by Lord Kerry, Captain the Hon. Harbord and Dr. Fenn.

WE announced last week that Mr. Moro Vishwanath Joshi, who went to England in April to support the Indian Congress, had returned under compulsion of ill health.

It would seem that he had practically carried out nearly the whole



of his programme, having been present at several meetings, notably at that at Reading. Not much more was done afterwards. The last meeting took place on the 15th June and with it the campaign is over. Our Bengali brother Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee, the lion of the Indian visitors, has returned home. He has come by way of Bombay of course, where they gave him a hearty reception at the Framji Cowasji Institute on the afternoon of Sunday, the 6th instant. Meanwhile, our friend Mr. Nam Joshi, of Poona, has left for Europe on the same errand, it is said. Will there be another campaign begun now?

**THERE** is an ice scarcity in the United States. In India where we used for a long series of years to depend on American ice, the news comes with something of the shock that an announcement of failure of coal in Newcastle would come upon the world in general. In many cities of the Union, ice is scarcely to be had, and in most of them it can be obtained at famine rates. The failure is attributed to a milder winter, an earlier summer and the extension of industries in which ice is essential.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE British Cabinet is being reconstructed. On Thursday it was reported that Mr. Smith goes to the Upper Chamber, making room for Lord Randolph Churchill as leader in the Lower House. That telegram is contradicted today, for we are told Mr. Smith has already expressed to a friend his intention to stand for re-election.

Government have abandoned the proposals to amend the procedure of the House of Commons, as also the Land Purchase and Tithes Bills during the present session, reserving them for the next which would assemble at the end of November. That saves, we hope, the Indian Councils Bill. The Darkest African Convention is being legalized in England. A Bill for the cession of Heligoland has been read in the House of Lords. At the debate on the second reading, on the 10th, Lord Salisbury justified the cession of that island which was of no use to England but would be a burden in time of war. The convention, he maintained, removed all sources of conflict with Germany in that quarter, and enabled England, with the British protectorate over Zanzibar, to cope with the slave trade, while Vitu has secured the road to Egypt.

France objected to the British protectorate over Zanzibar as opposed to the Treaty with her. The English Cabinet has admitted the objection and is willing to compensate by extension of the powers of France in the island of Madagascar. Such concessions cannot, however, go without objection. A memorial numerously signed by the members of the House of Commons protests against the Convention and the proposed cession.

THERE has been a handy little White mutiny in the British Army at Home. On the morning of the 7th, the second Battalion of the Grenadier Guards, stationed at Wellington Barracks, London, did not answer the Bugle call for kit inspection and hooted and hissed the Colonel. They were put in confinement, and the Yorkshire Regiment ordered up to London to assist the Grenadiers in their work. The order against insubordination has since been withdrawn, the War Office deciding that the duties of the Grenadier Guards were excessive.

Other revolts are also reported—among the Metropolitan Police, the Postmen, the Telegraph clerks, and the Albert Dockers.

In the Albert Docks, the dockers have struck work and the British India steamer Golconda is lying idle. All, however, is quiet with the Grenadier Guards and the Metropolitan Police Force. The Postmen still continue their meetings. Their Union in London announces a general strike until the right of meeting and free communication are recognized.

THE Duke of Connaught has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Bath. The appointment is not to the Grand Cross.

Belgium has agreed to advance the Congo State 25 millions of francs in ten years, with liberty after that period to annex that territory.

The Servian Government has demanded compensation of the Porte

for the murdered Consul's widow, and further that the Servian flag should be saluted. How the grave Ottomans of the Sublime Porte will make faces at this sublime "cheek."

The Russian Nihilists arrested in Paris have been tried. The female prisoners have been acquitted and the male ones sentenced to three years' imprisonment and a fine of two hundred francs.

THE rumour has been revived at Hyderabad of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's succeeding to the Government of Bengal in November, when Sir H. Durand returns.

UNDER date the 2nd July, 1890, appearing in the *Gazette of India* of the 5th following, the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, quietly publishes the order that the provisions of Finance Department notification, No. 2036, dated the 30th June 1882, issued under section 9 of the Indian Stamp Act, I of 1879, as applied to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts by Foreign Department notification, No. 114-I-J., dated the 4th June 1879, shall be deemed to have applied to the aforesaid districts from the 25th October 1882. Except to those in the secret, the order is wholly unintelligible. There is no knowing whether the present order removes a real grievance or justifies an ancient wrong.

THE Government of India is not yet reconciled to the Parliamentary order for the abolition of the Contagious Diseases' Act. For the benefit of cantonments in British India, it has been ruled, under the new Cantonments Act, 1889, that as many hospitals as may be found necessary will be maintained within or without the cantonment limits, out of the cantonment fund, either wholly or partially, for treatment of persons suffering from infectious or contagious disorders. Each hospital will be under the charge of a medical officer to be appointed by the local Government, the Cantonment authority and the District Magistrate regulating the number of hospitals. Once admitted, a person will be treated gratuitously and when a resident of the cantonment or taken at request of the cantonment authority shall receive a subsistence allowance. When any such medical officer certifies or supposes that a person, whether resident or not of any cantonment, is suffering from any of those disorders, such person must go to the hospital and remain there until discharged. On his refusal to go into the hospital or to remain there till pronounced free from the disorder, he is liable to be banished from the cantonment within 24 hours or prohibited from remaining in or re-entering the cantonment without leave of the medical officer. The penalty for disobedience is a fine of Rs. 50 or imprisonment for eight days for every breach.

It is proposed to add the following to the Rules under the Indian Emigration Act, XXI of 1883:—

"The drinking-water, limejuice, ghee, flour, rice, meal, &c., shall be frequently tested by the Surgeon Superintendent for the purpose of detecting the presence of lead or copper therein."

The reason of the addition will be found in the following extract from the Report of the Government Analytical Chemist of British Guiana for the year 1888:—

"The most noteworthy of the poisoning cases was that of the captain and crew of the East Indian ship—who reached this port suffering from chronic lead poisoning. The water on board being suspected, seven samples of it were brought to the laboratory by the Health Officer. No lead being detected, it was determined to examine such of the ship's stores as were used in common by captain and crew. These were tea, lime juice, and ghee. The latter was found to be the cause of the mischief, as it contained 5·12 grains of lead to the pound. Those attacked recovered under treatment at the Colonial Hospital, although some but narrowly escaped death. Had the—carried immigrants, the consequences of using such ghee would no doubt have been very disastrous, especially if the Medical Superintendent had not possessed the means of detecting lead and, as would be probable, suspected only the water."

The same scientific officer makes the following suggestion for avoiding such accidents in future:—

"To provide against such a mishap occurring, it might be advisable to include amongst the medical stores a simple and ready test for lead. A small bottle of sulphide of ammonium, one of strong hydrochloric acid, and a piece of glass rod would be sufficient."

He gives simple directions for the use of these materials for testing the presence of lead:—

"To test the water, a cup or any small white vessel should be about half filled with it, and a drop of sulphide stirred in with the glass rod. Any iron, lead or copper contained in the water, even to a smaller extent than 1/10 of a grain per gallon, would be shown by an inky

colouration appearing more or less deep according to the quantity. Should such a change occur, then a drop of hydrochloric acid should be stirred in, when the colour will disappear instantly if due to iron, but persist if due to lead or copper. It is unnecessary to distinguish between lead and copper, as both are highly dangerous.

"To test limejuice, two or three drops of the sulphide may be added to a small quantity. A darkening indicates lead or copper.

"To test ghee, flour, rice, meal, or any right coloured food, about 30 minims of sulphide and an equal measure of the acid should be added separately to two ounces of water and a portion of the food well stirred with the mixture, lead or copper being indicated by the darkening that occurs. Tested in this manner, the ghee from the \_\_\_\_\_ became like boot blacking. The materials for the test cost only a few pence."

In the proposed addition to the Rules, we notice the omission of tea among the supplies to be tested. Tea is liable to serious adulteration—the green tea of commerce is poison itself—and it is far too important an article to be implied within the ample range of "&c." But a graver defect is the omission to fix the times when the stores are to be examined. The word "frequently" is vague. Instead of it, the times or occasions should be specified.

The matter is of the highest importance. Not only because it concerns the health and lives of navigators and ship-passengers, but because the periodicity of such accidents on board must retard—and might almost prohibit—emigration. And it is on emigration we must principally depend for disposing of the surplus of our ever-increasing population to the best advantage, without pressing unduly upon the economical condition of the country.

WE have during these months been repeatedly reproached in private for neglecting the memory of Robert Knight, by gentlemen who knew his friendship for us. To all our explanations, many of them have retorted, Never mind heads of society or other leading men or this or that, why not start a Fund yourself. Knowing the petty jealousies which pervade a community like ours brought up under foreign domination and influences, we refrained in the very interest of the cause we had at heart, contenting ourselves with pointing out the *Indian Mirror*, the only native daily, as the journal which should, as it is entitled to, take the lead in the movement. Better late than never, and we are glad to see that that journal has broken the ice. It is very creditable to the public spirit of Bombay that one of her distinguished citizens, Mr. Perozeshah Mehta, has overcome the inertia of Bengal and enabled the *Mirror* to open a subscription with a contribution from him of Rs. 100. We hope our countrymen of all races and classes from all parts will follow up briskly and liberally.

It never rains but it pours. So at this moment. It is one continual drip—drip—drip—nothing but dripping—for us in especial—in public as in private. So early in the year as June and July, it seems as if

"November chill blows w' angry sigh"

—from every side. There is no end to our turpitude and truculence. Bad-headed and bad-hearted, we are not only sinful but reckless and obstinate. Hence everybody's hand is against us. Our enemies are within and without. The most implacable are of our own kith and kin, to say nothing of so-called friends and admirers—of a time when we enjoyed the luxuries of approbation and patronage. They whom we should look up to to save make no scruple to give us up to massacre. They who might be expected to come forward with zeal in the worst extremity to extend the ægis of protection have themselves led us into a hole. Our sins are various as well as numberless—political, social, legal, moral, literary and what not besides. John Bull in the East is too sacred a Brahminy bull to care for native rags, but a Scotchman of all has appeared at the nick of time to detect our literary imposture and our frauds on our customers. (We dare say so regular a reader, as he confesses himself, is a subscriber.) He had too long nursed his rage against us for our partiality for Poesy to wait to reduce it to form and file his indictment at a proper time. His complaint is of several counts. First and foremost, we have offended Dr. Dryasdust by "regularly devoting our first page to poetry, week by week, under the heading *Contemporary Poetry*." Secondly, we last week committed the aggravation of laying before our readers under that heading Aytoun's "Massacre of Glencoe," which is included in the Professor's collected *Lays*. Thereby we committed a literary sin—the crass stupidity of not knowing the meaning of *contemporary*. By "contemporary poetry," according to this Scotch teacher of English, is understood the poetry of the year—now, of 1890! Why not the poetry of the month? or of the week? or of the day? or of the hour? or of

the passing moment? May it not mean the poetry of last year? Or of the year before last? or of ten years' back? So it seems, *contemporary* means "of the year." And so all the words from the same principal root, we dare say, such as *temporal*, *temporally*, and the rest. They all convey the impression of something better than ephemeral, but lasting no more than a twelvemonth! Well may we exclaim, in the terms of the much-abused Latin quotation, used for once to the point—*O tempora! O mores!*

O Time! the beautifier of the dead,  
Adorner of the ruin, comforter  
And only healer when the heart hath bled—  
Time! the corrector where our judgments err,  
The test of truth, love,—sole philosopher,  
For all beside are sophists, from thy thrift,  
Which never loses though it doth defer—  
Time, the avenger!

to what low uses hast thou been reduced! We, for our part, must plead guilty to having taken the word in a more liberal and wider sense. The phrase "Contemporary Poetry" has been with us almost a synonyme for Victorian Poetry. We are, next, accused of a fraud on the public in having cribbed from the *Lays* without the slightest acknowledgment. But the very heading, taking it at even the niggardly North British meaning, absolves us. This Scotch detective has simply entangled himself in his own inconsistency.

The reason why we did not give Aytoun's name is, that we are not fortunate, like our censor, in the possession of the Professor's book. We came across the poem in an old American periodical itself copying from a British source.

We think a generous brither who loved his country might, notwithstanding his possession of Aytoun's volume, have been glad to have another opportunity of reading a spirited rendering of one of the most memorable and affecting incidents in his national annals, without handing over to the Police a black man on the banks of the Hoogly, who appreciates and tries to make his fellow blacks cultivate the Muse of Great Britain, not excepting Scotland. Is he a Campbell?

WE learn that at the last meeting of the Rajshahye Hindu Sabha, it was resolved to send a Memorial to Government, praying for a law making it penal to kill a bull consecrated at the *shrad* ceremony of the Hindus. The Maharaja of Nator has, it is said, agreed to bear the entire cost of the agitation on the subject. The orthodox associations will be asked to join the movement, and the whole Hindu community will be appealed to. Our Rajshahye friends are moderate and more practical than the extreme antibovicides. If they do not succeed they will not irritate other classes, and certainly not work the mischief which the enthusiasts and agitators like Sriman threaten. We will say no more at this stage, but wait for their Memorial to see how they meet the obvious reply to their suggestion.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1890.

### HIGH EDUCATION IN THE PUNJAB.

THE MODERATION TRICK.

THE cause of high education in the Punjab must be always indebted to Dr. Rattigan. The Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University is a strenuous, outspoken enemy of every "fad" and fancy likely to injure that cause. And his knowledge of the affairs of Universities in general and of Punjab education in particular, makes him a formidable enemy indeed. The other day we saw him fighting manfully the battle of the existing University standards. It is the day of congresses and conferences to be sure, but India unfortunately is the land of officials and officiousness and the very Paradise of sciolists, laymen, ignorant doctrinaires, jacks-of-all-trades, and humbugs of sorts. The North Western Frontier Province of India has its fair share of the characteristics of the times and of the phenomena of the Empire, and Dr. Rattigan has his proportion of trouble therefrom. His calamity—the thorn in his

Vice-Chancellorial flesh—is a nondescript board which exercises the function of irresponsible criticism and suggestion on education as carried on in the Province. Although composed of somewhat heterogeneous elements, it is a very respectable body beyond question, but it is unfortunately subject to the blues. These good gentlemen are not at all happy. They are not satisfied with the rate at which the educational mill manufactures under-graduates and graduates of different grades and indifferent departments of learning. Accordingly, proposals have been made by this Educational Conference to debase the Higher Education of the Province. The prestige of the University as well as the cause of Culture was at stake, and Dr. Rattigan's tender sympathies for liberal education were touched. He could not rest without entering his earnest protest against a movement which had not even the support of experience. How far his voice would avail against an apparently strong combination, we cannot say. In any case, however, he will have done his duty and entitled himself to the gratitude of all true friends of high education in this country.

Dr. Rattigan has had again to take up the glove. He is once more in the field—against the same Educational Conference. Another lucid, trenchant and closely argued minute from his pen, against the proposed appointment of Moderators, is before us. Like their recommendation for lowering the standards, the Educational Conference base their present proposal for the appointment of Moderators upon the example of the Calcutta University. How, in the face of the late scandals of the Calcutta University, any body of intelligent men could be bewitched by such an example, particularly when those scandals are yet under enquiry, must be strange to every body else. But why this zeal for imitation? Apart from other reasons, the Punjab University was ostensibly founded on an independent footing. As shown by the Vice-Chancellor in his memorandum which we noticed before, the rules of its examinations "were originally framed with the deliberate intention of adopting an *independent* standard, and were sanctioned on that footing."

The Education Conference do scant respect to the University authorities by reviving a proposal which they have quite lately rejected after deliberate consideration, and those authorities will only stultify themselves by their acceptance of it. The thing is, the proposal does not come before the University as a *res integra*. On the contrary, it was very fully considered in 1888, and deliberately rejected in favor of another scheme, *viz.*, the appointment of a Board of Studies. This latter system was ultimately approved by the Senate, and sanctioned by the Punjab Government. To revive a proposal so recently discarded after such full and deliberate consideration, is scarcely fair or honorable. On this point, Dr. Rattigan speaks with great candour. He writes:—

"If the Resolutions of the Syndicate and Senate are to obtain any respect at all, they ought not to be liable to constant and radical changes. No confidence can surely be inspired in the wisdom of any of their Resolutions if the latter are liable to the variations of the hour; and if the deliberate opinion of the Senate on a particular ques-

*Holloway's Pills.*—The ills of life are increased tenfold by the mode of life so many have to lead; most especially is this the case amongst the toilers in our factories and huge workshops of the manufacturing districts, whose digestions become impaired and nervous systems debilitated by the protracted confinement and enforced deprivation of healthy out-of-door exercise. The factory workers may almost be said to have diseases of their own, readily amenable, however, to treatment if not allowed to proceed unchecked. Holloway's Pills are the most effectual remedy ever discovered for the cure of liver and stomach complaints, as they act surely but gently, regulating the secretions without weakening the nerves or interfering with the daily work.

tion, arrived at after full discussion, is to be again opened out almost before the ink with which it was recorded has dried, and a diametrically opposite conclusion agreed to, I can only express my opinion that such a course of procedure will not only break all continuity in the action of the Senate, which is most undesirable, but will also stultify that body in the eyes of the general public and of the Government. I do not of course mean to say that the Resolutions of the Senate of the Punjab University should be like the Laws of the Medes and Persians, incapable of alteration or modification when once passed. That would be to claim for this body an infallibility which it cannot assert, and also to ignore the necessity of change which progress and development in the Department of Education as in other departments frequently demand. But what I contend for is, that except where some such necessity as the above exists, or where it can be shown that a previous Resolution of the Senate is impracticable or has distinctly failed to attain the object aimed at, the deliberate acts of this body at one meeting ought not to be lightly set aside at another meeting. Self-respect alone ought to dictate the observance of the rule of procedure I contend for, and I venture very strongly to insist upon it in the present case. It appears to me that those who now advocate a change, so soon after the matter was set at rest by the previous Resolutions of the Senate, are bound to show a very strong case to justify the Senate in undoing what it has already deliberately sanctioned. If they cannot make out this case, their proposals ought to be rejected *in limine*."

The Education Conference are bound to make out a strong case against a system adopted after elaborate discussion by the Syndicate, the Senate, and ultimately the Government, before they can fairly launch their new scheme. The object of moderation is

"(a) To scrutinise, in consultation with the Registrar, the papers of Examiners *before* they are printed or lithographed.

"(b) To make such alterations, in consultation with the Registrar, in the question papers *as they consider necessary*. As far as possible this shall be done in consultation with the Examiners.

"(c) To re-examine a sufficient number of answer papers in order to see whether the Examiners have complied with the University Regulations in their system of marking, and, *if necessary, to direct the Examiner to revise his marks.*"

But this is attended with the danger of leakage, which experience and recent events have shown to be inevitable from the scrutiny of question-papers before the examination. The Board of Studies is intended to avoid this very danger. It maintains the responsibility of the Registrar and his office against leakage, and to secure fairness and uniformity in examination, provides for consideration of any valid objections to a question paper, in consultation with the examiner, *before* he made his award. These are the two schemes. One of them has been only recently accepted, and before it has been in operation for full one year, the repudiated rival again thrusts its claims. It is bad enough in the Conference to raise the ghost of an exploded idea. But a stranger thing is how the Arts Faculty could bring themselves to adopt the proposal for the appointment of Moderators after having formally negatived that proposal a short while ago. Any attempt to spring a mine of this kind in a court of justice would be at once snubbed with a single phrase—*Res judicata*. But though the University is not a court, it is, we trust, amenable to common sense. And the doctrine of *res judicata* is no naughty or foolish technicality, but a maxim of reason, and justice, conducive to human peace and convenience.

There is no case as yet against the Board of Studies. On the contrary, the Vice-Chancellor has conclusively shown that it has quite fulfilled its expectations, so far as the short time it has been at work gives indications for forming an opinion. The Vice-Chancellor does not bring forward this statement by way of triumph for the success of his own original proposal. He is forced to it merely to refute an *ex cathedra* statement of the Conference that it has failed. It has not failed. On the contrary, the indications are rather on the other side. At any rate, there has not been time enough for an opinion one way or the other. There has been little experience on which to found a formal verdict, while so far as it has gone, the verdict should be rather in favor of retaining than discarding the system that is on trial.

On this point, the Vice-Chancellor must speak with authority, and he says :—

"Now if 'experience' had proved that the arrangements I have referred to had failed in their object, I would myself be foremost to advocate the adoption of more effective measures. But it is precisely here that I am compelled to draw issue with the statement embodied in the Resolution of the Arts Faculty quoted in the preceding paragraph. Let us then see if it is the fact, that experience has proved anything of the kind? The first and obvious remark that must occur to one to make in this connection is, that an *experience* which is limited to the short period of one year is scarcely deserving of the name. The term implies the repeated trial of a matter. In the present case has there been such a repeated trial of the arrangements deliberately adopted by the Senate? Let the facts speak for themselves. In the first place, only two sets of University Examinations have been held since the Resolution of the Senate came into operation, and the first of these, namely, the Examinations of 1889, were held at a time when the Model Papers had not been prepared, and consequently at a time when the *present arrangements* were not complete, and had only been partially in operation less than three months. Can it be justly said, therefore, that a very limited experience of this kind justifies the sweeping condemnation of those arrangements by the Arts Faculty? I conceive not. But let us examine this experience, such as it is, still more closely. It will be seen that the general results of the Examinations for 1889, with the exception of the English B. A. and M. A. Examinations, were (as I have shown in a previous Memorandum) remarkably satisfactory, and this notwithstanding that the Model Papers had not yet been circulated as guides. The failures in English were most probably due to a special cause which I have also mentioned in the same Memorandum. In the present year's Examinations the general results have been still more satisfactory, and the only signal failures have been again in English at the M. A. Examination. How far these last mentioned failures can be attributed to the *present arrangements* for the moderation of question papers may be disposed of in very few words. The Examiners selected by the Arts Faculty were Professors Webb and Peterson, two very experienced and competent Examiners, and no objection that I am aware of has been raised against the Question Papers set by these gentlemen. I am therefore unable to find that, so far as achieved results go, the *present arrangements* can be said to have failed to meet the object for which they were devised; while, so far as preventing leakage, I am in a position to say that these arrangements have been crowned with marked success, for not a single case of leakage has occurred since the new rule came into operation."

The interference of Moderators is not always of a healthy kind, and may sometimes lead to awkward situations. A *contretemps* lately occurred in consequence of so-called moderation which had almost threatened a postponement of an examination. The story is interesting and throws much light on the beauty of moderation, and even at the risk of lengthening our article, we will let the Vice-Chancellor relate it himself :—

"Now the only question paper that was objected to on the Arts side, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was that set in English for the Intermediate candidates by Mr. Barrett, the Director of Public Instruction of Berar, Central Provinces. This paper was objected to in a very curt letter addressed to the Registrar by Mr. Robertson, then Professor of English in the Lahore Government College, which, at his request, was forwarded to the Examiner, with the unfortunate result that the Examiner, a gentleman of exceptional ability and experience, declined to submit to such criticisms or to act as an Examiner for our University. Had the Rule regulating the duties of the Board of Studies been properly observed, this unfortunate *contretemps* would in all probability have been avoided, as I felt it my duty to point out to the Board in a Memorandum I wrote on the subject at the time and which is appended hereto (*vide Appendix*). But the mistake had been committed, and under the Rules I was placed in the awkward position of having to nominate another gentleman (as Mr. Barrett positively declined to act further) to examine on Mr. Barrett's paper. Fortunately Mr. W. Bell, who has on more than one occasion rendered me valuable assistance on an emergency, agreed to undertake this task, and there was no need for further action. But had he declined, the Intermediate Examination would necessarily have had to be postponed, which would have been a very unfortunate occurrence. I may further mention that Mr. Bell assured me that he considered Mr. Barrett's paper an admirable one to which no reasonable objection could be taken. Now I would ask to what conclusion does the above unfortunate *contretemps* lead? Does it *prove* that the *present arrangements* do not fulfil their object, or does it not rather supply a strong argument against the intervention of individual Moderators as proposed by the Arts Faculty, showing that such a practice would be attended with considerable risk of conflict arising between an individual Moderator and an experienced Examiner, who, like Mr. Barrett, would naturally not brook to have his work sharply criticised by the former? I most unhesitatingly say the latter is the more just conclusion, and for the following reasons :—*first*, that the existing Rule requiring any objection to be first submitted to a responsible and representative body like the Board of Studies, whose representations would, it may be reasonably expected, carry weight while the remarks of a single Moderator might only lead to irritation, was *not* observed, and therefore what subsequently happened was a consequence *not* of the unfitness of the present Rule, but of its *non-observance*; *secondly*, that the conflict of opinion between Mr. Robertson, who objected to Mr. Barrett's paper, and Mr. Bell, who assured me that the paper was an admirable and suitable one, shows the risk of allowing individual Professors to act as Moderators in their own

subjects, a risk which is altogether obviated by leaving the decision in the hands of an influential and representative body like a Board of Studies constituted under the existing Rule; and *thirdly*, that the actual results of the Examination prove incontestably that Mr. Barrett's paper was not an unsuitable paper, either with reference to its length or the distribution of its questions, for no less than 86.8 per cent. of the candidates passed in it, upon marks awarded by Mr. Bell himself."

This is a fine illustration of the absurdity of that system. Examiners appointed by the University are presumably men of knowledge and of educational experience, who may well be left to frame questions in their own special subjects. It is casting no small slur upon such men to have their questions scrutinised by another set of men who may not always be of superior qualifications. It is not to be expected that questions set by one man should in every particular suit themselves to the judgment or taste of another. They may be free from objections for all practical purposes, and yet objections may be taken upon the slightest possible pretexts. Like the proverbial differences of tastes, may be differences between examiners and moderators, with results scarcely consistent with the self-respect of individuals, or the smooth and satisfactory despatch of business.

As to the objection on the score of leakage, the system of moderation stands thoroughly condemned on this point alone. The disclosures recently made in Calcutta and Bombay, are of a sufficiently serious kind to make one pause in following their methods. At these Universities, examinations have been vitiated by the leaking out of questions before the dates of those examinations, while it speaks volumes for the superiority of the Punjab system that since 1887 not a single instance of leakage has occurred there. In the presence of such plain facts, it is surely wonderful how the system of Moderators could still command admiration. The Calcutta University is by no means an exemplary model. It is itself not satisfied with its own arrangements. There is constant change, and not a year knows what the next may bring forth. At the present moment, it is thinking of having examiners unconnected with the actual work of teaching the subjects in which they set questions. Whether this arrangement will be worked in conjunction with the system of moderation or not, we do not know, but should it be found feasible, the latter system ought to go. At any rate, men with delicate feelings of self-respect but otherwise quite desirable as examiners may hesitate to accept the doubtful compliment.

#### THE DEFAMATION CASE.

OUR lips are sealed. Here are some of the remarks of brethren in the press on this subject.

*Hope of July 3* writes :—

"We regret to see that the case of defamation against the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* could not be amicably settled, and Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee has been committed to take his trial at the next Criminal Sessions, beginning on the 14th instant. Dr. Mookerjee expressed his regret for having caused pain and annoyance to the plaintiffs, sons of the late Baboo Denu Nath Mullick, by writing about their father, but this regret was not accepted by the plaintiffs as sufficient amends unless the Doctor pleaded guilty to the charge of defamation at the same time. This, however, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* declined to do, not merely under legal advice, but because he conscientiously believed to have never borne any malice against the plaintiffs, nor to have intended to wound their feelings; though having come to know that their feelings were wounded he was ready to express his regret.

"We wish the plaintiffs had accepted this expression of regret and refrained from pursuing the case further. If the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* conscientiously believes that the alleged defamatory article was written with the purpose of doing good to the public and nobody any harm, no punishment he may get at the Sessions would change his intellectual conviction, while if he were to plead guilty against this conviction he would be telling a lie. All that, therefore, the plaintiffs could get, or are trying to get, by pursuing the case is either a hypocritical confession from Dr. Mookerjee or a punishment upon him, neither of which would be likely to do them any good, not to speak of bringing a desirable return for the money they would have to spend; while they are already having all that a gentleman need have as redress for wounded feelings, namely, the expression of regret from the offending party.



If the suit had been instituted in a civil court, and damages claimed in money, we might have seen sense in the prosecution; as it is, it betrays more a desire to give tit for tat than to obtain redress. We write this in the interests of social peace and with the motto 'forgive and forget' in our mind, without prejudice for or against either side; and certainly we have not taken upon ourselves to express any opinion on the merits of the case."

The *Bengalee* of July 5 says:—

"The case against the Editor and the Printer of the *Reis and Rayyet* for defamation came on for hearing on Thursday before last. Of course it was very good of the Editor to have taken upon himself the whole responsibility of what appeared in his paper, to the exclusion of the Printer. As regards the principal defendant, his counsel Mr. Henderson stated to the Court that his client now wished to express his 'fullest regret' for the publication of the articles complained of. But Mr. Garth appearing for the prosecution observed that he could not accept the apology and the expression of regret now tendered, unless the Editor pleaded guilty to the charge; and one of the reasons why he said so, was that the accused had not availed of the opportunity given him, previous to the institution of the present proceedings, of making 'a public apology in a public way.' Thereupon Mr. Henderson prayed for an adjournment, in order to consider whether the case would be proceeded with, or a plea of guilty recorded with the expression of regret. But the Magistrate would not grant the application without the consent of the other side; and accordingly some evidence of publication was gone into, after which the case was adjourned by consent to Wednesday last, the 2nd July instant. On the 2nd, the accused refused to plead guilty to the charge, and the case was committed to the Sessions. Of course we are not at liberty to make any comments at this stage, but we may say, without being guilty of any impropriety, that it would have been satisfactory to all parties concerned, if the matter could be settled out of Court."

*Native Opinion* (Bombay) of July 6 writes:—

"We are grieved to learn that the apology tendered by the management of the *Calcutta Reis and Rayyet* having been deemed insufficient by the other side, the case has been committed to the Calcutta Sessions. We are not aware of the merits of the case, nevertheless we should have liked to see a compromise brought about between the two parties."

The Press in fact is reduced to silence.

Hereafter we may publish, if advised, some of the many private testimonies of sympathy.

### POLICE RECONSTRUCTION.

I think we ought to be glad to observe that His Excellency the Viceroy has left Calcutta without issuing any orders on the long expected changes in the Police administration. It is strange that but few of the Indian papers, European or native, have as yet thought of ventilating the numerous grievances of the people against this Department. The condition of the Police is generally admitted to be one of the blots of the British administration. That Service is gradually getting worse, while there is no department which so vitally affects the wellbeing of the whole of the 300 millions of the Indian population.

A couple of members of the National Congress, at the Allahabad meeting in 1888-89, referred to the deficiencies of the Police, but it was done in a half-hearted way as if they were afraid of offending the members of the Department present at the door of the meeting tent. They spoke only on the legal side of the question, without any regard to the financial, and the only remedy they could suggest, was to double the pay of the Police all round.

It may be truly asserted, without any intentional disrespect to the present administration, that the present system is rotten to its core. Of course it has gradually deteriorated. The chief causes of the debasement of the Police are the extinction of the military element in the protective branch and the location in the responsible positions of District Superintendents and Assistant District Superintendents of young men as inexperienced for the command of disciplined bodies as for judicial duties. This evil is mainly to be traced to that constitutional weakness—Patronage—the making of places for favoured individuals, instead of searching for candidates who have shown a natural aptitude for those most important charges. The greatest and worst change, perhaps, has been the neglect of the true principle for the detection of crime, *viz.*, the enforcing the aid of landlords. The terms of their still stereotyped leases with Government show that the original principle was, that the landlord, the most interested for good order in his locality, as by his original position the most capable of preventing, detecting, and tracing crime, was to be held mainly responsible; and his executives allowed full power over the village watchman, Chowkidar. Let Government now call for explanations, how, when and why the main principles have been suffered to die out in our older Provinces. It is noteworthy that the Chief Commissioner of our latest annexation (Burma) has not only resuscitated the old system in a province that never before knew order, and under the disadvantage of having only newly appointed Headmen (lumberdars as we term them) generally from men without the advantages of hereditary local influence: he has obtained from Government an Act to give these Headmen magisterial powers. Considering the constant transition state of our Government by its 5 years' rule for tenure of appointments, it is to be feared that

few even of the Secretariat could satisfactorily trace the course of these deteriorating changes.

We are fallen on evil times. The last of the great rulers before the present era, Lords Dalhousie and Canning, our great annexing and consolidating administrators respectively, untrammelled by Secretaries of State, or Parliamentary inquisitions, supported by advisers and assistants like the Lawrences, Outrams, Montgomerys, Macleods, Drummonds and Durands, all officers of historical fame, decided, among other reforms, on the decentralization system, making the Deputy-Commissioner or Magistrate of the District, the central unit of sole power within his charge; but Parliamentary disturbers to administration, demanding abolition of the Government opium monopoly on one side, the reduction of Income tax, for the powerful merchant and mahajan, on another, the abolition of cotton dues for Lancashire votes, &c., making retrenchments for classes, the wants of the silent masses are forgotten.

Magistrates of Districts with ever increasing duties, deprived of European assistants, were and are glad to let their Police assistants work their wicked will on a defenceless public, unchecked. The Police no longer military beyond uniformity of costume, being employed concurrently with the Zemindars' village establishments for detecting and prosecuting crime, they soon picked up the abuses of the old Thanadar system, and found that the Zemindars were in their way, for lucrative arrangement with parties in cases. European officers (particularly the inexperienced, when not in touch with the people), were always inclined to believe their own subordinates, exceptionally immaculate! and were easily convinced that "Zemindari aid was only necessary as a dernier resort," and that those who were seemingly carrying out their "terms with Government for detecting crime, were in reality either obstructive or in collusion with defendants. So officers began to rely solely on their own men. Thus was the first main principle gradually dropped, leaving the Police—blind because without local knowledge—a fair field to create a traffic in crime, so much so that it may now be positively asserted, without fear of contradiction, that hardly a single chullan reaches the Magistrate's Court that has not been paid for by one, if not by both parties, often to double the amount of the original injury, where it is assessable in Rupees. The Police thus being pecuniarily interested in detection of crime, invariably arrest some one (as the Congresswallah said) without much regard whether he was the real offender or not. Dacoities and offences by gangs are not trifles of easy digestion even by the Police; in such cases (aided all round) seldom are dacoits allowed to escape the law, except when a Tantiya Topi rises; but how many are the instances in which village communities, to avoid the dreaded Police visitation, gladly contribute the inevitable tax, for hushing up petty or even heinous offences?

Any respectable fearless Zemindar will confirm the assertion, that Police abuses have reached to such a state that the people often would prefer the attack of a gang of Dacoits, whom they may be able to resist, than the approach of a body of Police, against whose attack on their purses (on perfectly constitutional principles) they are perfectly powerless. These abuses are now so notorious throughout the land that no judicial or Police officer can possibly admit ignorance of their existence. "But accepting as a rule, that it is impossible to put down bribery, corruption or even extortion among such a people ever ready to pay" (yes, in self defence), each officer saves his own conscience in believing, "that general repute may say the evil is general; but under his own superior careful supervision, with his own specially selected establishment" (he is in such personal touch with,) "a practice of such evils is impossible, exceptional, or at any rate reduced to a minimum."

No doubt all Judicial and Police officers will pronounce the above description of our Police administration as grossly exaggerated, but when many of these cases are not exposed, till they reach the Sessions and the High Courts in the shape of extortion and torture, all that can be said is, that when all District officers are worked off their legs, with all sorts of (seemingly) unnecessary work, how can they be expected to supervise the subordinates.

The *Pioneer* informs us that His Honor of the N.-W. P. is now having the meetings of a Committee of Police reform, sitting three times a week at Naini Tal.

We must hope that their recommendations may tend to follow the example of Burma, starting with a return to the old system of requiring landlords to interest themselves in carrying out more fully the terms of their leases and of Government trusting them with the same magisterial powers as now in Burma. To enable them to do this, the appointment and dismissal of chowkidars must be restored to them fully.

When the congested state of the files of every court in the country, high and low, criminal and civil, is known to be caused by the time uselessly wasted by highly paid officers on the most frivolous cases, which by the examination of returns would be found to be the cause of so many prosecutions, resulting in dismissals, is it not desirable then for committees to search for a remedy for these failures?

It may be confidently asserted, that one half of these petty cases, now thrown to mystify our courts, are from spite, or at the instigation of one of the shoals of pleaders and mooktears, (created by high class education), thrown over the country, men whose sole chance of a livelihood is to encourage litigation among their ignorant neighbours. Frivolous cases would not for a moment be raised if parties knew that they would be heard by the headmen of their villages, who are personally acquainted with all the feuds of their locality.

Without doubt there are many instances of actual misappropriation of property between neighbours solely from spite, that invariably would amicably be settled by the Zemindar of the village to the satisfaction of parties, and to the saving of the purses of both, which are now, by the instigation of the mischief-making village lawyer, made over to the Police, and once in their hands, would appear before the Sudder Magistrate as a theft, house-breaking possibly (according to payment) with an additional charge of "with preparation for murder." When it is considered, that there is hardly an officer, who on entering his Court finds he has less than 8 to 15 cases on the cause list for the day (to say nothing of other miscellaneous duties such as Treasury, Local funds, Tehsal or Thanah reports), how is it possible for him to find time to carefully sift evidence of parties or witnesses he knows nothing of and vicing with each other in concocting false or at any rate grossly exaggerated evidence? Even the prosecutor of a true charge fancies he must strengthen his case by lies. Every one must know, that the great difficulty in all judicial and civil proceedings is to ascertain the value of evidence of a deponent. Is it not then a needless waste of power, when we have, for every village, the valuable machinery of a village headman, the hereditary head of the locality (during the Rebellion of '57 shown to be their accepted chief) for us to neglect such aid? In most instances it may be taken for granted that these respected men are fully acquainted with every detail of a case, and how it occurred. They are fully acquainted not only with the characters of both parties, but their feelings towards each other, and could settle their differences, not only to the saving of valuable time of Government officers, but I repeat for the benefit of parties themselves, without the baneful intervention of Government servants, with its opportunities for bribery and corruption of the Police and the Amla. As a fact I believe 50 per cent. of the offences committed (true and frivolous) themselves create as many cases of extortion. The Allahabad Congresswalla implied that the Government supervision of returns even forced the Police to concoct crime for individuals to keep their places or obtain promotion.

If the Burma Headmen law be extended to the N.-W. P. or to any part of India, the first change necessary would be to separate the Police into the two distinct branches of Protective and Detective, as at present in Burma, the latter solely under the control of their own landlords who should be held responsible for the detection of all crimes within their holdings, unless they are able to trace delinquents beyond their own jurisdiction. For such cases, a few selected men, of the same class, should be entertained for Government and be kept under the orders of the Inspectors of Divisions to help to connect and continue the trace from the village where crime occurs, to that of residence of defendants, the lumbaradar of which would then be drawn into the responsibility for detection. One of the great advantages of restoring zemindari responsibility would be that landlords would, in self defence, have to interest themselves to watch the bad characters of their villages, both the known thieves as well as the receivers of stolen property. Can there be a doubt, that it is owing to the want of supervision of these two classes, that thefts and burglaries increase? Instances can be pointed to, in proof, by returns, that where magistrates have accepted their charges against badmashes, crime in those localities have ceased or decreased.

For the Protective branch of the Police, are required men of superior manly stature, of the Irish constabulary sort, men whose respectability of appearance and commanding aspect (above the ordinary run of men) would at once overawe disturbance and command obedience. These should be of the class from which are drawn our men for flank companies in the old Indian Army, of not less than 5' 10" in height, 39 and 40 inches round the chest, with discipline enforced perfectly, as in the army. On no account or occasion, should they be employed as detectives, or as witnesses in cases, beyond the conduct of prisoners placed under their charge. The nature of duties for Protective and Detective Police are so perfectly different, it is useless to expect the men of either to be good for both.

Let a sepoy but once have the opportunity of obtaining a dishonest penny by suborning or withholding evidence, he is no longer fit for the (should be) honoured Protective Police. The old Indian army, enlisting young fellows who only visited their homes once in 5 or 6 years, constantly kept under military discipline, encouraged in manly sports, or on service in plucky adventures, never allowed the opportunity of any sordid trade, were made into quite different men from the ordinary menial or trade classes he was enlisted from. Many instances can be found in European as well as Native regi-

ments of orderlies of officers allowed to act as house stewards, who have been, by the baneful effect of avarice, perfectly ruined as soldiers.

If Government would but resuscitate zemindari responsibility and relieve the Police proper of detective duties (which can be effected without any strain on the finances) well might the Protective branch be reduced to half of the present establishment and, by that saving, allow an increase of pay to the few selected ones retained. For so urgent and radical a change, let not the principle of absorption be permitted--let not a superior class be contaminated by the evil schooling of the present class. The recruit for first year should receive Rs. 6 with no half monthly deductions. Let Magistrates of Districts be interested, and jointly responsible, in selection of Protective Police, who should not be passed beyond their protective term except by the Inspector-General or his military deputies. The probationers being passed should receive an increase of  $\frac{1}{4}$  pay, for every year's good service, punishment short of dismissal being the suspension of this annual promotion. This should on no account be left to the advice of subordinates but should require the sanction of the Magistrate of the District. The services of such a force being certainly equal, if not superior, to the native line regiments, their pensions and privileges should be similar. The different grades of head constables should be considered as staff appointments granted for ability, rectitude of character, not as seniority promotion to smart personal orderlies; reduction to ranks or to a lower grade as punishments being confirmed by the Magistrate of the District. This by itself would relieve the force of the jealousy from supersession, one of the greatest banes to military efficiency.

One of the fads of the old Indian Army is now being applied to the Police, viz., that one of the greatest encouragements for enlisting is the hope of promotion to the "Commanding ranks." A mere fallacy! Sir Henry Lawrence in 1847-48 with his thorough knowledge of native character established the feudal system for his local army, appointing to the Commanding ranks only men of good family, who were able to bring with them a certain number of their own clan or followers for enlistment into their troops or companies. There can be little doubt that in the old Indian Army, most of the heart-burnings in 1857, incentives to rebellion, were caused by the promotion of low caste men to the Commissioned ranks. For the police are required native officers, men as socially different from the ranks, as the Protective should be different from the Detective Police. Inspectors of all grades should not only be a superior class of native gentlemen of good families, but they should be men of education, who in their private life have had opportunities of taking part in Police enquiries, to show they have an aptitude for such duties, not as is often the case now, sycophant hangers-on to officers, or sisters, cozes and aunts of the favorite peshi amla of Courts, got up for the occasion in a milkwhite chapkan, tight and highly worked Benares putarider cap.

To detect the details of the many evils gradually grown into our Police system, the opinion of our now numerous European landlords and grantees, manufacturers of mills and trade works, with a large selection of natives in the same positions, men selected for their known intelligence, should be sought--not that of the sycophant Durbarees of Districts, who it is to be feared were drawn into some of our late Public Service enquiries, men who sought rather to find out what would be most pleasing to the officers enquiring--all class trap show, for the benefit of Parliamentary inquiries on Indian subjects!

Oh, what a world we live in nowadays in India! Unlimited personal patronage, under a 5 years' rule for tenure of appointments! A competition system unchecked by certificates of moral character, high class education for the low caste masses, local self-government--all works of the Devil flooded under a wave of democracy! Many Police officers would no doubt exclaim that if detection of crime be left to landlords, its report will only altogether be suppressed, but checks can be found against all evils. It is not suggested that our present chowkedari reports should be discontinued but as a perfect check against landlords, and at the same time as a security for them against charges of suppression of crime. It is suggested that Putwarees should send records of all crime in simplest laconic form by hands of the chowkedar, while after being recorded in Thanah for Roznamchas, after initialing by the Thanader or his deputy, be returned by the chowkedar to the landlord for his file. No notice need be taken of such reports even for Police cognizable cases, unless the landlord in his report applies for the aid of the Protective police or in cases of defendants not captured being reported as belonging to another village, when the report would apply for an investigating officer (according to circumstances) with or without escort. It is the feeding and exactions of a body of Government servants, police or civil, that the disinterested body of villagers most dread. As a further check against abuse of power and suppression of crime, the provisions of Section 167 Criminal Procedure Code as to the 24 hours periods for defendants after arrest to be taken to the nearest Magistrate for order or trial, should be applied to landlords, without magisterial powers, unless they can report adjustment

of differences between parties. In many cases, we may take it for granted that perfect justice would not be done, that many cases will escape report altogether, in some places, where Zemindars have strong influence, crime cease altogether. At any rate, there need be no fear that aggrieved parties would not appear before District Magistrates if their claims are not adjusted, in fact with much less fear than now, when the police have cooked evidence to turn a burglary into an indecent assault, a murder into a suicide.

European officers however must accept as facts that it is invariably the interest of their subordinates to discolour and conceal all facts from their superiors to retain power, and for their own benefit, that it is next to impossible for a native subordinate, police or civil, to be placed in any position of power, without abusing it, for his own benefit, that there is nothing that the innocent side of the native public dread more than indirect local enquiry by a subordinate agency, 99 per cent of whom are open to the highest bidder, that it is only those who are in the wrong, those actuated by spite or avarice to obtain injustice, who desire trial by an official court and readily accept the aid of a legal adviser, the instigator of litigation; the injured or the innocent would much sooner prefer reference to Panchait or trial by their own local chiefs.

C. S.

#### MAHOMEDANS AND THE CHRISTIAN NATIONS.

(From the *Overland Mail*, June 6, 1890.)

Our esteemed friend Nawab Abdool Lutef, whose name is so well known in connection with Mahomedan interests in Bengal, and indeed throughout India, as well as for the genial and liberal spirit he evinces toward his Hindoo fellow-subjects, has sent us a letter from Calcutta on the recent suppression in Paris of a play which was to have travestied the life of the Prophet. The Indian Mahomedans took a keen interest in the question, and very widely adopted a resolution not to attend any theatres if, what they naturally regarded as a profane insult to Mahomedan feeling, were allowed to be perpetrated on the boards of a theatre in a Christian nation. On similar grounds Mme. Sarah Bernhardt has lately been prevented by the French authorities from representing on the stage the Virgin Mary. Nawab Abdool Lutef gives an instance of the suppression of an objectionable play of the same character some years ago in Calcutta, and it is pleasing to observe that he was able also to appeal successfully to the Hindoo publisher to withdraw from circulation the printed copies of the play. In India leading Mahomedans and Hindoos can and do render inestimable service to the Government by restraining the fanatical impulses of their extreme fellow-religionists. We heartily wish that the powerful Mahomedan community in India could bring its influence to bear in Turkey on behalf of a more liberal treatment there of non-Mahomedan communities. It is possible that they could, were they to move actively in the matter, do more to alleviate the conditions which militate so disastrously against the internal strength and external influence of the Central Mahomedan Power, that can be achieved by the diplomacy of the Christian nations, and would thus contribute immensely to allay the friction which is ever existing and is perilous to the best interests of the Mahomedan world.

(To the Editor of THE OVERLAND MAIL.)

DEAR SIR,—It is a far cry from Calcutta to London, but the inventions of modern civilisation have annihilated distance and made familiar neighbours of peoples who otherwise would not have heard of each other's names for months and years. When last year H. E. the Turkish Ambassador in France felt it his duty to protest against the representation in Paris of a French play, founded on the Life of the Holy Prophet Mahomed, on the ground that such an exhibition was an outrage on Mahomedan feeling, his action forthwith came to the knowledge of the Mahomedans of all parts of the world through the medium of the telegraph and the press, and commanded their general approbation. The hesitation of the French Government in giving effect to this reasonable protest, in fact their apparent disregard of it in the first instance, produced such a ferment in remote India that as a token of their abhorrence for the act of the French dramatist, the theatres in Bombay (the only place in India where any large number of Mahomedans resort to theatres) were boycotted by them and all connection with the drama in any capacity prohibited to Mahomedans. Now that the protest of the Turkish Ambassador has been finally accepted as just, and the representation of "The Prophet" prohibited on any French stage, the news has been received with the greatest satisfaction by all Mahomedan communities including among them the Mahomedan community in India which numbers 50 millions.

In connection with this incident I may be allowed to inform your readers, who are to be found in all parts of the world and among all communities, that in 1886 a very similar *contretemps* occurred in this city, the capital of British India. A Hindoo writer composed and published a drama under the name of "The Religious Hero Mahomed," in which the Holy Prophet, his venerable companions, and

several ladies of the Holy Family figured among the *dramatis personæ*. Close upon the heels of the publication came the announcement that the play was to be produced on the boards of one of the Hindoo theatres of the metropolis.

On certain Mahomedan residents representing to the chief Police authority that such an exhibition would give grave offence to the feelings of the Mahomedan community, that officer took prompt steps to prohibit the performance.

As regards the suppression of the book itself, the Police possessed no such summary powers. A prosecution would have only given wider publicity to the book sought to be suppressed, and inflamed religious passions on either side. Under such circumstances I advised the publisher, a Hindoo gentleman, to take into his serious consideration the objections which the Mahomedans had to the book in question. I am happy to say that my friendly advice was acted upon, and the book voluntarily suppressed by the publisher. The stock in hand was made over to me for destruction, and the publisher promised to do his best to get back the few copies which had been till then circulated—a promise which was honourably fulfilled.

I trust this narrative will be interesting to your readers, as showing that the feeling which prompted the Turkish Ambassador's protest is one not confined to the Mahomedans in Europe, but is one fully shared in by the vast Islamite community in India, and the great importance of avoiding all semblance of offence to such religious sentiments. No wise Government would wantonly wound them.

I enclose extracts from the Indian papers in corroboration of my statements.—Yours sincerely,

ABDOOL LUTEEF.

Calcutta, May 13, 1890.

—The *Overland Mail*, June 6, 1890.

#### A MAHOMEDAN GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Englishman*.

SIR,—A small dramatic work in Bengali named the "Dhormo Deer Mahomed," or the "Religious Hero Mahomed" has been recently printed and published by one Otool Krishna Mitter, at No. 97, Doorga Churn Mitter's Street, in Calcutta.

It purports to give an account of the doings of our Holy Prophet, and the *Dramatis Personæ* include himself, his venerable companions, and several ladies of his highly revered family.

As soon as I came to know of the publication of this work, and read portions of it, I concluded that the sale of such a book—the contents of which are outrageous and offensive to the feelings of the entire Mahomedan community—should be stopped at once, and the book itself entirely suppressed.

With this view I forthwith wrote to Baboo Gooroo Dass Chatterji, the proprietor of the bookshop called the Bengal Medical Library, at No. 251, Cornwallis Street, where the book was sold, pointing out to him the highly objectionable nature of the contents of the book, and advising him at once to put a stop to its further sale, as well as to call back all such copies as had already been sold by him.

In the meantime, it appearing from a paragraph in the local columns of the *Englishman* of Monday last, that the drama in question was about to be placed on the boards of some Native theatre in Calcutta, a number of Mahomedan gentlemen presented a petition to the Deputy Commissioner of Police protesting against the play being put on the stage, and requesting him to prevent the managers of that theatre from doing so. The Deputy Commissioner, I am glad to say, took prompt measures to prevent the outrage being committed, with the desired effect.

Baboo Gooroo Das Chatterjee has had the good sense of accepting my advice, and has forwarded to me 1,729 copies of the book (all that he had in his stock), and given me permission to destroy the same. He has, moreover, taken steps to recall all such copies that had already been sold, the number of which he assures me is small; and he has promised to place them in my hands as soon as he gets them back.

I will take an early opportunity of destroying the copies of the book in the presence of some of the leaders of Mahomedan Society.

The publication of this most offensive play and an attempt to have it acted on the theatre have created a great sensation among the Mahomedan residents of the town; and it is highly desirable in the interests of common good-will and peace that the leading members of the Hindu community should come forward and suppress the circulation of this book, and also of similar other books, one of which, having been put on the stage by the members of the Brahmo Somaj at Dacca, about a month ago, was about to create a serious disturbance between the Hindu and Mahomedan inhabitants of that city.

You will, Sir, place the Mahomedan community under an obligation by giving an early insertion to this letter in your widely circulated journal.

ABDOOL LUTEEF.

Calcutta, October 14, 1886.

—The *Englishman*, Oct. 15, 1886.

THESE Pills can be obtained at all Bazaars throughout India, or from the Wholesale Agents, Naylor, Son, Grimes & Co., at sale following rates:—1s. 1½d. size, Re. 1-2, the 2d. size, Rs. 2-4 per box, including V.-P. Post. Shopkeepers can obtain Wholesale rates upon application.

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Agents:—DYCE, NICOL & CO.,  
3, Commercial Buildings, Calcutta.

**Rivers Steam Navigation Co.  
"Limited."**

This Company's Steamer "GWALIOR" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 15th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 12th inst.

**CACHAR LINE.**

The steamer "THIKAK" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 22nd instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 19th instant.

The Rivers having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Silchar.

**ASSAM DESPATCH SERVICE FROM**

**GOALUNDO**

and

**DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM**

**DHUBRI TO DEHRADOOR.**

A daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over half a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. train (Madras time) from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta *via* Goalundo or Kanna with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels *via* Kanna only.

All particulars as to rates of freight and passage by all the above mentioned Services to be had on application to—

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Calcutta, the 8th July, 1890.

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Advertisements (three columns to the page and 102 lines to the column) are charged by the space taken up, at the rate of 4 annas a line, each insertion. The lowest charge for any advertisement is Rs. 2, except Domestic Occurrences, the lowest charge for which is Rs. 1.

**Special rates for Contracts.**

No additional charge for inland postage or peon. For arrears an advance of 50 per cent. will be charged. Foreign postage separately charged at the rate of 4 annas a month or Rs. 3, a year.

Business Communications (post paid) to be directed to "The Manager," and Literary Communications and books and pamphlets (carriage paid) to "The Editor" of "Reis & Rayyet."

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1890.

} No. 433

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY

### TO THE POINT.

THE day of tumult, strife, defeat, was o'er.  
Worn out with toil, and noise, and scorn, and spleen,  
I slumbered, and in slumber saw once more  
A room in an old mansion, long unseen.

That room, methought, was curtained from the light ;  
Yet through the curtains shone the moon's cold ray  
Full on a cradle, where, in linen white,  
Sleeping life's first soft sleep, an infant lay.

\* \* \* \*

And lo ! the fairy queens who rule our birth  
Drew nigh to speak the new-born baby's doom :  
With noiseless steps, which left no trace on earth,  
From gloom they came, and vanished into gloom.

Not deigning on the boy a glance to cast,  
Swept careless by the gorgeous Queen of Gain,  
More scornful still, the Queen of Fashion passed,  
With mincing gait and sneer of cold disdain.

The Queen of Power tossed high her jewelled head,  
And o'er her shoulder threw a wrathful frown.  
The Queen of Pleasure on the pillow shed  
Scarce one stray rose-leaf from her fragrant crown.

Still fay in long procession followed fay ;  
And still the little couch remained unblest ;  
But, when those wayward sprites had passed away,  
Came one, the last, the mightiest, and the best.

Oh ! glorious lady, with the eyes of light,  
And laurels clustering round thy lofty brow,  
Who by the cradle's side didst watch that night,  
Warbling a sweet strange music, who wast thou ?

" Yes, darling ; let them go," so ran the strain :  
" Yes ; let them go, gain, fashion, pleasure, power,  
And all the busy elves to whose domain  
Belongs the nether sphere, the fleeting hour.

" Without one envious sigh, one anxious scheme,  
The nether sphere, the fleeting hour resign.  
Mine is the world of thought, the world of dream,  
Mine all the past, and all the future mine.

\* \* \* \*

" Of the fair brotherhood who share my grace,  
I, from thy natal day, pronounce thee free ;  
And, if for some I keep a nobler place,  
I keep for none a happier than for thee.

" There are who, while to vulgar eyes they seem  
Of all my bounties largely to partake,  
Of me as of some rival's handmaid deem,  
And court me but for gain's, power's, fashion's, sake.

" To such, though deep their lore, though wide their fame,  
Shall my great mysteries be all unknown ;  
But thou, through good and evil, praise and blame,  
Will not thou love me for myself alone ?

" Yes ; thou wilt love me with exceeding love,  
And I will tenfold all that love repay ;  
Still smiling, though the tender may reprove,  
Still faithful, though the trusted may betray.

\* \* \* \*

" In the dark hour of shame, I deigned to stand  
Before the frowning peers at Bacon's side ;  
On a far shore I smoothed with tender hand,  
Through months of pain, the sleepless bed of Hyde.

" I brought the wise and brave of ancient days  
To cheer the cell where Raleigh pined alone ;  
I lighted Milton's darkness with the blaze  
Of the bright ranks that guard the eternal throne.

" And even so, my child, it is my pleasure  
That thou not alone shouldst feel me nigh,  
When in domestic bliss and studious leisure,  
Thy weeks uncounted come, uncounted fly.

\* \* \* \*

" No ; when on restless night dawns cheerless morrow,  
When weary soul and wasting body pine,  
Thine am I still, in danger, sickness, sorrow,  
In conflict, obloquy, want, exile, thine ;

" Thine, where on mountain waves the snowbirds scream,  
Where more than Thule's winter barbs the breeze,  
Where scarce, through lowering clouds, on sickly gleam  
Lights the drear May-day of Antarctic seas ;

" Thine, when around thy litter's track all day  
White sandhills shall reflect the blinding glare ;  
Thine, when through forests breathing death, thy way  
All night shall wind by many a tiger's lair ;

" Thine most, when friends turn pale, when traitors fly,  
When, hard beset, thy spirit, justly proud,  
For truth, peace, freedom, mercy, dares defy  
A sullen priesthood and a raving crowd.

" Amidst the din of all things fell and vile,  
Hate's yell, and envy's hiss, and folly's bray,  
Remember me ; and with an unforced smile  
See riches, baubles, flatterers, pass away.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

"Yes, they will pass away ; nor deem it strange ;  
They come and go, as comes and goes the sea :  
And let them come and go ; thou through all change,  
Fix thy firm gaze on virtue and on me."

—Macaulay.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

HERE is the programme of the monsoon tour of the Lieutenant-Governor during the current month :—

Monday 21st	...	Arrive Hooghly, 8-5 P.M. (railway time.)	
Tuesday 22nd and	...	Arrive Burdwan, 7-36 P.M.	... By rail.
Wednesday, 23rd	...	Halt Burdwan.	
Thursday, 24th	...	Return to Hooghly	...
Friday, 25th	...	Arrive Krishnagpur	... By river.
Saturday, 26th	...	Halt Krishnagpur.	
Sunday, 27th	...		
Monday, 28th	...	Arrive Bethampur	...
Tuesday, 29th	...	Halt	"
Wednesday, 30th	...		
Thursday, 31st	...	Arrive Moorshedabad	...

THE Government have revised the Holiday Notifications to suit the demand and wishes of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, thus breaking up the Doorga Puja holidays and extinguishing the Long Vacation :—

### "NOTIFICATION.

The 9th July 1890.—Under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881, entitled 'The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881,' the Lieutenant-Governor hereby declares the following days to be public holidays during the year 1890 :—

25th January	...	Sripanchami.
6th March	...	Dolejatra.
5th April	...	Easter Saturday.
12th "	...	Chaitra Sankranti.
24th May	...	Empress' Birthday.
29th "	...	Dashahara.
7th August	...	Janmashtami.
13th October	...	Mahalaya.
20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd,	...	
27th and 28th October...	...	Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs.
11th and 12th November	...	Kali Poojah.
20th and 21st "	...	Jagadhatu Poojah.
26th and 27th December	...	Two days following Christmas Day.
Sundays, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and Christmas Day	...	are public holidays under the Act.

This notification is in supersession of that published on page 1010 of Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 11th December 1889.

H. J. S. COTTON,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

### NOTIFICATION.

The 9th July 1890.—With reference to the above notification, the Lieutenant-Governor hereby notifies that on the following days during 1890, which are not declared to be 'public holidays,' the offices under the Government of Bengal, and all Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the offices of Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt Rowannah and Opium Sale Departments of the Board of Revenue, shall be closed :—

#### I.—MAHOMEDAN HOLIDAYS.

- Eed-ul-fitr, which falls on the 21st May, or, if the moon be not visible on the 20th May, on the 22nd May.
- Eed-ul-zoha, which falls on the 28th July, or, if the moon be not visible on the 18th July, on the 29th July.
- Mohurram, the last two days of which fall on the 26th and 27th August, or, if the moon be visible on the 16th August, on the 25th and 26th August.
- Fatiah-doaz-dahum, which falls on the 27th October, or, if the moon be not visible on the 15th October, on the 28th October.

#### II.—HINDU HOLIDAYS.

- Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs, the 18th, 24th, 25th, and the 29th October.

#### III.—CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS.

- Christmas Eve, the 24th December.

This notification is in supersession of that published on page 1062 of Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 25th December 1889.

H. J. S. COTTON,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal."

IN September 1888, the Government of India, in the Home Department, offered a reward of Rs. 1,000 for the best text-book on Domestic Economy and Sanitary Science for the use, of the senior classes of

English and Anglo-Vernacular Schools in India. In August of the following year, a committee consisting of the Principal, Medical College, Lahore, Surgeon-Major A. Stephen, Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab, and Honorary Surgeon Rahim Khan, Khan Bahadur, Lecturer on Materia Medica and Medicine, Lahore Medical College, were appointed to adjudge the prize. Eighteen candidates competed, the best essays being those of Surgeon A. E. Roberts, of the Indian Medical Service, and Surgeon R. H. Firth, Army Medical Department. The Committee further consider that the essay of Surgeon Roberts "is the more suitable for adoption as a text-book," and the Governor-General in Council has, accordingly, sanctioned the Rs. 1,000 for the Surgeon of the Indian Medical Service.

\*\*\*

THE Council of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce approve of the recent Memorial by the Bengal Chamber against the levy in India of Income Tax on Consignments, and have resolved—that a Memorial be forwarded to the Viceroy of India supporting the Memorial of the Bengal Chamber.

..

WE read—

"Five hundred thousand visiting-cards have been engraved in Washington this season, says the *Paper World*. One stationery firm has turned out 300,000 in the last two months, and the money spent on paste-board during a season amounts to tens of thousands of dollars. The most ordinary card costs a cent a piece after the plate is made, and some of the dinner invitations sent out cost 10 dols. a dozen. A prominent item on the expense account of a Washington belle is her engraving and printing, and society ladies who give dinners spend at times hundreds of dollars upon the stationery for a feast. Mrs. Leland Stanford lately paid 85 dols. for fifty cards to be used as *menus* for one of her big dinners. The map of the United States was stamped in silver on the cards, and the drawing and engraving were exquisite. At the dinner which General Breckinridge gave, the cards cost 1 dol. a piece, and Mrs. Justice Blanchford gave not long ago a luncheon, the cards for which were carved by hand at a cost of 18 dols. a dozen. Some of the cards are in raised silver and gold. They look as though the gold and silver had been melted and poured into letters on the cards, and cost 75 cents a piece."

We hope collectors will not allow these specimens of dinner stationery to disperse and be lost. Presented together they would give a good idea of the wealth and refinement of the times. Sumptuous stationery is not unknown in the East. At the princely dinner given in behalf of the community by Raja Inder Chunder Singh, at his residence in Russell Street, to Mons. Jules Joubert, the maker of the Calcutta Exhibition, one of the guests who had been a well-known journalist in England, was profuse in admiration of the *menu*, confessing, with post-prandium openness and fervour that he had never seen the like of it.

..

THE recent fall of houses in Bombay has awakened the Municipal Standing Committee to the necessity of proper building regulations. The Municipal Commissioner has accordingly been requested to favor the Committee with a report as to the measures adopted to give practical effect to the building regulations in the Municipal Act (III of 1888) as regards new buildings in course of erection, as also to submit draft building byelaws for the erection of safe buildings and for competent and vigilant inspection with a view to their stability while in course of erection. Why should not the existing houses, that is, houses after they have been built, specially all public places, be subjected to periodical inspection with a view to their stability as also their sanitation? Here is a hint for all municipalities.

..

AT the Nundydroog gold mine, in May last, 700 tons of ore were crushed for 1,084 ozs. of gold; in the following month 750 tons were stamped and yielded 1,400 ozs. of bar gold, or an increase of 50 tons ore and 315 ozs. of gold.

..

THEY have come upon a considerable coalfield at Lashio, in the Shan States lying to the north-east of Mandalay. Lashio is 140 miles from Mandalay.

..

THE Upper India Chamber of Commerce cry with the Bengal Chamber against the income tax on consignor's profits and the income tax itself.

..

THE defences of the Hyderabad Residency are to be improved. Orders have also been passed for removal of the treasure to Trimulgherry entrenchment. The costs have been estimated at Rs. 80,000.

THE Jubilee Plunger, Ernest Benzon, has plunged himself into debt. He is now passing through the court. His liabilities are given at £38,000 and assets at £13,000.

THE Second Half-yearly Departmental Examination of 1890 of Assistant and Deputy Magistrates in the regulation and non-regulation districts, and of officers in the Police, Medical, Forest and Opium Departments, will begin on Monday, the 6th October next.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has countermanded the tolls at Simoriah for that portion of the Arrah Canal which lies between Lock No. 12 in village Baghamath and Lock No. 13 on the river Ganges at Akona, both in the district of Shahabad.

THE next Entrance Examination has been fixed for Monday, the 2nd February 1891, the F. A. and B. A. Examinations will come off a fortnight later on the 16th February, and the B. L. begins on the 2nd March 1891.

LADY Lansdowne arrived at Bombay in the morning of the 18th and in the evening left for England. There were many persons present at the Apollo Bunder to witness the embarkation. Previous to her departure from Simla, she held, on the 8th instant, a Reception which was numerously attended.

SIR Steuart Bayley arrived at Calcutta on the 11th. There was a Durbar at Belvedere on the 15th, when the following recipients were invested with their newly acquired titles :—

"Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Bahadur, K.C.S.I., of Calcutta; Maharaja Mohendro Deo Saont, of Athmullik; Raja Jyoti Prosad Gorga, of Maisadul, in Midnapur; Mahamahopadhyaya Ayodhya Nath Miser Samavedi, of Pota, in Mozufferpur; Mahamahopadhyaya Krishna Singh Takur, of Bhoar, in Tirhut; Mahamahopadhyaya Kanhai Lal Jha, of Mangraumi, in Durbhunga; Shams-ul-Ulama Maulavi Abdur Rauf, of Patna; Maulavi Ahmad, Khan Bahadur, of Calcutta; Rai Mata Din, Bahadur, of Patna; Rai Nundo Kishore Das, Bahadur, Assistant Superintendent of the Tributary Mehals, Orissa; Rai Kali Podo Mookerjee, Bahadur, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Orissa; and Rai Nalinaksha Bose, Bahadur, of Burdwan."

The usual ceremonies were gone through, the Lieutenant-Governor being profuse in his admiration of the qualities and services which, in their ready recognition by the members and agents of an appreciative Government, had secured them the honors.

THE East Indian Railway Company having refused to pay municipal taxes to the Hooghly and Chinsurah Municipality, the Government of India was moved to enable the Municipal Commissioners to levy taxes on the Railway line under the Indian Railway Act, 1890, or to exclude the Grand Trunk Road from Municipal limits. Pending further orders, the Railway Authorities have been ordered to pay taxes from and after 1st May 1890.

UNDER the Indian Ports Act (X of 1889), the Lieutenant-Governor has ruled that

"1. On the occurrence of a case of cholera, small-pox, or other dangerously communicable disease on board any ship lying in the port, the master shall, as early as possible, send the affected person to hospital, and shall cause the flag R to be hoisted at the fore as a signal to the Health Officer of the Port, and such signal shall not be lowered until the Health Officer has visited the ship.

2. The master shall afford such information in regard to the occurrence of the disease as the Health Officer may require, and shall carry out such reasonable instructions regarding the cleansing and disinfection of the vessel, and the disposal of polluted clothing, bedding, &c., as that officer may consider it necessary to give.

3. If, by reason of the prevalence of any dangerously communicable disease on board any ship, the Health Officer and one other medical officer in the service of the Government at Calcutta jointly consider it absolutely necessary for the safety of the crews of other vessels that such vessel should be segregated, the Health Officer shall furnish the master with a certificate to that effect. The master shall, on receipt of such certificate, forthwith give notice accordingly to the Harbour Master, and the vessel shall be removed to Mateabrooj, or such other place as the Port Commissioners may direct.

4. On the occurrence of a death on board, the master shall, without delay, inform the River Police, whose permission shall be obtained before the corpse is removed."

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE relations between the British Government and the United States appear to be strained over the Behring Sea Fishery question.

The English Government have resolved to demand increased military contributions from the Crown Colonies. The House of Lords has passed a Bill for increased barrack accommodation.

The American House of Representatives has passed the Silver Bill in entirety by a Republican majority. President Harrison's signature to the Bill has been affixed. It will have effect from the 13th August.

The British House of Lords has passed the Bill sanctioning the Anglo-German Agreement.

In opening the new Rifle Ranges of the National Rifle Association at Besley Common which for the future will replace Wimbledon, the Prince of Wales made a patriotic speech. His Royal Highness appealed to the nation to support the Association, the object of which was to make the rifle what the bow was in the days of the Plantagenets.

There is a change of Ministry in Cape Colony on account of the rejection by the Cape Parliament of a large Railway scheme.

Lord Rosebery has resigned the Chairmanship of the County Council.

The Madhi is again on the war path. He is reported to have suffered a reverse with the loss of his head-quarters at El Obeid.

AFTER his chequered career of adventure in the Dark Continent, Mr. Stanley's life on return to England enters on another phase. He has married. The ceremony was brilliant, and there were enthusiastic demonstrations outside Westminster Abbey by large crowds of people who had collected to give the pair a reception. The Queen has presented Mr. Stanley with a miniature portrait of herself set in diamonds with a letter eulogising his services and wishing him wedded happiness.

The Queen has given fifty pounds towards Stanley's steamer for the Nyanza.

Sir John Kirk is made a Commander of the Bath for his services on the Anti-Slavery Conference of the Powers to consider the best means of stopping the Slave Trade by sea and land.

STRIKES are the order of the day "at Home" and abroad. One or two are always on the hands of the authorities. The London postmen's strike has, however, past the crisis. The dock laborers have also resumed work.

The Madrid strikers are more than usually turbulent. Troops had to be called out to quell the riots. They opened fire, killing and wounding many.

Nitrate workers are on strike at Chili, Monroe country. They were fired on by troops and forty killed.

A SEVERE thunderstorm accompanied by torrential rains took place in London and the provinces, causing heavy floods.

A terrific cyclone swept over Minnesota and Wisconsin, wrecking a steamer and several boats, causing damage to the value of millions of dollars and killing two hundred lives.

A terrible fire took place at Constantinople, destroying a timber yard and nine hundred houses and shops. The loss is estimated at one million sterling.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer in replying to a question in the British House of Commons, referred to the proposal of the Government of India for the reduction of postage between India and England.

Lord and Lady Reay dined with the Queen at Windsor.

Sir Richard Temple has presented more petitions from the Punjab, opposing the elective principle in the Legislative Councils.

The National Leprosy Committee has at the instance of Lord Lansdowne contributed a thousand pounds towards a Leprosy Commission to be sent to India, with whom two Indian officials would co-operate.

An important meeting of the Lady Dufferin Fund was held in London and was attended by Lord Reay, Sir Lepel Griffin, Sir Walter DeSouza and many other persons. Sir M. Grant Duff presided. An appeal was



made to one thousand ladies of Great Britain to come forward and subscribe one pound each.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowasjee Jehangeer Readymoney were presented to the Queen by the Prince of Wales at a garden party. The Queen commanded them to be at Windsor that they might be received by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

A LUNATIC, apparently eaten up by a passion for notoriety, fired a revolver at President Carnot and was immediately arrested. The revolver was charged with blank cartridges.

CONFLICTING telegrams have reached this country as to the prospects of Lord Cross's Bill. In one, it is said that it will be abandoned on account of the opposition which is being organised against it. A later announcement is of a more hopeful kind. It is said that Mr. Smith hopes that the Bill may even yet pass in this Session. The outlook, however, is not very promising. Here is an offer of reform from the British Government in response to the demand from this country, and the Congress party reject it on the ground that it is not enough. What alone will make the offer acceptable to this party is the concession of election, and they will wait and agitate for years till election is given, rather than have the other concessions without it. Election may be, and is, a good thing, but the idolatrous admiration of it, manifested by some of the Congress leaders, is something very curious. Already people with experience of its trial in the country are getting disenchanted of it. If Sir Henry Harrison were asked, he would probably say he had had enough of it. But enough is not always as good as a feast, we are afraid.

THIS is a remarkably good year for native candidates at the London Civil Service competition. No less than five have passed, three of them being Hindus of Bengal, one a Mahomedan of Behar, and one a Parsee. This is highly gratifying from more than one point of view. The number satisfactory as in itself it is, is more so from its geographical and ethnic distribution. We congratulate Bombay and our Mahomedan fellow-countrymen on their sharing in the rewards that have fallen to India. To us of Bengal, and of *Reis and Rayyet* in particular, the patriotic exaltation, not to say exultation, with which we have received the telegraphic announcement of so many of our countrymen, of all parts and different sections of the community, having passed the Rubicon and being fairly on the march to the Imperial Rome of high office, is heightened by the sympathy of blood and kinship and personal friendship. The successful candidates are Mr. Satis Chandra Mookerjee, a relative of our friend Mr. P. L. Roy, Barrister-at-law (of the Roys of Lakutia), Mr. Arabenda Ghose, son of another friend, Dr. K. D. Ghose (the wellknown sanitationist), Mr. Mohinimohun Ghose, son of yet another friend, if we may be permitted to call him so, Mr. Monomohun Ghose (the wellknown advocate), Mr. Yusuff, of Bankipore, and Mr. Mudgarkar, who stands third among the five, of Bombay.

Considering the high standard of intellectual qualifications required for a proper discharge of the duties of higher administrative posts, and the more and more exacting and complicated character of their work, it must always be a far more desirable thing to make one's way to those posts by means of competition than otherwise. If the conditions of that competition have not so far been quite advantageous to native candidates, it is all the more to the credit of this year's batch that they have succeeded in spite of them. It is to be hoped that the limitation of age as regards Indian competitors will be removed, or at any rate farther extended, in the future, instead of making the exceptional result of this year an argument for its retention.

THE Chief Commissioner of Assam has shown a courage worthy of his exalted office. In his Resolution on the Assam Police Report for the past year, he has hit on a serious blot in administration, which is by no means confined to his frontier Province. Mr. Quinton reveals the true secret of the large number of false cases shewn in the return. They are not all really false, but are *shewn* to be such to cover the failure of the Police to bring the offenders to justice. These and other delinquencies of the Police are to be attributed to the system of returns, which are the established basis of recognition of good service and promotion. In the Judicial Service itself, specially the Subordinate or Uncovenanted Judiciary in which our countrymen are chiefly

employed, the effect of the blind adherence to tabular results is visible. When will our Government learn to see the futility of mere forms?

AN embezzlement of Rs. 895-6-6 by a collecting Sircar has been detected in the North Barrackpore Municipality. The accounts of that Municipality seem to be in an unsatisfactory state. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division has been asked to call for a full report from the Municipality explaining what steps have been taken to realise the amount embezzled, as well as to bring the offender to justice. The Municipality is also required to explain why the accounts have not been kept in the prescribed form and no security taken from the offender. And what about the Government audit? Does not a state accountant travel through the country inspecting the books and examining the accounts of Municipalities, sumptuously billeted on the municipal accountants? Is the inspecting and examining all a formality without substance—mere "eye-wash"—a putting a good face upon an unsightly matter? The billeting is very real, and not unoften substantial. The auditing, we are afraid, is a farce, and practically smooths the path and strengthens the hands of peculation.

It has been detected that the names of dead holders of Carnatic Stipends continue on the list of pensioners, and stipends are drawn in their names. This is a common form of fraud. It prevails in connection with political pensions at all Agencies. It is encouraged by the *Purda* system—the custom which veils our ladies from observation.

A MONSTER suit involving well-known political characters, though itself of little political interest, is pending in the Punjab. It is a monstrous litigation, between mother and son and mother and grandsons. The plaintiff is Lady Gujri, widow of Dewan Jwala Sáhái, the famous comrade and Chief Minister of Maharaja Golab Singh. Jwala Sáhái left two sons, the late Dewan Kirparam and Dewan Lachman Das. Kirparam left two sons, Anantram and Amarnath. The Dowager Lady Gujri now sues Dewan Lachman Das, ex-Prime Minister of Cashmere, and his nephews, Dewans Anantram and Amarnath, for possession of immovable property valued at 15 lacs. She claims the property, situated in Cashmere, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Lahore and Jammu, as a gift to her under the will of her husband. The suit has been filed in the civil court of Gujranwala. Messrs. Rattigan and Higgins represent the plaintiff, while Mr. P. C. Chatterjee and Lalā Gobind Ram defend the suit. The case will be taken up on the 15th November next, when the Subordinate Judge goes to Aminabad to examine the plaintiff.

HERE is a side issue in the Jain Defamation case, pending in the Court of the Northern Division Magistrate, in which Indra Chund Nahatta prosecutes fourteen of his community, for publishing and abetting the publication of a pamphlet in which it is stated that he had been excommunicated for visiting Europe and eating prohibited food at a Bombay hotel, on boardship and at several hotels in England:—

"At the Calcutta High Court on the 8th July, before Justices Norris and Gordon, Mr. Dunne applied to have the record sent for of a recent application to the Chief Presidency Magistrate for a summons against the leading men of the Jain community, and to have them bound down to keep the peace.

Mr. Dunne explained that the applicant, Indra Chund Nahatta, was a rich and influential member of the Jain community, who had incurred the disfavour of some other members by visiting Europe. He went to the Jain temple on the 1st July, when a crowd of Jains rose and attempted to prevent him entering. He did enter however: and when he left they hooted him out of the place. Four leading men went to the police afterwards, and said openly that if the applicant visited the temple again there would be bloodshed. The applicant went to the Commissioner of Police, who stationed a police force near the temple and suggested that the offenders should be bound down to keep the peace. The Magistrate, when appealed to, advised the applicant not to go to the temple if the people objected to his presence. Counsel submitted that applicant had a right to visit the temple, and it was the Magistrate's duty to protect him in the exercise of his right.

Mr. Justice Norris asked if it was quite certain that a Jain who had transgressed the rules of the community and broken his caste had the right.

Mr. Dunne claimed his client had a right to prove he had not forfeited his caste rights.

Mr. Justice Norris did not think it likely there would be any crime. There was all the more reason, being a religious question, why no secular tribunal should try it.

After much argument Mr. Justice Norris said the bench were of opinion that there was not sufficient ground to interfere with the exercise of the Magistrate's discretion."

The main case stands adjourned to the 24th.

WHAT is the domicile of the Maharaja Duleep Sing or of his son Prince Albert V. Duleep? The question was raised in the Court of Appeal in England, and the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Justice Lindly Topey concurring, thus put and answered the question:—

"Did the Maharaja choose a domicile in England? Did he ever give up his domicile in the Punjab and intend not to return there? Looking at all the facts, there could be no doubt that the true inference was that the Maharaja as soon as he had a will of his own, always intended to return to the Punjab whenever he could do so. In his opinion therefore the Maharaja never acquired a domicile in England, but retained his domicile in the Punjab. The son therefore also took the domicile in the Punjab as long as he was under age. But even assuming that the Maharaja abandoned his domicile in the Punjab, and chose an English one still the Maharaja before his son came of age abandoned his English domicile and reverted back to his domicile of origin in the Punjab, and his son being under age took the domicile of the father. In either case at the moment before the son came of age he had not a domicile in England. The petitioning creditor must show the abandonment by the son when he came of age of the domicile which he had the moment before he came of age, and the election of an English domicile. The burden of proving an English domicile lay upon the petitioning creditor. The son's living in England for a few months with his mother after he came of age was no evidence of a choice of domicile in England, nor did the fact of his entering the army, though it might be some evidence, help the case much."

This wandering Jew of a poor Indian Prince, deprived in childhood of the religion of his birth, expatriated in boyhood, and then denationalised by the very conditions of his existence for life among strangers in an alien land, and finally beggared and disgraced, until he lost his head, has alas! no domicile. Neither country nor home remains for him.

THE world has heard enough of Baboo English and of that *chef d'œuvre* of Baboo Literature, the Memoir of the late Mr. Justice Onoocool Chunder Mookerjee by his nephew. Only the other day, the London *Globe* entertained its readers with "The Beauties of Baboo English." As a rule, however, these "caterers" to the innocent mirth of our European fellow-subjects, here or at home, simply invent philological absurdities and verbal combinations of the strangest, and pass them off on a gullible public as the exercises of Indians and the outcome of half a century's efforts to impart English education to the Indian people. In point of fact, the so-called "specimens" are no more Baboo or Prabhu than Basque. The true "Baboo" is queer enough in all conscience, but it has a method in its madness—a distinct individuality. For the benefit of those who might desire to know what this Indian "Pidgin," in its literary development, is like, we quote the following account of the weather at Burwani, the capital of a small chief under the Central India Agency. It was sent to the *Morning Post* which in its thorough appreciation of it has printed it with all its beauties on its head. Here is it:—

"On 3rd instant (June) at 1 P.M. there was a heavy tempest of a dreadful wind, and it is followed by a downpour of a heavy rain. The great nalla, which flows through the heart of the town, came into heavy flood, so that, almost all the adjacent houses were for a long time in water, the poor dwellers were in great catastrophe and they were deeply drowned in the whirlpool of difficulties to escape from the threatening danger. Some wretched people took refuge in the highest and uppermost part of their houses, while others were obliged to took themselves to the safest places by crossing the running streams, I am poured into the horrible imagination and sorry still to give a most terrible account of a poor and a most wretched pair of fakir, who was flowed to the distance of quarter of a mile in the said nallah but fortunately caught by the trees and thus they have saved their lives. Many houses fell down and a number of living stocks died of drowning. In short, the people of Barwani greatly suffered in this stormy tempest. Total loss estimated that night was more than Rs. 2,000."

Well might our contemporary call it a "touching letter!"

THE following letter, which appears in the English Press, corrects a misrepresentation, but we are glad that the occasion has recalled to the civilised world the services of the pioneer in our days of African discovery, which has at last culminated in the latest successful adventure of Stanley, the Hero of the hour:—

"Sir,—My relations have startled me with a paragraph from a 'London correspondent' saying that 'Sir Richard Burton is lying very dangerously ill, neglected, and alone, in a London lodging, whilst Stanley is being feted.' If the love and devotion of a wife may count for anything, Sir Richard will never be neglected nor alone whilst I am alive. I have been married to him for nearly thirty years, besides a five years' engagement, and during all those thirty-five years, I have never been absent from him one day that I was allowed to be with him—in other words, I have never been absent except to execute his orders. For the last seven years we have hardly been a day apart, and for the last three and a-half years that he has been ailing, never one hour away out of the twenty four. During these three and a-half years we have, in consequence of the weakness of health, sacrificed everything to have a resident English doctor (who was looking for

such a berth) living and travelling with us. And instead of a London lodging we have a beautiful and romantic home (with every comfort for him that our means allow) at the very head of the Adriatic. Next year his term of service expires (forty-nine years' actual service), and then we shall both be, if alive, 'in a London lodging neglected and alone.' But to state that now is what the Americans would call 'a little previous.' On the other hand, I am very grateful to the correspondent for the truth of his statement about my husband's career, showing that in the midst of this feteing and rejoicings for the great traveller Stanley, the pioneer who opened up the way without money or help or applause, enduring the severest hardships and perils, and cold receptions of his return, is not forgotten at home and that they know that it is to him first that they owe the fact that many of these desolate regions have now trade and schools and missions, and the beginning of civilisation. I feel confident that God will make up to him more than he has missed of this world's honours.—Yours, &c., Isabel Burton.—Trieste, June 15."

That expression of dutiful devotion comes specially home to our Hindu heart. It looks so like the expression of a Hindu wife. The truth is, the ideal wife, as the ideal husband, is the same in every community. Lady Burton is an accomplished woman who has made contributions of merit to literature. Yet she is

A creature not too bright or good  
For human nature's daily food.

HERE are two chips of the same block alike with a marvellous exactitude!—the same in body, mind, external relations, and all circumstances—in everything!

"There are two young artisans of Bristol, named Johnson, who are twins. They are not only of the same height, having the same coloured hair, eyes, and complexion, identical physical measurements, and feeding, walking, running, laughing, crying, singing, and speaking alike, but they are of the same occupation, hold the same position, and have the same religious persuasion and likes and dislikes. More singular still, they have espoused very similar wives, and they have the same number of children, who are of the same sexes, three girls and three boys each."

The two sets of children are of the same age and otherwise similar as their mothers, we suppose?

A brace of brothers alike to a *t*—here are elements of a pretty mess, by either and both, and by others! The fun is obvious, but there is danger in the situation. The ever-recurring Comedy of Errors of such an equivocal ambiguous existence must be too much of a good thing. But there are possibilities of the Comedy culminating in frightful Tragedies of Errors. It must be bad enough to be assaulted or accused in mistake, or arrested and sent to jail for another. We only hope the poor fellows are sure of their own wives and children, and that the wives are able to make a tolerable guess as to their lords, and that the sons and daughters know their fathers and mothers.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1890.

### THE HOLIDAYS—IN A FIX.

TIME was when our Rulers sympathised with the festivities of the people. Those sympathies are now dying out, and man must reduce himself to a machine to keep pace with the age. To a thoroughly religious and sociable people like the Hindus, holidays come as a matter of course. But religious or social usages must give way before the exigencies of business. So the fiat has gone forth and holidays must be retrenched.

The reduction of holidays is a *fait accompli*. The Government offices with the exception of a few are indeed untouched. It is proposed to curtail the number of holidays, under the Negotiable Instruments Act, the days so curtailed being allowed to clerks in Government offices by executive order. This is a half and half measure which cannot be final. At any rate, the principle on which the holiday question has hitherto been treated is departed from, and the question must continue to drift along at the mercy of every periodical agitation for further restriction of the holidays. The merchants have gained their point, and the weaker side, as always, gone to the wall. When Sir Stuart Bayley allowed the question to be reopened after it had been once set at rest, we felt what it augured, and prepared ourselves

for the worst. But as regards the community at large, they stoutly held out hopefully against the possibility of a time honored privilege being at length withdrawn. To the nation in general, the decision of the Government will cause the keenest disappointment. Their attitude of hope and anxiety and suspense during the pendency of the question must be realized if one will gauge the deep popular attachment to the holidays. The holidays are to them among their dearest possession. To those in private service, the holidays were the only point in which they could cheerfully compare their lot with their more favored brethren in the Government service. With nothing else in common, here they met on equal ground. Without the prospect of pension or the advantages of a liberally framed scale of pay or Leave Code—with hardly any privilege leave in fact, private servants had yet their Doorga Pooja holidays to look forward to, and this went a great way to reconcile them to their circumstances. It may be all very well for the mercantile community to say now, that every reasonable consideration will be made to Hindu clerks in regard to their allowance on holidays, or that compensation will be granted in the shape of holidays at other times. But in the course of time, when the change has already established itself and the present feeling has passed away, these kind intentions will hardly be remembered. At any rate, excepting in the most respectable mercantile establishments of long standing, such considerate treatment of servants has never been shown, and never will be.

The present reduction of the holidays will surely prove the thin end of the wedge introduced into the religious customs and usages of the Hindus. By and by they will lose their popular character, thereby furnishing at some future time another argument for sweeping away the holidays altogether. Like a noble animal in the story books, Pundit Mahes Chunder Nayaratna little knows the mischief he has done. He has dealt the death blow to the religious life among Hindus. The mercantile community too regards the present decision of the Government as but a part fulfilment of the programme it has been fighting for. The Bank of Bengal in so many words declares that it accepts the present proposals of the Government as "an instalment only for the time being," and encouraged by one success, the representatives of commerce are not likely to rest till the remnant of the holidays shrinks to next to nothing.

The European merchants have succeeded not by dint of persistence only. Their influence and position have at last told. They have been at this business from a long time past, without effect. They have knocked and knocked in hope it will be opened unto them. It had not been opened. The history of the holiday question is a record of their persevering energy. It was so far back as 1860 that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce first made the proposal which has now been accepted by the Government, *viz.*, to reduce the holidays to the number required for the ceremonial observances of the Hindu religion. This led to the appointment of a Committee which recommended some reduction. The Local Government accepted the Committee's recommendation, but it was set aside by the Government of India, and 27 days, including 12 days for the Doorga and Lucki Poojas, were declared as public holidays. By a subsequent order of the Government of India dated 29th October 1867, the num-

ber of days was raised to 30, and this has been the number of public holidays up to the present time. During this repeated efforts were made by the European mercantile community for curtailing the number thus fixed. Different proposals were made, some for summarily reducing holidays in all offices, and others for reducing them as regards only the Bank of Bengal, and the Currency and Pay offices in the Presidency, the other Government offices being wholly or partially closed, at the discretion of Heads of Departments, and with due regard to the discharge of current work. The conduct of both the Local and Supreme Governments in view of these various proposals has all along been fluctuating and uncertain. Sometimes the Local Government has shown more firmness than the Supreme Government, while at other times it was the Supreme Government that supplied any deficiency of that quality in the Local Government. Call it firmness or call it what you will, but the mercantile demand has been resisted in spite of an evident disposition to favor it. It was a sore trial to these Governments and the trial came with the regularity of the Pooja season. Opposite principles and feelings contended for mastery, but so far the holidays have always won. There was, indeed, weakness and an ill-concealed disposition to meet the desire of the merchants sometimes with one Government and sometimes with another. Amusing situations sometimes occurred. On one occasion the Government of India passed orders for curtailing the holidays, only to cancel them immediately afterwards. In the midst of all these fluctuations, however, one principle has been clearly admitted, *viz.*, that if the holidays were to be maintained, it was to be on religious grounds. The latest decision of the Government of India, when the question was thoroughly considered and as we then understood finally set at rest, was expressed in a deliberate manner. It was said "that the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous, though less influential, portion of the community." The question was thus finally disposed of, and while the allegations of the loss to trade were admitted, this ground was not held sufficient strength to justify a departure from the principle of accommodating the religious and social requirements of the Hindus on which the holidays were from the first based. But this old principle is now abandoned. It is now held, on the authority of a Government Pundit in *pyjamas*, that several of the holidays are not required for religious purposes.

#### MR. JAMES ROUTLEDGE TO YOUNG INDIA IN ENGLAND.

It does one's heart good to listen to Mr. Routledge. His words come straight from the heart—and what a great heart is his—the present generation in India who followed his career as editor of the *Friend of India* need not be told. Talking ever so long, he can never be betrayed into a false note. Everything is genuine about him—all his utterances are clear, deliberate, and manly. His style takes its character from his thoughts—plain, clear and masculine. A lecture on "Young India" at a meeting of the National Indian Association from such a man, can scarcely fail to be of more than common interest. Sir Owen Tudor Burne, K.C.S.I., well known as the

good Private Secretary of the lamented Lord Mayo, presided. The Association could not have found a brace of more sympathetic men than their lecturer and Chairman to take part in a congenial business.

Mr. Routledge's heart is true to India as ever. Speaking to Indians in England and on his congenial Indian topics, he is quite in his element—he finds full scope for the great and generous thoughts and feelings that lie deep in him. The lecture before us treats of a large variety of subjects, and the treatment is original, truthful and thoughtful. Mr. Routledge says or writes nothing except with a high aim. That aim is to impart true knowledge by dispelling errors, misconceptions, and prejudices, and to advance the cause of progress on just and noble principles. In the present tract there are proofs in every page of his earnest love of truth. There is no small conception, for instance, about the nature of the Sepoy Mutiny and, if in course of Mr. Routledge's remarks, he is even incidentally led to the subject, he is not the man to rest content without characterising it as "the military mutiny" and acknowledging "how England owed to India at the time." Constitutionally sincere and animated by a delicate regard for truth, he cannot open his discourse without telling the very fact as to the origin of the British dominion in India. The following passage has such an air of fresh and withal genial candour about it and is at once so patriotic without the usual sentimental cant on the subject, that we dare say it will be appreciated:—

"To say that the relations of India to England have no parallel in the history of mankind were to state a truism. Nothing at all like them ever was seen before. They are entirely original; yet no man or men can be said to have invented or designed them. Characterised by statesmanship and generalship of a remarkable order, they nevertheless bear the marks of a simple groping onward from one class of circumstances to another, till from some as dark nights as ever set on human affairs a morning of bright possibilities has dawned."

The extract is about the opening passage, but the whole tract bears repetition. A large variety of useful and instructive things is tersely and forcibly conveyed to his Indian auditory. To give them proper ideals of life and to disabuse them of any lurking selfish or sordid notions as to the end of knowledge or activity, Mr. Routledge places before them the noble examples of some poor men who have nevertheless done work for which humanity is their debtor for all time. No mere didactic discourse could possibly be of such effect as the noble doings and sufferings of men like Columbus, Captain Henry Hudson, John Wickliffe, William Tyndall, John Pounds and Roger Williams, the exiled of the Pilgrim Fathers. Indian students are rightly or wrongly accused of having an eye to worldly profit as the object of education. They are likely deficient in sustaining vigor and stamina in their pursuit of knowledge. Mr. Routledge could not have more delicately and at the same time effectively applied a corrective to these things than by holding up examples of men who placed the good of others above their own, and battled with adversity in the cause of knowledge or truth.

The tract bristles with sound and wise precepts, and we can recommend no better reading for the leisure of the rising generation of Indian students than these instructive pages. Mr. Routledge talks like a sage, but with what cheerful philosophy he views commonest incidents whose meaning is missed by ordinary observers, the following passage will show:—

"The history altogether is one of remarkable events. But perhaps among them all there is nothing more strange and suggestive than your own presence in England to-day; nothing more likely to take a place

among the romances of history. There have been despots who called such facts into being, with a view to obtaining an influence with which humanity has no sympathy. Your presence in England is a totally different thing from that. It signifies your co-partnership—your comradeship—in a heritage of freedom; and, unless the signs of the times are misleading, eventually of empire. The will that brought you here was your own, or that of your friends; as also was the cost. There may be people who fancy that they have an interest in your not coming to England. There can be no interest in your being here unless it rests on public grounds. All the circumstances considered, there are few things more curious than this simple meeting, a few yards away from one of the great thoroughfares of London life."

Mr. Routledge's love for the Indian people makes him a warm admirer of British rulers who have sympathised with them. He speaks with patriotic pride of a few of the best men whom England has sent out to this country.

"I am not here to assert that Englishmen have always acted wisely, honourably, mercifully, in India. If such a statement were made you would be able to contradict it on the spot. You will not, however, contradict the statement that England has sent to India men of whom we all may be proud; men of sincere and upright aims and acts—eager to labour, not to win men to this or that opinion, or class of opinions, but to lighten the darkness, and increase the comforts of the masses of the people. Against the merely selfish persons we may set off men like Lord William Bentinck, Sir Charles Metcalfe, Havelock, Outram, the Lawrences, Lord Canning, and others equally noble, if not so well known; men who respected the old traditions and customs of your land; sympathised with its pleasures and festivities, and strove to protect the people against wrong-doers of whatever kind or name. Occasionally also a man of great capacity and decision of character, like General Ochterlony, has represented a bulwark against ruthless devastation."

The keen sympathies of Mr. Routledge with "the pleasures and festivities" of the people will never be forgotten by those who remember how sturdily he fought against the attempt, made some years ago by a set of puritanic officials, to disallow the car festival. But we have fallen on hard times. O for a Routledge now among the publicists in Bengal when the grandest Hindu festival is threatened!

#### THE STATUTORY CIVIL SERVICE.

One of the greatest blots in the proceedings of the Public Service Commission (as far as they have been published) is in the treatment of this subject of vital importance to the future of Indian administration. The want of if not due attention to this point, at least of proper handling of it, is manifest. There is nothing to show that the Commission had sifted the evidence of the innumerable witnesses they examined, or even selected the best witnesses competent to speak on the statutory system.

The wholesale condemnation of this interesting experiment is most extraordinary, and not at all creditable to the Commission.

The Statutory Service is the first notable recognition of Lord Canning's policy of drawing out the native aristocracy to the front, and encouraging them to take part in the administration of the country, instead of leaving the people at the mercy of the educated democracy, consisting of the class of the sons of men risen from the ministerial agency of our courts with a sprinkling of the educated Barristers.

In originally instituting the statutory civilian, it is to be feared the Government did not sufficiently restrict the selection for these appointments with due regard either to wealth, influence or the position their families held during the native rule, of the nominees. Many sycophants, or sons of favorite *Klaerkhaas* were appointed, who had not the slightest pretensions to aristocracy, and others of good families, but whose parents, being opposed to our radical system of education, *i. e.*, the mixing of all classes in charity schools, were of course deficient, not only in knowledge of our court procedure, but even in knowledge of language, and thus the statutory civilian may be considered to have failed.

In this days most members of the good families not degenerated by poverty, have had fair scholastic education. If they were now appointed, say under a mild competition system, and on probation, they would not only give more satisfaction to Government, but would most certainly, from the resuscitation of their position, be considered equally as trustworthy as any European officer, and, moreover, from their superior knowledge of the language, their knowledge of the character, habits and customs of the people, would be more acceptable to them. It may even be asserted that in cases involving religious or caste prejudices, they would invariably be preferred to the European officer.

Under the present régime, constantly increasing the refinement of legislation, our Competitionwallah commences his practical service primed with the purest theories of refined English law of evidence, like, which no other country or system has



reached such nicety of "how not to do it," and of criminal justice, with its leading principle of giving the prisoner the advantage of all possible doubt, as though the object was "how not to find conviction for any crime."

At home itself, what have been the results of your modern refinement and progress? Why, in order to gratify political animosities, an Opposition has so encouraged the commission of murder, bycotting, conspiracy and treason in every shape, under colour of constitutional means—that a Special Commission of judges is informed, without a particle of moral shame or fear, that a political lie uttered in Parliament for party purposes is venial, abetment of fraud, riot and even murder is justifiable under the specious plea of patriotism!

It must be remembered that high class education to a ten per cent. of the population, has resulted in a spirit of socialism throughout Europe, that in England this ten per cent. may be styled the lower section of the middle classes, who to magnify their proportions, importance and popularity, have taken to style themselves "the democracy," that their every act is autocratic, their principles based on the irresistibility of brute force. In England, there need at present be small fear, that the Saxon race, having raised themselves, on feudal principles and under a constitutional system, to their present high position in the political world, any opportunity will be lost by the masses, on every instance of affliction or happiness to Royalty, or to the aristocracy, widely and loudly to demonstrate their feelings of lively sympathy for a Constitutional monarchy in touch with the people and a nobility which, during more than eight hundred years, has led that people, doing and suffering in the cause of national existence and glory, and the cause of civil and religious liberty. Need we refer to the intense sympathy and feelings of loyalty throughout Great Britain (including even Ireland) during the sickness and death of our late Prince Consort, the sickness of our present Prince of Wales, Her Majesty's Jubilee, the deaths of the Duke of Wellington and Lord Beaconsfield—invariably most intense in London and the large manufacturing cities? None but those present could fully appreciate the genuine warm sympathy depicted in every anxious face of the continuous stream towards the telegraph offices for the latest bulletins.

All enlightened Hindoos already admit the Aryan theory, that the three Brahmanical-threads classes have as little connection with the aborigines of Hindustan, as with the descendants of Ishmail, and that they belong to some unknown people, who came from the North-West, possibly the bondsmen of the Persian Darius.

This large digression from the original subject of this letter has only been made to show that, until the influential sections of our Aryan brethren (the main aristocracy of India) will take the trouble to trace their own identity, they will not see what a gross mistake some have made, by joining themselves to the undoubtedly highly educated aborigines to form as spurious a democracy as we have in England.

No doubt the pressure in Parliament, then under a genuine liberal party, on the assumption of the Government of India by Her Majesty, intended by education to advance the people of India to help and join in what is now styled self-government, and Lord Canning fully appreciating the history of India, desired to support the original status of the landed classes in our late annexed province (Oudh) and even to resuscitate in our older Provinces the consequence of the natural leaders of native society, when he markedly urged the aristocracy to come forward in public life and educate their sons, so as to maintain their position and discharge the duties pertaining thereto.

No native of India can deny that Steam, the Telegraph and the Railroad are advancing enlightenment in India. Even the agriculturist is deriving produce from barren wastes; there are new mechanical professions and old indigenous ones are being improved; but, as was remarked in a late address of a municipality, "they must not be considered unmixed blessings to the poor." The address of course referred to the heavy burdens of the poor rayyet. The export of their grain on which they are congratulated raised the price of food (to follow their idea of expressing rates) from 2 and 3 maunds to 16 and 18 seers per rupee. The Municipality were fully aware that the poor agriculturist, living hand to mouth, obtained no advantage (never heard) of the depreciated rupee; they knew that the laudatory expression of gratitude, on the opening of the new line of rail to their locality, was only for the rich. The export of grain may raise it to 3 and 400 per cent. of what it used to fetch in former years, but the cultivator scarcely profits, while he loses his food supply; the import of foreign produce as luxuries, must increase the wealth and comfort of all localities reached by the rail, but it is the monied man who possesses the grain in vast stores and can afford the luxuries. The poor rayyet, even after a good harvest, has not been taught or encouraged in thrift, as of old, to prevent his small savings being claimed by the woman-kind to be turned into ornaments for disposal of the savings; maunds of brass utensils, *thans* of Saloo are purchased for stores

for the next wedding in the family. If Lord Northbrook's original scheme of having District Savings Banks had not omitted the one clause, absolutely necessary for its success, it might have been the greatest boon to the agriculturist, 80 per cent. of the population of India. No provision was made in the scheme to remunerate the Treasury Department for the extra work that would have been thrown on it; so is it at present with the Postal Savings Banks. The consequence is, that hardly a single agriculturist has been allowed, much less encouraged, to deposit his savings. We find that 5 or 6 millions are so deposited and the amount is steadily increasing, but the agriculturist is nowhere, the deposits representing the savings of the favored civil and military pensioners and of the Government amlah.

The object of this letter is to show that it is the enormous 80 per cent. agricultural population of India, brought up under the feudal system, who crave for Government administration through the aid of their own aristocracy, the men who should be in the Statutory Civil Service, with whom they are so much more in touch, than they can possibly be with their European rulers, and whom they can trust better than the low caste portion of the amlah-risen and educated Barrister classes. To return to our criticism on the Public Service Commission. It may be observed in their proceedings that several heads of Department were lengthily examined, who by the nature of their offices could not have had much experience of the working of this short lived valuable class of judicial officers, also that quite junior civilians were pressed for their opinions, who *prima facie*, from the records, may be mistaken for old experienced hands. The opinions of natives of all classes were obtained, the value of whose evidence without reasons, would not be indicated by their depositions alone.

It may be asserted that even to the experienced Indian members of the India Council, such records must be almost valueless.

By personal acquaintance with some of the latter class of witnesses, it cannot but be observed, that many of the best opinions are to be found in the Punjab volume of Proceedings; these, always most modest in their terms, are from gentlemen too well bred and loyal to animadvert on the failings of selection for the Statutory Service, but all evidently implied that the system had not yet had a fair trial.

Although none can deny that the competitive system must produce the highest talent of the land, both for Europeans and for natives, still for such responsible duties, as those required from the Indian Civil Service, and considering the powerful positions they held for use and abuse, a much higher and more valuable test for efficiency is necessary for both, *i.e.*, that of innate honourable character and honesty, certified on knowledge of antecedents by responsible guardians and teachers.

In this democratic age, it must be admitted that even with the best education, it takes three generations to make a gentleman. As a highly enlightened native Deputy Collector, of good family, suggested a few years ago (during Lord Ripon's régime) "Government and many European officers put implicit faith on many of us individually, but will the general native public, so long accustomed to hear of every case being purchased, trust us even as District Magistrates? No, they would fear that the promotion would only lead to demand of higher fees." Nay, it is either by personal acquaintance or from local repute (very rapidly spread) that the native public know when they have one of their aristocracy to deal with. When they have to appear in Court, it is the genuine Statutory Civilian they would prefer. As for the system, it must be acknowledged that, although under indefinite instructions, put on a wrong basis, it is now found wanting, it is unjustly, injudiciously condemned.

Our new Evidence Act, again, is often so complicated in its definitions, so opposed to common sense, as regards proof of intention, that, guided by their superior knowledge of customs and habits of parties before them, with instinctive knowledge of their intentions quite lost to Europeans, the Statutory Civilian is often guided by what we should consider moral evidence—let us style it honest common sense.

Let us not forget that, after the long-digested careful legal wordings of that Act, how often is it, that High Courts form the most opposed constructions.

Every one interested in Indian Administration must be glad to observe that the Secretary of State has not accepted the sweeping recommendations of the Commission with regard to the Statutory Service, so we may still hope, that not only will the branch be encouraged, but that Lord Canning's system will be extended as now by legislative enactment to Burma, to the employment of lumberdars (headsmen) of villages as the best local magistrates, for one thing, as being the best judges of the value of evidence. Residents in the localities would not be bullied by the irrelevant contentions of ignorant pleaders and law agents. They would make short work of the frivolous cases brought to our Courts. They could relieve our overburdened Courts (both Civil and Criminal) of half their work.

C. S.

## THE TIPPERAH RAJ—AGAIN.

My last letter was concluded with the interrogation "Who will rescue the Maharaja out of their (favorites) hands?" It seems to be in the mouth of every Tipperah man. The question is often asked partly in sorrow and partly in despair, but never in anger. I think the question ought to be "Who can bring back the state to its normal condition?" The Maharaja alone can set his house in order. Every native state requires for its minister a man of both executive and administrative faculties. Happily such a man is, I think, Rai Bahadur Umakant Das. But then to set his house in order the Maharaja would be well advised to invest the minister with great and real power—I don't however mean absolute power. The ostensible minister ought to be also the actual. To kill one's stag a man must have one's sword. Of course when the man has it, it is his option to use it for one or not. But when a minister is appointed it is necessary he should have the confidence of the Maharaja, otherwise he had better not been appointed.

In olden times generally a Peshkar's son would succeed his father and a Sheristadar's son would be Sheristadar, and so on. But the son would be passed over in favor of a more competent relative recommended by the person leaving the situation. The Dewan-ship had always been an exception to the rule. Since the ascendancy of the favorites at the court, this bad custom gave place to a worse one, to wit, favorites got their own men appointed. The dilatoriness of the officers in the Maharaja's service has become proverbial. By their very leisurely movements and indolent habits one knows that they are the Maharaja's servants. A large majority of them take bribes; and they don't mind making a secret of it. Ask a man and he will tell you "Yes, I take bribes but unlike other people I have a keen eye to the interest of the Maharaja." They even go the length of complaining that "those good old days are gone when one might make a fortune out of bribes." Whether it is human frailty which vainly hankers after "good old days" or whether some obstacles have been thrown in the path of those who take bribes, I cannot tell. The service of a man depends upon the good pleasure of the powers that be. To enter the service and to continue in it, one has to humour the favorites at Agartala and the highest officers at different stations, who in their turn have to humour the favorites. Owing to these circumstances and a strong combination of the Bikrampuris against the really good and able men of the district, they cannot and do not enter the Maharaja's service. Your readers possibly think that the natives of the district were by a slow and laborious process gradually eliminated from the Maharaja's service. Nothing like it. By a handful of Bikrampuris the Maharaja was ill advised to start the *Water Question*. Owing to their religious scruples, the Tipperah men were obliged to make room for a large number of Bikrampuris upon whom religion sat very loose. Although there is faction within faction—for there are several factions each of which tries hard to secure its own interest, to the prejudice of the interests of others—the Rai Bahadur will find that they will make a common cause against him if he tries, as try he must, to secure the service of more efficient hands.

The Imperial Government too has a share in the mal-administration of the Maharaja's zemindary. With a fault-finding eye the British Government always makes much of little over-sights and errors. It does not, however, stop there. Your readers know how the report of Mr. Price was falsified by facts. From the not very elegant English in which it was written, I am led to believe that the report was originally framed and composed by Mr. Sandys to which his friend Mr. Price put in his name. His Highness excused Sandys a large sum of money that was owing to the state. But this does not seem to satisfy his new friend the present Magistrate of Comillah, who is said to have requested the Maharaja to try the case of Mr. Sandys again. The request has been granted. If report be true, though I cannot believe it, I hope your readers will discern what the Magistrate is driving at. Both the Maharaja and his servants are in perpetual fear of British interference—nay, they fear that the Maharaja at any moment may be made a pensioner of his own Raj.

Our Government which is full of the milk of human kindness for the population of the native states, may at any moment be overpowered by that sentiment. The thought has a paralysing effect on the administration of the Raj. The Maharaja realises rent even with trembling and loose hands. In this respect, a zemindar is always better off than a ruling Raja. It seems to be the policy of Government to weaken the hands of native Rajs by constant interference in every little particular. There is

the righteous plea of relieving the Raj out of its debts, and its subjects from cruelties and oppressions, and finally giving them the benefits of English administration.

The Judge, the Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon here are very unpopular. Because the people here don't like them, they conclude that they are sent here to prepare the way for annexation of the territory. That is certainly an imaginary fear. I confess I do not see what the Judge or the Civil Surgeon has to do in the matter. Nor do I see why because the Magistrate is unpopular he should be looked upon with suspicion. The people build their suspicions on the fact that the telegraphic office here has been raised to a higher status with a Saheb at its head.

Now, the people of Tipperah have a duty which, be it mentioned to their dishonor, they have been neglecting. The influential Bhadraracy as well as the noblemen at the court ought in a body to throw themselves at the feet of the Maharaja and offer him their advice and service. Some years back a deputation of the Tipperah Hitasadhini Sabha at Calcutta was sent to the Maharaja which, it was expected, would meet with the cordial co-operation of the people here. The expectation was not realised. Many influential old fogeys here passed taunting and silly remarks upon the deputation. The members of the deputation, notwithstanding, proceeded to the capital of the Maharaja and effected what it was possible for them to effect.

"Now take my word,  
Wise men of Hereford,  
None in safety may be  
Till the *bad man* doth flee.

Every one knows who is the *bad man* at Agartala. Captain of a band of parasites to sing the Maharaja into the sleep of fancied security, he is the captain-general of all mischief at the court.

SECRET.

Tipperah, July 14, 1890.

## THE REIS AND RAYYET DEFAMATION CASE.

The case against Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, editor, *Reis and Rayyet*, for defamation, was called on on Friday morning before Mr. Justice Wilson, at the Criminal Sessions.

Mr. Woodroffe, and Messrs. Garth and Woodroffe Junior instructed by Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder, appeared for the prosecution.

Messrs. Bonnerjee, Henderson, and Abdur Rahman, instructed by Mr. N. C. Bose, appeared for the defence.

The Clerk of the Crown, addressing the defendant, commenced to read the first count of the indictment. As he came upon the article contained in *Reis and Rayyet* of the 17th May,

Mr. Bonnerjee, addressing his lordship, said that his client Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee had been advised to plead guilty, and as he knew what was contained in the article it could be taken as read.

His lordship said it could not be helped, and the article would have to be read *in extenso*.

The Clerk of the Crown accordingly read the article, and then passed on to the second count, which charged the defendant with having published another defamatory article in *Reis and Rayyet* of the 24th May 1890.

The defendant pleaded guilty to this charge also.

Mr. Bonnerjee then addressed the Court as follows:—As your lordship will see, my client has placed himself entirely in the hands of his counsel, and has authorized me to express his deepest regret for having published the two articles complained of. He has asked me on his behalf to apologize to the two sons and other relations of the deceased for any hurt that he may have caused their feelings. He had no intention whatever to do so, and thought that he was discharging a public duty in noticing the death of Deno Nath Mullick; but he was mistaken in what he did. He has undoubtedly offended against the law, and all the reparation that it is in his power to do, he is prepared to do. He wrote these articles from information, and without the slightest ill-feeling against the deceased Deno Nath Mullick or his sons, and no one was more glad than he at the fact that one of his sons, who was called as a witness in the Court below, was able to deny that the matters of fact mentioned in the articles were true. He accepts that denial, and now wishes to withdraw all that he has written. Under these circumstances I respectfully ask your lordship to deal as leniently with the defendant as the law permits.

Mr. Woodroffe: The defendant has pleaded guilty, and he has through his counsel made an apology, but I do not notice in the apology any expression of regret—such as my clients would have been glad of—withdrawing the defamatory observations which he has made.

Mr. Bonnerjee: He withdraws all that he has written.

Mr. Woodroffe: Under these circumstances I leave the matter in your lordship's hands, and I don't desire to press for punishment. We felt it was absolutely necessary for the protection of our father's character, and that it was due to his memory, that the statements made in these articles should not be allowed to pass unchallenged, and it is a satisfaction to us to know that, without putting the pres-

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Health's Defences. None save the strongest can with impunity pass through the sudden transitions from wet to dry, from cold to muggy weather so prevalent during the autumnal and early winter months. Influenza, bronchitis, cough, sore throat, or quinsy will attack those most watchful of their health; but they can readily arrest any of these complaints by rubbing Holloway's Ointment twice a day upon the skin over the affected parts, and by assisting its corrective action with appropriate doses of his Pills. This well-known, safe, and easy mode of treatment efficiently protects the invalid both from present and future danger without weakening or even disturbing the system in the slightest degree.

sure of the law upon him, the defendant has thought fit to apologize for them. The prosecution was instituted to vindicate the memory of our father, and as we feel that we have accomplished this, we do not press for punishment. We leave the matter in your lordship's hands, as we bear no ill feeling towards Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, and we have no desire to do anything which would serve to render the unfortunate position in which he finds himself more painful, and which to an old man like him would be productive of serious consequences.

His lordship then passed sentence as follows :—Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, you have pleaded guilty to charges that had been brought against you of defamation, directly affecting the character of a dead man, but of such a kind that the publication of it tended to throw discredit on the male members of his surviving family. You have pleaded guilty, and through your counsel withdrawn all allegations against the character of the deceased and expressed your regret, and the learned counsel who appears for the prosecution does not press for punishment. On the other hand, I must remember that the offence to which you have pleaded guilty is one of a very grave character, and the law cannot tolerate that the public press should be made the medium for attacks upon a person's private character and when such attacks are made in the public prints, the law cannot allow the matter to pass without punishment. Had the trial proceeded and led to a conviction, I should have had to deal much more severely with the matter; but taking into consideration the fact that you have pleaded guilty and have withdrawn the charges which were made, and expressed your regret for them through your counsel, and taking into consideration also that the prosecution does not press for punishment, I pass upon you what I think is the least possible punishment, *viz.*, that you be fined Rs. 500.

The fine was instantly paid.

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER: OR SOME RESULTS OF THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

The following paper was read before the East India Association, by Herbert J. Reynolds, Esq., C. S. I., on Monday, May 19th, 1890, the Most Hon'ble The Marquis of Ripon, K. G., G. C. S. I., being in the Chair :—

[Concluded from page 322.]

Even if we put these considerations aside, and regard the question simply as one of finance, we shall find reason to believe that the sacrifice of land-revenue involved in the Permanent Settlement has not been without some compensating advantages. It is true that one channel of receipts, and that the largest, has been closed; but the fiscal reservoir has been swelled by a number of minor streams. It must be remembered that the Settlement revenue amounting to about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  crores of rupees, is realised in full, alike in prosperous years and in seasons of comparative dearth. There are no bad debts, and remissions and suspensions are practically unknown. This is certainly not the case with the land tax in other Provinces. In the next place, we may fairly add to the land-revenue receipts the proceeds of the Road Cess and Public Work Cess, which amount to nearly 80 lacs of rupees. If we return to other items of revenue, we cannot fail to remember that before the salt duty was equalized a few years ago, the rate in Bengal was always higher than in other Provinces. It was only the other day that the Government of India issued a Resolution on the cost of the administration of civil justice in British India. The figures showed that whereas in the whole of India the expenditure exceeds the receipts by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  lacs, in Bengal (and in that province only) there is a surplus of  $14\frac{1}{4}$  lacs of rupees. Again, the educational budget in Bengal amounts to 83 lacs, but of this sum only 21 lacs are paid by the State, the remainder, or three-fourths of the whole educational expenditure, being contributed by the people themselves. The works of public utility constructed in Bengal in the year 1888 by the beneficence of private individuals, represented an outlay of Rs. 3,95,000. Under all these heads, and under a number of others which might be enumerated, we see that the policy of limiting the land-tax to a fixed sum in perpetuity has had the effect of leaving the people more abundant means to contribute to the necessities of the State through other sources of supply, and that the loss of revenue which such a policy entails is rather apparent than real.

The results which I have briefly summarised will, perhaps, induce us to pause before we condemn Lord Cornwallis as having squandered the resources of the State by a misplaced liberality to the Zemindars of Bengal. Even if we think he erred as a financier, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that he judged rightly as a statesman. We shall find the best authorities to support us in such a verdict. It is well-known that the views of one of our ablest Viceroys, Lord Lawrence, on the subject of the Permanent Settlement, underwent an entire change during his tenure of office as Governor-General. His early training was not likely to induce him to sympathize with the legislation of 1793. But he was completely converted by what he saw of the prosperity of Bengal under the Permanent Settlement, and he was desirous of extending the boon

of a similar settlement to the Province of Oudh. The wisdom of such a measure is a question, which, as I have already said, I do not propose to discuss; but I feel no doubt that the lessons taught by the experience of the Permanent Settlement should be laid to heart by those who are called upon to decide the question of giving fuller effect to the policy of Lord Cornwallis within the territories under the Government of Bengal. It so happens that, in the course of the next seven years, the Bengal Government will have to take in hand two extensive and important settlements, one in the extreme south-west, and the other in the extreme south-east, of the Province. The thirty years settlement of Orissa expired in 1866, just at the time when the country was desolated, and almost depopulated, by the great famine of that year. It was no time to consider what increase of revenue could be obtained and the old settlement was renewed without enquiry or alteration, for a further term of thirty years, which will expire in 1896. The settlement will thus have run for a period of sixty years, during which the Government has lavished immense sums on the protection of the country from drought and floods, and on the improvement of its communications. About 800 miles of embankments and nearly 250 miles of canals are maintained by the Government in Orissa. The last of these works, the Orissa Coast Canal, has just been completed at a cost of more than 40 lacs of rupees. But all this outlay would seem to have effected very little for the prosperity of the Province. The people of the three districts of Orissa are ignorant and poor; the condition of the peasantry is wretched; the only manufacture is that of salt, and this is steadily declining; the income-tax realized from the entire province is only Rs. 52,000, a smaller sum than is contributed by the single district of Purneah or Dinagepore. The total revenue from all sources is only 31 lacs, or little more than one rupee per head of population. It might be thought that a great religious centre like Pooree, attracting pilgrims from all parts of India, would add materially to the wealth of the Province, but its principal effect, (setting aside its spiritual benefits) seems to be the dissemination of cholera. So backward is the condition of the Province that, though every effort is made to employ the natives, a large proportion of the officials have to be imported from Bengal.

What is the remedy for this deplorable state of things? I hesitate to say that the remedy is to be found in a permanent settlement of the land; but I think that a comparison of the condition of Orissa with that of Bengal may well lead our rulers to consider whether the experiment of a permanent settlement is not worth trying.

The other settlement to which I have referred, is that of the Noabad talooks in the district of Chittagong. These talooks were settled by Sir Henry Ricketts, for a term which was afterwards extended to fifty years, and the settlements will expire between 1892 and 1897. The zemindaree title in the lands belongs to the Government, but the talookdars have a right to settlement; and, as representing the original reclaimers of the soil, they may reasonably expect to be fairly and liberally treated. It would, I believe, be a wise and politic step to recognize these talookdars as proprietors, and to grant them a settlement of the land-revenue in perpetuity. Such a settlement was promised them more than forty years ago by Lord Dalhousie, but the offer was then clogged with conditions which the talookdars were unwilling to accept. I should be glad to see the promise now fulfilled. The land-revenue of Chittagong is already high for a Bengal district, being about Rs. 80 for each 100 of the population; and this sum will be considerably increased at the approaching settlement of Noabad talooks. The surrender of any subsequent demand will involve no great sacrifice, while it may be expected to produce the same effect as it has produced elsewhere, in promoting the general prosperity and improvement of the district.

My own opinion, therefore, would be in favour of the concession of a Permanent Settlement both to the zemindars of Orissa, and to the talookdars of the Government Estates in Chittagong. Without prejudging the question as regards other parts of India, I think that the experience of a century has shown that in Bengal the Government is not a loser by limiting its demand upon the land, while its adoption of this policy brings with it a train of public benefits. Those who are apprehensive of the financial results, may perhaps be reassured by an analogy drawn from the history of the land tax in our own country. The English land-tax was based on a valuation made in 1692, but the rate was not permanently fixed, and varied from a shilling to four shillings in the pound, every shilling yielding a revenue of about half a million sterling. In 1798 the tax was made permanent at four shillings in the pound, and those who were subject to it were permitted to redeem it. At present, only an insignificant fraction of the revenue is raised from the tax which was regarded, 200 years ago, as the most important of all the resources of the State. But will any one contend that England has been crippled or impoverished by the change of system?

In the words of the wise king, "The thing that hath been, it is that which also shall be." As in Bengal Proper, so in Orissa, and perhaps in India at large, we shall find that the deficit is filled up from a number of sources which now yield little or nothing and that the new policy subserves and promotes the nobler ends of Government, the material and intellectual progress of the people, and the elevation of the national character.



## WAONDERFUL MEDICINE.

## BEECHAM'S PILLS



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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoo Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight; "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1890.

No. 434

## ORIGINAL LITERATURE.

### THE LAST STRUGGLE OF HARISCHANDRA, OR THE MARTYR TO TRUTH.

SCENE.—The Execution ground near the King's Palace in Kasi.

Enter the King, Queen, Officers, &c., Viswamitra (disguised as a Brahman), Harischandra (as an Executioner), Tharamathi (his Queen), Veerabáhu (the Chief Executioner), and many others.

HARISCHANDRA.—(To Tharamathi).

Look here ! As thou must suffer death from me,  
Prepare to leave the world within this hour !  
And if thou wish that Heaven should favour thee,  
Address thy prayers to th' Almighty's Throne !

THARAMATHI.—(Looking up).

Where'er—howe'er—hereafter my lot be cast,  
Grant God ! the selfsame husband dear for lord,  
For Spiritual Guide Vasishta sage,  
Puissant Viswamitra to receive  
A gift from these poor hauds, and for a son,  
Give me my own, my Lohidasa back !

VISWAMITRA.—Mark how, his sword still hanging by his side,  
He stands, unwilling that his wife should die !

HARISCHANDRA.—Say not so, worthy friend ! If I remained

Still, for an instant, gazing at the void,  
'Twas only that insensible I lay,  
Astonished as I was to see this Queen  
Wish again for a hateful wretch as I,  
Prepared to shed her life-blood with my hands !  
But never ! no, it never shall be said  
That ever Harischandra broke his word,  
Or let his feelings sway him from the right !  
Even though it be my noble-minded Queen  
That stands condemned before his Royal Grace,  
I needs must deal the blow, and take her life !

(Raises his sword.)

(Vishnu the Preserver appears on a sudden, and arrests the blow.)

VISHNU.—Hold ! Hold ! It shall not be ! Thou shalt not strike !

HARISCHANDRA.—Away ! It is not right to stop me thus !

VISHNU.—'Tis Vishnu who commands thee to forbear !

HARISCHANDRA.—Do let me off, I do my Chief's behest !

Leave me alone ! I cannot disobey  
The orders Veerabáhu gave to me !

VISHNU.—(Catches hold of the sword.)

Think yet again ! Náráyan bids thee pause !

HARISCHANDRA.—I see I can not shirk thy sovereign will !

(Foregoes his sword at once and falls prostrate at the feet of the God ; and so does Tharamathi.)

O Lord of All ! How could I know thee not,  
Though present in thy splendour near to me ?

VISHNU.—Thine own unswerving lofty love of truth,

Unparalleled in all the worlds around,  
Hath made thee heedless of my presence even !  
Rise from the ground, ye blessed pair devout !

(Both rise.)

(Viswamitra comes forward on one side, and Vasishta on the other.)

VISWAMITRA.—(To Harischandra).

Hail, King of Kings, and truest of the true !  
Accept the homage of an humble sage,  
A passionate, unknowing, cruel man,  
Who knew not that thy name can ne'er be stained,  
And could not bear to hear thee highly praised  
Before the Thousand-eyed and all the Gods !  
The race of man is honoured by thy name,  
Which I before so senselessly reviled !  
Thy like has never been, and never shall  
Be seen in Hell, on Earth, or even in Heaven !  
And, for the ills I wrought thee, noble Prince,  
Vouchsafe thy gracious pardon unto me !

HARISCHANDRA.—(Bows to Viswamitra).

It ill becomes immortal Kausika  
To speak to a poor mortal in this wise !

(To Vasishta).

I reverently bow my head to thee,  
And crave thy blessing on the Solar Line !

THARAMATHI.—(To Vasishta).

Thy pupil Harischandra's loyal queen,  
The childless Tharamathi bends her head,  
Low as the ground, before her honored Priest,  
The purest, best of Swarga's many saints !

VASISHTA.—Long be you blessed each with the other's love !

And, Harischandra, thou, my blessed son,  
Thy high regard for right rejoiceth me,  
And fills the triple world with thy renown !  
For through thy faith in virtue have I won  
A wager which was laid in Indra's Court.

VASISHTA.—"The childless Tharamathi" ! Empress dear,

'Twas I that heartless killed thy lovely child !  
But utter once the name of thy lost one,  
And he shall promptly hasten to thy arms !

THARAMATHI.—(Aloud).

My darling Lohidasa, come to me !  
My angel sweet, thy mother longs for thee !  
Oh Loh—

(Enter Lohidasa, bowing to all).

THARAMATHI.—Come ! Let me strain thee in my arms, my child,

And pour unnumbered kisses on thy brow !  
Look how, with streaming eyes and beating hearts,  
Thy loving parents long for thy embrace !

HARISCHANDRA.—Haste ! Haste to me, my joy, my tender hope,

And let me press thee to my bosom here !

(Lohidasa prostrates himself before Vishnu.)

VISHNU.—Long be thou spared to lead a spotless life,

Becomes as True King Harischandra's son !  
And now, my Emperor and Empress sweet,  
Let all depart hence for their several homes !  
Return you to Ayodhya, there to reign—  
To spread among your people peace and joy—  
To gladden all your faithful subjects' hearts,

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Which pant to greet their favorite sovereigns back !  
And, when this peerless Prince improves in years,  
As worth enough to rule your fair domain,  
Resign the charge with blessings to his hands ;  
And, resting from a kingdom's trying cares,  
If you should start to travel heavenwards,  
You shall receive a cheery welcome there !

HARISCHANDRA.—Almighty Lord ! Soul of the Universe !

Eternal source of Life and Light to all !  
Since now it has been granted unto me  
Thy ever-beaming countenance to see,  
My many troubles dwindle into nought  
Before the bliss of this auspicious day !  
Thy glorious presence and thy gracious speech  
Have banished from my mind all thoughts of woe,  
And fresh inspire me with unbounded zeal  
To lay my all before thy feet Divine !

G. BYAMALA ROW.

Vizianagram, June 9, 1890.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Lieutenant-Governor left on his autumnal tour on Monday. Last week, we gave the programme for the present month. Here is that for August.

Friday, 1st	... Arrive Jungipore	... By river.
Saturday, 2nd	... " Rampore Beaulah	... "
Sunday, 3rd	... Halt Rampore Beaulah	... "
Monday, 4th	... Leave Rampore Beaulah.	... "
Tuesday, 5th	... En route to Maldah	... "
Wednesday, 6th	... Halt Maldah.	... "
Thursday, 7th	... Leave " " " " " "	... "
Friday, 8th	... Pass Sahibgunge, reach Bhagulpore	... "
Saturday, 9th	... Halt Bhagulpore.	... "
Sunday, 10th	... Reach Monghyr	... "
Monday, 11th	... Halt " "	... "
Tuesday, 12th	... Arrive Barh	... "
Wednesday, 13th	... " Bankipore	... "
Thursday, 14th	... Halt Bankipore.	... "
Friday, 15th	... Arrive Arrah	... By rail.
Saturday, 16th	... Halt " "	... "
Sunday, 17th	... Join <i>Rhotas</i> at Buxar.	... By river.
Monday, 18th	... Reach Ghazipur	... "
Tuesday, 19th	... Halt " "	... "
Wednesday, 20th	... Return to Chupra, leaving <i>Rhotas</i> .*	... "
Thursday, 21st	... Halt Chupra.	... "
Friday, 22nd	... Sewan by rail and drive to Hutwa.	... "
Saturday, 23rd	... Halt Hutwa.	... "
Sunday, 24th	... "	... "
Monday, 25th	... "	... "
Tuesday, 26th	... "	... "
Wednesday, 27th	... "	... "
Thursday, 28th	... "	... "
Friday, 29th	... "	... "
Saturday, 30th	... "	... "
Sunday, 31st	... "	... "

\* The *Rhotas* will return to Sara, arriving on 1st September.

THE Bey of Tunis has abolished slavery in his dominions. A decree promulgated enjoins every employer of negro domestics to give them legalized certificates declaring them free, under a penalty of from 200 to 2,000 francs. Selling, buying or keeping a slave exposes a person to from three months to three years' imprisonment.

CLOSE scientific observations show that in the St. Gothard tunnel "as between summer and winter, the temperature only varies eight degrees centigrade, that there is a continual current of air passing through the tunnel—in winter in both directions, and in summer only in one—and that, as a result, the tunnel is the clearest in the world, its atmosphere being almost absolutely pure."

WE read :—

"A German anatomist has called the attention of his class to certain hysterical women who are afflicted with a kind of 'pain joy,' not only experiencing no pain from surgical mutilation, having a morbid desire to bear without an anæsthetic operation which should prove very painful. A young woman was introduced who had seriously injured her lower jaw during a paroxysm of hysteria, but who had insisted upon having the necessary removal of a part of the jaw and ligature of two arteries performed without an anæsthetic, and subsequently declared that the operations had given her great pleasure."

There is no end to human idiosyncrasies. The poets who sang of the joy of grief or the luxury of pain must now hide their diminished heads.

By name Syed Mahomed Alsagoff would seem to be a Russo-Tartar, but then neither Cossack nor Tartar can be a Syed. He is what is here popularly called a Nakhoda, that is, an Arab merchant, of Singapore. A man of great intelligence, enterprise, and public spirit, a municipal commissioner, he is the wealthiest and most influential Mahomedan in the island. A great trouble has overtaken him. He was about to go to Europe, but was arrested in the midst of a farewell dinner given by him to his friends, on a charge of attempting, in conjunction with another Arab, an abortion on the person of a European girl named Marie Gorskie. This girl lately came to Singapore with her father and mother from Egypt, in hopes of finding a living in the Far East. Wishing to go farther, they begged Syed Mahomed Alsagoff for a passage to Shanghai. The acquaintance thus started led to more familiar intercourse between the parties. Indeed, the descendant of the Prophet was understood to be particularly kind to the fair Nazarene and she gracious to him. Meanwhile, the strangers from Egypt were in no hurry to sail to China, if they had not definitely abandoned their idea altogether. In due course, report reached the Police of an attempt to procure an abortion by Marie. In the inquiry that followed, two Arabs were implicated, one of them being the Syed. There is quite a sensation in Singapore, not only among the Malays and Moors, but also in "society" too, in which the principal prisoner, Alsagoff, is a well-known figure.

AT the Berlin Surgical Congress, Professor Gluck illustrated an advance in surgery—the successful substitution of catgut, ivory and bone for defects in bones, muscles and nerve sinews.

"The inserted material sucks up the juices of the body, establishing the junction of the separated ends without any shortening of the part. Professor Gluck presented cases in which mobility had been restored to defective fingers—a hitherto impossible feat—by insertion of from two to four inches of catgut; a case in which the removal of a tumour from the thigh had left a defective bone, which was remedied by the insertion of ivory, shortening being prevented; and a case in which a large piece of nerve in the groin had been replaced with catgut, with no serious impairment of functions."

RECENTLY Mr. John Morley said that there are not fifty living persons—nay, not twenty—who make their living by the writing of books. To this Mr. Walter Besant replies that there are at least fifty novelists living whose stories bring them incomes of £1,000 per annum—not to speak of a vast number who make a hundred or two. And, he might have added, a vaster host who make nothing. Has the statesman already forgotten his own?

IT is now known, that is, made public, that Lieutenant Grombchevsky, who failed to enter Afghanistan from the north,

"last October attempted to penetrate Kanjat from the Little Pamir; but had to retrace his steps on 21st November. Accompanied by only two men he crossed the Karakoram Pass, and during December examined some smaller passes in the neighbourhood. Early in the following month Mr. Grombchevsky started up the Karu Kash River with a guide and two Cossacks, and succeeded in reaching the desert plateau of Western Tibet. The party suffered terribly from cold and at an altitude of 17,000 feet nearly lost their lives in a snowstorm. They had to return in great haste, and after an unsuccessful attempt to reach Hindutagh Pass marched to Killian and Polu. Grombchevsky did not make any startling discoveries, but succeeded in linking his surveys with Prejalsky's."

MR. P. G. Melitus having gone back to the Assam Commission, Mr. E. G. Colvin is Gazetted the Officiating Post-master-General, Bengal.

THE Upper India Chamber of Commerce is activity itself. Since its birth the other day, it has interested itself in all possible questions affecting the commerce of the country. On the 1st of this month, the Committee not only addressed the above letter but urged on the Government the desirability of a second line of railway from Northern India to Calcutta, independent of the East Indian Railway Company. They say :—

"The survey of the country between Moghal Sarai and Calcutta has, they understand, been completed, and it is probable therefore that an early decision may be expected as to the actual route to be followed by the new line, and by what Company or Corporation the system is to be controlled."

Various conflicting statements have been current during the past few months regarding the intentions of the Home authorities in this matter; but whether the line is constructed and worked by Government or by a Company, either independently or in connection with the O. and R.

Railway system, are issues that do not affect the interests of traders in the N.-W. P. and Oudh, given that an alternative route to and terminus at Howrah—Calcutta—is provided entirely independent of the East Indian Railway Co. To in any way extend the sway which that Company has over the communications with the Bengal seaboard would be fatal to mercantile and railway enterprise in these Provinces.

The subject has doubtless received the careful consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, and my Committee feel assured that His Honor will not be disposed to favour any arrangement calculated to maintain or extend the monopoly now enjoyed by the East Indian Railway Company."

THE East Indian Railway is to be purged of its old hands under the fifty-five years' rule. Such is the information of the *Morning Post*.

THE Judges of the High Court have repealed Rule 467 at page 209 of Belchambers' Rules and Orders and ordered new Rules for the preparation of Paper-books in Appeals from the Original Side. These rules come into effect from the first day of August next. They will be found in this week's *Calcutta Gazette* and will apply to appeals filed on and after the 1st August, the old rules operating as regards appeals filed previous to that date.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT will be prorogued on the 12th of August.

PRINCE Albert Victor is suffering from fever said to be contracted in India, and has been ordered to the seaside.

THE discipline of the Army has been vindicated, and the Grenadiers have, after all, been punished all round for their late mutiny. The Duke of Cambridge admonished them saying how ashamed he was of their conduct and that they had disgraced her Majesty's uniform, and finally disowned any further connection with them. The battalion has been packed off to "the remote Bermudas." Colonel Maitland has retired on half pay. The Adjutant has been censured and has resigned. Three of the ringleaders have been courtmartialled to two years' imprisonment and two to eighteen months'. The spirit of discontent was, however, still visible. The reading of the sentences over, two of the men tore off their medals and threw them across the parade ground. The sentences are considered too severe both by the press and the public. At a meeting in Hyde Park, a petition to the Queen has been adopted for release of the prisoners.

THE Select Committee on the Uncovenanted Service grievances held six meetings and will hold no more. The report is being ready. It will, it is expected, be favorable to those concerned.

ON the 24th, Sir James Fergusson, in the House of Commons, moved the second reading of the Bill for the cession of Heligoland. Mr. Gladstone's attitude on the Bill has surprised his followers. He said that the permission of the House for the cession was unprecedented, and trenched on the prerogative of the Crown, and he, therefore, withdrew from the debate. On the Bill itself he had no opposition to offer. He believed the Anglo-German convention reflected great credit on Lord Salisbury. Strange G. O. M.

THE Bengal Chamber of Commerce has found a powerful ally in the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool in its opposition to the income tax on profits of consignments to India. The Committee of the East India and China Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber lately considered the matter and came to the same conclusion with the Bengal Chamber. The Incorporated Chamber of Liverpool have since memorialized the Secretary of State for India, pointing out that the tax is a practical re-imposition of import duty on merchandise. It is not easy to swallow the pill thus administered.

It has for a long time been a favorite object of British merchants and statesmen to establish an inland trade communication between British India and China. The annexation of Upper Burma has simplified matters in that direction, and the commencement of a

railway to Yunan may be looked forward to at an early date. The importance and feasibility of the undertaking are generally admitted. The difficulty is as to the route to be adopted, there are so many pressed for acceptance, by their respective advocates. The old trade route by way of Bhamo strikes everybody, but then Messrs. Colquhoun and Hallett condemn it as impracticable on the ground of its topographical difficulties. According to them, no end of tunnels and bridges would have to be constructed. They suggested the Moulmein, Yabine, and Yunan line. Others, however, on various reasons, condemned this route. Another proposed route lies through the Southern Shan States. The latest recommendation is that of Mr. Bagley who, condemning all previous recommendations, insists that there is only one practicable route by which a first-class railway, with flat gradients, capable of carrying a heavy traffic, can be cheaply constructed, namely, that up the Myitnge Valley, past Thebaw to the junction of the Namyan river, and then up that valley past Lashio and Maingyan to the Salween at the Sopkyet ferry, whence the line would pass along the Salween, to near Kunlon, and then turn eastwards up the open flat valley of the Namting.

THE cry of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce against public holidays has been echoed by the Upper India Chamber. In their letter of the 1st July, the Secretary to the Upper Chamber writes to the Secretary to the N.-W. P. Government—"My committee have no desire to attempt to interfere with the number of holidays that Government may wish to grant to the several body of its employés, and, as stated in their letter of 2nd July 1889 para 4, they understand that it is not necessary that Government office holidays and those under the Negotiable Instruments Act should be synonymous." The Chamber further complain "From the lists of holidays gazetted by the Governments of Bengal, Bombay and Madras, it would appear that the date of each is fixed at the beginning of the year. The inconvenience caused by the uncertainty as to on what dates a number of the N.-W. P. gazetted holidays will fall has been pointed out in the previous correspondence on this subject." The Cawnpore Chamber is not probably aware that if the N.-W. P. Government is bad in not notifying the holidays earlier, the Bengal Government is worse in curtailing the gazetted holidays in the middle of the year.

THE Bank of Bengal, while approving of the curtailment of the Doorga Pooja holidays as now notified, doubted whether the Government had the power, "after having once published the notification in the Gazette on 11th December 1889, to alter that notification by reducing the number of days once declared to be public holidays under the Act, and that any such alteration might interfere with business arrangements entered into on the basis of the existing notification." These doubts have been disposed of by the local Government in a manner which has marked its newborn zeal for immediate suppression of the Long Vacation. The only reply to these objections we find in the published correspondence, is that the Bengal Government has been advised by the Legal Remembrancer and the Advocate-General that "there appears to be no legal objection in the way to prevent the Government from cancelling the notification of public holidays already published, and substituting in its place a new list." A Secretary to Government might be expected to know that without invoking the aid of the Crown lawyers. But what of the "interference with business arrangements entered into on the basis of the existing (December) notification"? Mr. Cotton is contemptuously silent on this head. All the same, the silence is significant. We hope the Government, in its zeal to afford facilities to the trade and commerce of the port, will not ignore other interests, however powerless. At any rate, is it worth while to risk possible complications by withdrawing the old holiday notification and substituting a contracted schedule in its stead?

THOUGH the law would not recognize it, the Lieutenant-Governor, under the power vested in him by law, graciously allowed the native, that is, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce to return a Port Commissioner. We read in the papers that the Chamber have just conferred the distinction on their Secretary, over the heads of the Chairman and the many Vice-Chairmen. This is no small appreciation of his influence, if not of his services. Stranger things yet remain behind.

THE Calcutta Corporation has not yet chosen its man for the Trust. The Chairman being no candidate, why should not the Vice-Chairman



be elected? Perhaps he is far too envied already. The Secretary is out of the question, for he is not permitted by law. The danger, in such cases, is that the most intriguing and therefore the least desirable member of the Corporation, provided he be a heroic canvasser, undeterred by scruples and ready to stoop to any humiliation, may get in. On the whole, however, we are afraid the Hindus are in no mood to agree to vote for one of themselves. Under the circumstance, this is a good opportunity for a graceful move on their part—the nomination of a Mahomedan Commissioner of character and ability. At a time when Government are seeking to redress the balance of offices and employments between the followers of the two creeds, the great Corporation of Calcutta could not do better than give such a proof of its appreciation of the question.

MR. W. WORDSWORTH, M. A., C.I.E., Principal of the Elphinstone College, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay. The Principal well deserved the distinction and will do honor to the post. Here in Calcutta, the veteran Principals of the Presidency College, who have ruled the Department of Instruction, never rise higher than the Registrar's desk of the University. They may be knighted by the Queen, but they are never thought of for the Vice-Chancellorship by the Viceroy. (By the bye, why not Vicequeen? A nut for Sir Alfred Croft to crack.) We hope next time it will be the turn of our Alfred of Educational Bengal. Mr. Tawney is far too shy for preferments and perquisites.

IN the Hongkong Bank Forgery case, on Thursday last, after six days' trial, Elias H. Solomon was unanimously found guilty by the jury, specially empanelled, on three charges out of 15—of dishonestly and fraudulently using forged documents purporting to be valuable securities, knowing them to be forged, or having reason to believe them to be forged. The Judge, Mr. Justice Wilson, sentenced him to eight years' rigorous imprisonment on the first count, and considered it unnecessary to pass separate sentences on the other charges. Defended by The Woodroffe, who was feild like a *Prima donna*, instructed by the great Gonesh the assurer of victory, Solomon was not prepared for the disastrous end. He broke down as soon as the verdict was given and was weeping when the sentence was being pronounced. He had evidently relied on the pluck and prestige of the counsel who had often enough saved malefactors and repeatedly wrested cut-throats and parricides from the gallows, to carry him safely through the tedious trial. The next day, the Standing Counsel, by permission of the Court, withdrew the Bank of Bengal charges against the accused.

There is nothing more doing in the matter, we are afraid. The Jews are sad but in despair.

CONSTANTINO, an Italian, was tried by Mr. Justice Farran of Bombay and a special jury, for murder on the 8th instant of Moldotti Angelo, the baker on the S. S. *Bisagno*, then lying at the Victoria Docks. The jury found him guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. But no sentence was passed as the prisoner, through his counsel Mr. Kirkpatrick, had contended that the court had no jurisdiction, inasmuch as the crime had been committed on a foreign vessel by a foreigner on a foreigner. The Full Bench for which the point was reserved, on the 24th heard the argument, and the next day, the Chief Justice decided against the prisoner, and Mr. Justice Farran sentenced him to twelve months' rigorous imprisonment. All the lore in the Law of Nations adduced in behalf of the accused could not, we take it, conquer the lifelong impression of the one refrain dear to Britons—"Britannia rule the waves." Does the Italian Consul accept the judgment of the Full Bench?

THE Jain defamation case has been adjourned again to 2nd August, as one of the defendants was absent, but chiefly for the convenience of counsel. The Honorable Magistrate Syed Ameer Hossein advised the parties to settle their differences out of Court, and gave them to understand that if they could not be friends again, he would not take up the case himself but send it up to the Sessions. This is essentially a religious case and ought to be kept out of Court. The Moorshedabad *panchayat* has held that the complainant Indra Chand Nahatta has not transgressed the rules of his caste by doing

anything, during his travel to Europe, or living contrary to the tenets, usages and customs of the Jain society and religion. It is satisfactory to outsiders to find that the Sri Sing—the Jain *Panch*—of Jodhpore is of the same opinion too. That ought to secure Inder Chand free intercourse with as many of his castemen and unrestricted entry to as many temples as he cares for or can possibly maintain, and make an end of the affair. An enlightened man like him may let the conservatives go to—the Tirthankars.

ARTHUR LABOUCHERE, of Hooten Levitt Hall, near Sheffield, was hauled up before Messrs. Justices Denman and Charles for contempt of court. The accusation was that he had set his hounds upon John Thomas Beale, a solicitor's clerk, who had been to Labouchere's residence to serve a writ for goods sold and delivered and work and labour done for him by a bell-hanger named Bell. Labouchere contended that he had no idea of entrapping Beale, but that Beale had followed him without invitation while the dogs—new arrivals from Ireland and accustomed to writs—were loose and yapped at the writ with pleasure, that he did not purposely release the hounds or incite them to run about or bark at the clerk. Mr. Justice Denman thought that Labouchere did not intend any serious mischief to Beale but had a mind only to frighten him. At the same time, the Judge characterized the action of Labouchere as the most outrageous contempt that had been committed, and, accordingly, fined him £100 and saddled him with the cost of the proceedings as between solicitor and client.

THE phrase contempt of court can be twisted into endless varieties. We do not remember a case in which a Magistrate was taken to task for it. Ceylon, however, supplies the curiosity. A horse dealer by name Pate purchased a horse at Daniels' auction sale. The animal was not paid for at the time and the auctioneer refused to part with it without payment. Resenting the refusal to a wellknown horse dealer, Pate forcibly carried off the animal, and the auctioneer Daniels, equally wellknown, not to be outdone, charged Pate with theft of the horse. By this time, the animal had passed into the possession of the Chief Justice Sir Bruce Burnside. The charge of theft was heard by the Magistrate Mr. Mason who, being informed that the horse was standing before the court harnessed with another horse to a carriage, ordered the Police Inspector Brown to unyoke the animal and deliver it to the auctioneer. On learning that the carriage was of the Chief Justice, Brown could not be as unceremoniously prompt as a police officer ordinarily is in proceeding against the person or property of an ordinary individual. He hesitated, then reported and awaited further orders. The Magistrate, however, was not as hesitating. He only repeated his former order, Chief Justice or no Chief Justice. Brown now returned to the seizure, and while the horse was being unharnessed, the Private Secretary to the Chief Justice had arrived at the scene all excitement and wrath, and, without interfering with the process of law, noted down everybody's name and address. Thus ended the day's proceedings. Next morning, the magistrate, inspector and auctioneer were all hauled up for contempt of court, the Chief Justice himself with Mr. Justice Dias forming the court for trial of the offenders. What transpired in that court is thus reported. The Chief Justice

"solemnly warned the magistrate that the insult offered to the majesty of justice was a terrible one. 'The precincts of this Court,' said Sir Bruce Burnside with fine gravity, 'are sacred and cannot be invaded at the instance of any official, be he who he may. I use the words "be he who he may" advisedly. Your process was a process you had a perfect right to issue, but you must have known—you did know, and we feel you did know—that you were violating the independence and the dignity of this Court, and insulting the Judges who were then sitting in this Court in the exercise of their functions. The punishment which I am about to impose on you will, I trust, serve as warning to all, and I accordingly inflict on you a fine of £20 (Justice Dias whispered something to the Chief Justice at this stage); I mean £10, and you stand committed until the amount is paid.' So also the poor inspector was treated to heavy judicial thunder and severely reprimanded; and the long-suffering auctioneer, after being told that he had perjured himself, was fined £5. With this the outraged Majesty of law was satisfied, and the excitement quieted down; and the Chief Justice has regained possession of his horse."

WE read in the *Argus*—the Madras journal of Law, Justice, Police—of July 18:—

"A case of alleged defamation of character, preferred against Saravanan by Gooroomoothoo Pillay, has been occupying the attention of Mr. Sultan Mohideen Saib Bahadoor at the Town Court since May

last. His Worship delivered judgment in this case yesterday. Consequent upon the decease, on 29th March last, of the complainant's father, who was a Dharmakata of Therinavithi Ammen Covil, he (the complainant) printed certain notices and circulated them to his friends asking them to be present at the funeral rites of the deceased. While assembled there and partaking of the good will of the complainant, the guests were each served with a memo containing certain allegations against the deceased by the accused, upon which they left, thinking it beneath their dignity to stay with the complainant any longer. The allegations were to the effect that the deceased was not the Dharmakata; that he defrauded the Pettacherri people of Rs. 40,000, being the amount obtained from rents and profits for 20 years; that he pledged the idols of the temple, that he was a vinegar seller and an ice-seller, and contained various other imputations tending to damage his (deceased's) reputation and hurt the feelings of the complainant. The complainant thereupon prosecuted the accused on the ground that the imputations were perfectly groundless and had been made with a view to injure the posterity of the deceased and to vilify his memory. Furthermore, they had exposed him to much disgrace at the hands of the public and people of his own caste. His worship in delivering judgment, said that the parties belonged to two different factions. The temple in question was under the management of two Headmen belonging to the above factions and were nominated by public election. The father of the complainant and father-in-law of the accused (since deceased) had held the offices of Dharmakata to the temple and on the death of the former on 29th March last while his *Curmanthorum* was being performed, one Gnanapathi Pillay, a friend of the deceased, published three verses in praise of him, whereupon the accused in reply also published certain stanzas to the effect that the deceased sold vinegared pickle and that his females sold vinegar. The question was whether the verses published by the accused contained defamatory matter as defined in Section 499, I. P. C.; whether the publication imputed anything to the deceased Dharmakata, and whether it would harm his reputation were he living or calculated to be hurtful to the feelings of his family or relatives. His Worship, after a careful review of the documents published by the accused, failed to find anything defamatory that was likely to injure the reputation of the deceased or hurt the feelings of his family or relatives, and his decision had been arrived at after paying due regard to the oral and documentary evidence before him. Two witnesses for the prosecution had admitted that the complainant was not lowered in their estimation by reason of the publication. Then where the defamation lay he failed to see. The epithet of vinegar seller could not be hurtful to the complainant as the 1st witness for the prosecution had admitted that the deceased sold vinegar. He was therefore of opinion that the complainant had failed to make out a case against the accused to enable the Court to frame a charge against him, and accordingly directed his discharge."

Sultan Moheedin Saheb seems to have regarded the case as a mischievous attempt at persecution under colour of law. With the unsophisticated intelligence and knowledge of native society of an Oriental gentleman of experience, he failed to find anything defamatory that was likely to injure the reputation of the deceased or hurt the feelings of his family or relatives in the statements that the deceased was a pickler and his ladies vinegar-sellers, that he was not the Dharmakata of the temple, that he had defrauded the Pettacherri people, during the long course of twenty years, of rents and profits amounting to Rs. 40,000, and had gone the length of pledging the very gods of worship of the temple. If the matter is carried to the Madras High Court he will probably have his eyes opened by the European Judges. The accused will then see the enormity of his rashness in raking up matters—even though true—concerning a private man. The Madras Magistrate did not even recognise the sanctity of the dead. A dead ass might be more dangerous to meddle with than a living lion.

We have received a complaint from Madaripore which presents the leading officials there in no amiable light. The complaint relates to the local School, and its origin may be traced to the disposal of the patronage connected with it. It appears that one of the Moonsiffs is Secretary to the School. The Head Mastership being vacant, the Secretary appointed a B. A. of the Calcutta University, without, it is said, consulting the Committee of the School. This has doubtless vexed the members, who all wished to have a hand in the bestowal of a post of consequence in Pedlington. The new man is represented to be no good. A worse objection to him is that he is a connection of the Moonsiff's. Then the 1st or highest class of the School formally addressed the Committee alleging their dissatisfaction with the Headmaster's teaching. What notice was taken of the grievance we do not know, but we are told the subdivisional officer, accompanied by the two Moonsiffs of the place, proceeded from Court to the School and had the boys of the 1st class disgraced and soundly lashed by the hand of a low Mussulman. The families of the boys, it is said, have taken the harshness and indignity to heart.

The story seems incredible, but worse things occasionally happen, and there are no lengths to which little men dressed in brief authority

may not go in playing fantastic tricks before High Heaven. We hope both the Educational Inspector and the District Officer will inquire. The three officers concerned would scarcely be worth their salt if they could not send in a report that might be deemed satisfactory.

THE Forest Department in Bengal sold last year nearly fifteen millions of bamboos. In the previous year it was a million more. The decrease is observable in all the forest divisions, chiefly in Chittagong.

The multitudinousness of this forest produce has struck the imagination of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries. Bamboos by tens of millions! why, there surely must be some bamboo—zement! Not a bit of it though. The *Englishman* writes:—

"Innumerable as are the purposes to which this product is applied, exceeding even those of the kerosine oil tin, it is difficult to imagine how this enormous number could have been disposed of."

Nor is that all. What must be our contemporary's astonishment, when we tell it that the little principality of Tipperah also produces many millions of bamboos! The entire valley of the Megna is supplied from that state, and during the rains boats laden with Tipperah bamboos may be met with in all the waters of East Bengal, from Sylhet down to the Fenny river which divides Noakhali from Chittagong, and as far West as the Dacca Division. Private properties in the hills of Sylhet and the forests of Mymensingh, &c., also contribute the same article. The wonder is lessened when one comes to consider the kind of bamboo chiefly in question. People in talking of bamboo think of the stouter or the close-grained wiry sorts. But the bamboo of internal commerce in the more Eastern parts is a very different thing—it is the *moollee bams*—the thin, cylindrical, short, frail and hollow bamboo, which would be called in Calcutta the *taltá bams*. It is this bamboo, beautiful and weak like lovely woman, that is reckoned by millions. There are whole forests of this plant. The low hills on the Eastern frontiers of Bengal are covered with it. The demand is equal to the production. This plant is the principal material in housebuilding in a country the architecture of which is principally of bamboo and reed or grass. Houses so constructed, so weak and entirely at the mercy of the elements—the worst being fire—have to be periodically renewed and frequently rebuilt. Hence the great proportions of the trade in bamboo.

THERE is nothing too bad to be thought of the Baboos. Among other sins laid at their door, they are far and away the most litigious of the peoples of India. This is a great mistake, if our opinion is worth a jot. The facts seem all the other way. The British laws offer endless possibilities of litigation, and there are chapters of the precious Indian Penal Code which have not yet been turned up by our people. Not so our brethren in other parts. Here is an instance. The *Deccan Times* of July 22 reproduces from the *Kathiawar Times* of the 15th July, the following criminal information:—

"On the 10th July, one Tribhovan Fulchand, in charge of the Jamdakhant of His Highness the Thakore Sahib of Morvi, complained before Mr. Patwardhan in charge Nayadish of Vankaner against one Kirchand Devji, son of Vakil Devji Rayji of Rajkot State. The said Tribhovan said on oath:—"The accused Kirchand Devji had written two letters, one dated 17th and the other, dated 25th June last to Matushri Monghiba Sahib (mother of the Thakore Sahib of Morvi.) These letters were addressed by Shett Hirchand Kirchand. On inquiry, it was found that Heerchand is the son of the accused Kirchand and the accused wrote false letters in the name of his son. From these letters it appears that the accused has instigated the *Matushri* to make short work of Raniji (the Rani of the Thakore Sahib of Morvi) and her son (Hemobha) by means of *Mantra Shashtra* (sorcery or incantations.) Under this circumstance, I charge the accused under section 302 with 115, 463, and 417 of the Indian Penal Code. In connection with the above, a third letter has also been written. It is dated 21st June and is addressed to Moghiba Sahib, but in it is not mentioned the name and place of the writer, though I believe it to be written by the accused as it is in continuation of the above letters. I produce the original letters in the Court."

That will be a revelation to our readers on this side. We can fancy the astonishment with which they will read the news. Certainly, there is no record of such a case in the Bengal Reports. Nor is there any likelihood of such a one cropping up. There are thousands here as elsewhere who believe in the absurdities of *maran*, *bashi karan*, and the rest, but no Fulchand would find in the whole *Tribhuvan* of this Presidency a lawyer who would support him. Our pleaders are not profound, but they have a wholesome dread of that ridicule which is said to have pursued Horace Walpole through life and made him do injustice to his own better character.

Our nonlegal readers scarcely grasp the significance of this Katyawar case. Poor Kirchand is charged with all the crimes from murder,

abetment of murder, to forgery, down to cheating! And all for, on the prosecutor's admission, for sending letters to the Majhi Saheba of the Morvee chiefship advising her, or urging her if you will, to destroy the Rani of the Chief! The most unblushing Mooktear in Bengal would not give such advice.

THE Calcutta reception of the Congress delegate Baboo Surendranath Banerjee pleading the cause of his country in England, has not been as immediate as at Bombay, but it was none the less enthusiastic. The Town Hall, on Monday, was crowded to welcome the conqueror back. It was not all a pack of Surendranath's Own Boys that did him the honor. They were of course there, but they were vastly outnumbered by their elders—the older boys of the world. Nor was Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, who presided and carried the meeting successfully through to the end, a packed chairman. He imparted his own enthusiasm to his hearers and they cheered and cheered him to the echo. All the more that he spoke not as a partizan but as a representative of the community. He adroitly, yet not so far as the Bengali public were concerned untruly, claimed a general character for the meeting. They were not necessarily all admirers and friends of Baboo Surendranath but, as the Chairman explained—"they had met there that evening as citizens of a large metropolis, differing probably from him on many points of his political creed, but nevertheless grateful to him for having gone to England as their delegate. It was in that capacity they had met to receive him." Amid the crowd in that unfortunate building, Mr. Bonnerjee was the only speaker who could be heard, not the stentorian guest of the evening excepted. The latter was more popular than ever, but he was not in his best form. Besides, the poor man had been sucked out at Bombay. Hence the one Banerjee was overshadowed by the other Banerjee. They are all of the same ilk, however differently they may choose to spell their names.

If lowsie is Lucy, as some volke miscalle it,  
Then Lucy is lowsie, whatever befall it.

WE are truly glad to see the current number of the Calcutta Illustrated Journal, *The Empress*, contains on the front page a fine portrait of Mr. James Wilson, the veteran editor of the *Indian Daily News*, followed in the next by a well-written little memoir. This is a simple act of justice to the old knight of the quill who has weathered many a storm and fought many a battle for right. Indeed, the conductors have supplied a grave omission. They had already included three journalists in their portrait gallery, namely, Sir Charles Lawson, of the *Madras Mail*, the late Mr. Robert Knight, of the *Statesman*, and ourself, the last appearing a year back, on the 1st July, 1889. Surely, the Father of the Indian Press—and Mr. Wilson had earned the *sobriquet* before 1880—ought to have had precedence of the hobbledehoy. The biographical account is unfortunately deficient in dates, but withal most interesting. We hope it will be extensively read. We wish we had space enough to copy it entire. We may revert to it, however. Today we conclude with a fervent hope that he may long continue at our head, to lend his sage guidance to the Press, to mould public opinion, and interpret between the governors and the governed.

AMONG the pilgrims to Mecca this year is our well-known citizen Kassim Ariff, Surati, merchant, landholder, and silk miller. Accompanied on the journey by his family and children, he started by rail from Calcutta, on the 11th of June last, and embarked at Bombay by Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son's Pilgrim Steamer "Deccan" on the 16th June. The steamer safely passed Aden, but since then no news has been received of her arrival at Jeddah.

We have however learnt with much regret, that owing unfortunately to cholera having broken out on board that steamer, the pilgrim passengers have been detained at Kamian, for extra quarantine. How

*Holloway's Pills*.—Sudden transitions from heat to cold, or from raw inclement weather to oppressive climates, favour the development of manifold diseases, which may in most instances be checked and rendered abortive by an early resort to these purifying, regulating, and strengthening Pills. This well-known and highly esteemed medicine affords a safe and easy remedy for almost every constitutional wrong which unhealthy climates, rapid changes, or dietetic errors, can engender, and effectually removes any weakness self-indulgent habits may have induced. In all conditions of the system bordering on disease such as are indicated by apathy, listlessness, and restlessness, Holloway's Pills will prove especially serviceable in begetting the vivacity of mind and body appreciated by both sound and sick.

long this quarantine will last, we have no means of knowing, nor as to what has happened to the pilgrims in consequence of the breaking out of the epidemic amongst them. One thing however seems to be almost certain, that as no telegraphic news has up to this date been received of the arrival of the steamer at Jeddah, the passengers will most likely arrive there on a later date. In that case they will be deprived of the privilege of performing the Haj, which ceremony commences to-morrow. If such a mishap takes place, many of the pilgrims who can afford it, will have to wait at Mecca or Medina, for a whole year. It would not be becoming for them, to come back without performing the pilgrimage. They would thus be put not only to a great deal more of expenditure than they first estimated, but to incalculable hardships and sacrifice. We are sure the sympathy of all generous minds will be with these earnest men of the Faith. We trust that our countrymen who are passengers in that steamer may have a safe passage to Jeddah.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1890.

### EDUCATION IN HYDERABAD.

A REFORM Ministry in the Deccan! Surely, we are in a new Era. The Schoolmaster is not only abroad, but has penetrated to the darkest places, until we are confronted by the blessed spectacle of a Ministry of Public Instruction in the state founded by Asof Jah the Great, with a regular machinery, including Inspectors, Professors, and all. We have before us an excellent and ably written report on education in the dominions of His Highness the Nizam for the years from October 1886 to October 1888 by Nawab Imad-ood-Daula Bahadur, B. A., Director of Public Instruction and Secretary to Education Department in the Hyderabad Government. It opens with a general survey of the extent of the field, and the small impression made upon it till within the last five years. Writing five years ago, this gentleman had thus summarised the work of the previous period: "With not a single school in the district worthy of the name of a High School—not a Middle Anglo-Vernacular school in 16 out of 18 Districts—with only six Primary Anglo-Vernacular schools, it follows that three years' hard work with increased expenditure and increased supervision will be necessary to constitute the Districts feeders to high education." Working from this starting point, Nawab Imad-ood-Daula Bahadur is to be congratulated on the extent of progress which has been achieved in the period embraced by his report. There are now more schools and more pupils, and both schools and pupils are better looked after. The schools have increased two-fold and the pupils have trebled. The inspecting agency has been also increased, and by the improvement, at the instance of the Education Department, of postal communication, unity has been secured to the work of the scattered inspecting agencies.

A notable change was effected in the period under review by the amalgamation of the Hyderabad College with the Medresa-i-Aliya under the name of the Nizam College. The Medresa was a special school for the nobility and gentry of Hyderabad, and one object in view in amalgamating it with the College was to raise the character of the education that used to be given here. The primary end in view was the retrenchment of expenditure. The old Hyderabad College had been, we learn, kept up at an artificial strength by the grant of high scholarships to all comers. The expenditure on Collegiate in-

struction at Hyderabad was abnormally high, being something like Rs. 2,528-5-8 per pupil. A committee was appointed to consider how the retrenchment could be best effected, and at their recommendation, the College was abolished, the services of Dr. Aghornath Chattopadhyaya, Principal, and Dr. Nishikanta Chattopadhyaya, Vice-Principal, were transferred to the Political Department, and the College classes transferred to the Medresa. That institution thus aggrandised was rechristened the Nizam College. A saving of about 13 thousand rupees was effected upon the original expenditure, and the cost of educating each pupil fell from Rs. 2530 down to Rs. 688 per annum. With regard to the scholarships, the Director of Public Instruction remarks :—

"These could not at once be discontinued without breach of faith... but they were redistributed and made tenable only by Hyderabad students who had matriculated from one of our numerous departmental or aided High Schools. The result was an immediate fall in the strength of the College and in the percentage of passes. There is no doubt however that we may confidently expect in the immediate future a far healthier rise, both in the strength and calibre of our College Classes, than was possible under the old system."

We are personally sorry that these arrangements involved a hardship to our friend Dr. N. K. Chattopadhyaya, whose services, at first meant to be utilized in some other department, had eventually to be dispensed with with the grant of a miserable gratuity of Rs. 1,329-2. If the truth must be told, his original enemy, the source of all his troubles in India, was our own "Ripon the Good," who was too truly Liberal to take so gifted a native in Government employ.

The effects of education after Western methods are thus described by the Director, in the following most interesting passage :—

"There can be no doubt that much of the taste and culture and love of manly sports observable among the rising generation of Hyderabad Nobles is due to the influence of the Medresa-i-Aliya. One has not to go far back to recall the time when a telegram addressed to folks in the City had to be sent out to Chadarghat to be translated for them ; when a young Hyderabad Noble would have considered it *infra dig* to hold a bat, and when a well furnished and tastefully decorated dwelling in this city was a rarity. It is otherwise now. English is freely used as a medium of conversation and correspondence, and English books and newspapers have found their way to many native houses. Our youth excel in cricket and football and hockey. Tennis and polo are extensively played. In matters of taste Hyderabad compares favorably with other parts of India. It is not an uncommon thing to see an elegantly furnished house in the heart of the City approached by nicely laid out *parterres* and flower beds. Our English educated youth do not show the morbid fondness for the grotesque in costume and in personal decoration, affected by the same class elsewhere. As a rule they dress neatly and well. If in some quarters there is an unfortunate predilection for European coats and collars, the coats at any rate are well cut out of decent material, and the collars are properly starched and clean. It is also important to observe with regard to our youths that their sense of reverence, and *a fortiori* their hold of religion, survives their schooling. So far, parents of boys sent to the Nobles' school have never complained of any unseemly display of freedom or offensive self-assertion in their sons."

But while attempting an estimate of what our public school system has done, I must not forbear to note its shortcomings. Much as the Medresa-i-Aliya and the Medresa-i-Aizza have done towards popularizing European culture among the better classes, they have not succeeded to the extent to be desired. The causes of this partial failure are manifold. Some of the pupils join school too late, others do not stay long enough ; ceremonies and feasts interfere ; inevitable holidays take away much of their time ; and all combined, effect a deplorable breach in the continuity of work. It should also be remembered that we have to deal with very raw material. We have got hold of boys not sprung either from the old lettered classes or from classes that have to live by their wits but from classes to whom the acquirement of learning or the putting of any other strain on their minds, was always a work of supererogation, and a more or less superfluous exercise. They have hitherto had enough, in some cases more than enough, of the good things of this world, and living has cost them little trouble. But now the conditions are changed. They are threatened with extinction if they do not enter life better provided. Circumstances beyond their control in the way of economic, political and administrative changes, are forcing on them a competition with orders and classes that are accustomed to live by their wits, with the inevitable result of their having to give way. Private fortunes, ancestral estates, and old possessions, are going the way of private fortunes, ancestral estates, and old possessions elsewhere. In spite of the embargo wisely placed by Government on the alienation of jagirs, not a few of them have passed under the hands of sahukars and other money-making classes."

There are in the above a firmness of hand, a full-

ness of knowledge, a breadth of philosophy, and withal a purity of diction and an elegant force of style, which many Britons to the manner born might envy, and which are certainly not surpassed in similar British reports. Hyderabad may well be proud of so able an officer as well as so accomplished a scholar and literary man. The presence of such a public servant is itself a proof of progress and its best guarantee. That passage opens up several important questions having a bearing on the whole Empire, but we dare not meddle with them at the fag end of an article already nearly two columns long.

## THE DONS CAUGHT AT DEFINITION :

OR

### THE RECENT UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS.

THE Calcutta University has again made a mess of it. It has legislated in perfect ignorance of the obvious tendencies of its recent attempt at definition. We refer to the regulations requiring from candidates for the First Arts and B.A. examinations a minimum of 66 per cent. of attendance at lectures in each subject. These hard and fast rules may have been conceived in the interests of regular studies on the part of the candidates, but the question is, Are they practicable ? The framer of these stringent regulations cannot plead want of experience as to the operation of similar regulations in the past. Those now passed are only an amendment of a Resolution of the Syndicate passed in 1864, and how that Resolution worked in practice cannot be unknown to the University authorities. It was the fruitful parent of immorality on the part of candidates as well as the Heads of affiliated institutions, who treated it as a dead letter and acted in total disregard of its existence. Instances of wilful evasion occurred by hundreds, a few of which even formed the subject matter of judicial or departmental investigation. How in the face of these wellknown facts the Dons have the courage of still further tightening their reins upon the affiliated institutions, passes our understanding.

The good old rule with which the University began work simply prescribed that candidates should have prosecuted a regular course of studies at some affiliated institution. This rule which properly left some discretion to the Principals of Colleges, was felt to be indefinite, and in 1864 it was represented by the then Director of Public Instruction, Mr. W. S. Atkinson, that a definition of the term "regular course of studies" would conduce materially to the maintenance of discipline in affiliated institutions, and also remove doubts which some Heads of Colleges entertain as to the precise meaning to be attached to that term, and he recommended that attendance on 75 per cent. of the days on which lectures were delivered should be required to entitle an undergraduate student to the higher examinations of the University. In justice to the University it must be said that this proposal was in the first instance referred to the affiliated institutions for their opinion, and having met with their unanimous approval was adopted by the Syndicate. The present regulations are an amendment of this Resolution, and by reducing the percentage from 75 to 66, they practically admit that the old percentage was too high. The reduction of the percentage, however,



is not enough, and nothing short of a reversion to the good old rule with which we began will be a satisfactory or final settlement of the question. Further the advantage of the reduction, such as it is, is more than neutralised by the provision requiring the percentage of attendance in each subject. This introduces an element of great administrative difficulty, and will, we fear, lead to far worse consequences.

Before speaking of the hardships and the demoralization which we expect from the operation of these amended regulations, we will refer to the experience we possess of the working of the Resolution modified by them. It was indeed passed in consultation with and with the concurrence of Heads of Colleges, but no sooner was it passed than these Heads of Colleges saw the error they had made. They found that with all their vagueness, the old University rules had the merit of being simple and workable. The new rule of percentage was too rigid and left little discretion to them, while in many cases they bore very hard on intending candidates. In short they saw that they had got a definition at the sacrifice of their independence, and sometimes of the vital interests of their students. The proper course under the circumstances would have been for these Heads of affiliated institutions to confess their mistake and to pray for its repeal. But instead of this, they set to work to make it a dead letter. They acted in open defiance of the Resolution, and our highest educational institutions began to set examples of dishonesty in the eyes of the student population, the very thought of which is appalling. Instances of such criminal evasion of the University laws at last became a matter of open notoriety.

In one case, a native student in a European College in Calcutta narrowly escaped criminal conviction by the High Court by taking an extremely technical plea. He had gone up to an examination without completing anything like the required percentage of attendance. He was prosecuted, but he took up the ground that his act amounted to violation of a Resolution of the Syndicate rather than of a byelaw or regulation of the University, and he was discharged. On another occasion, the Principal of a Missionary College of justly high position in society and in the education service got implicated in a similar case of breach of the rules. The case was not judicially prosecuted, but after a departmental enquiry by the University authorities, the reverend gentleman was declared disqualified from certifying to the eligibility of future candidates. In some native Colleges the Resolution used to be still more flagrantly violated, and if such conduct has hitherto escaped formal censure, it is a matter of wide public notoriety. In fact, the unfortunate Resolution of 1864 has proved a powerful instrument of demoralization. We talk of moral education and of discipline, but all this must be merely idle talk so long as the authorities of our Colleges are as a rule found to practise the grossest forms of dishonesty in the eyes of their disciples. It is high time these practices should be checked, and if on enquiry it should appear that the restrictions upon the candidates imposed by the late regulations of the University have directly led to them, the restrictions should be withdrawn. The University is ready enough to frame stringent regulations, while it is practically powerless to enforce their operation. Its Resolution of 1864 was, barring its higher percentage, broad and general enough, but it has been a dead letter, and a flood of immorality

has thereby been let loose on the country. These facts point to one conclusion, namely, that the resolution should be withdrawn altogether, and there should be no more restrictions on candidature than what were provided in the old rules. The University is essentially an examining body and it should not go out of its way to interfere with the business of detailed educational management. Instead of this, however, it has amended the Resolution in a way so as to make the restrictions yet more rigid. We shall take another opportunity of speaking of the far worse effects which are likely to arise from this amendment.

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN BENGAL.

No. 1289, dated Simla, the 3rd July 1890.

From---C. J. Lyall, Esq., C.I.E., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Dept.

To---The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters No. M1---H-1-28, dated 19th April, and No. M1---H-2-16, dated the 21st April last, to the address of the Department of Finance and Commerce, with which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor submits a correspondence which has passed between the Government of Bengal and various Public Bodies and Associations, and makes proposals for the notification of certain days as public holidays in the Lower Provinces of Bengal under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The Lieutenant-Governor recommends that the holidays which have hitherto been gazetted as public holidays under section 25 of the Act should in future be distributed between two notifications, the first, issued under the Act, dealing with those Hindu holidays only the observance of which is absolutely required in order to enable Hindu employes, whether in the service of Government or of private persons, to fulfil their religious duties, and the second, issued as an executive order, including the remaining days hitherto observed as public holidays and applicable to all public offices and Magisterial and Revenue Courts under the Government of Bengal. It is explained that the ground of the distinction made is that the former class, which are days of religious obligation, are distinct from the latter, which are days of social observance only; that the effect of notifying all holidays without distinction under the Negotiable Instruments Act is to interfere most seriously with trade, shipping, and monetary business; and that the course which is recommended in regard to the Hindu holidays included in the second notification is that which has always been pursued in regard to all Muhammadan holidays, and has not been found to cause inconvenience. His Honour has no intention of in any way curtailing the holidays at present allowed to public servants in Bengal, but merely wishes to remove what he regards as a reasonable source of complaint to the mercantile community, who are unable to transact business on days notified under the Act, although large numbers of vessels arrive by sea and leave the port of Calcutta, large quantities of goods are received by rail, and bills mature and ought to be paid.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Governor-General in Council has carefully considered the proposals made in your letter and the correspondence forwarded with it, and desires me to convey his acknowledgments of the thoroughness with which the matter has been investigated and the thoughtful and considerate spirit in which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has dealt with this difficult subject. The main principle of the proposals, to make a distinction between those holidays which require to be notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act and those which do not require to be so notified but may be allowed as a matter of executive arrangement, is one which has long been recognized in other Presidencies, and has in fact been always in force in Bengal in regard to the Muhammadan holidays, which are observed by one-third of the population of the province. It appears to the Government of India that, in view of the consequences which ensue from the notification of holidays under the Act, such notification should clearly be restricted to those days when a cessation of business is absolutely necessary, and that there is no need to apply the same process to days which are only occasions for festive and social gatherings. The proposals made by the Lieutenant-Governor have reference only to the Durga Puja holidays, and in regard to these it is shown, in paragraph 10 of your letter, that the restrictions upon business which the system hitherto followed imposes are not observed by the native community themselves. His Honour writes :---

"It is not to be forgotten that in all places in Bengal, and especially in Calcutta, the Durga Puja holidays are the season of the busiest life in all the year. The shop-keepers have no holiday, the cloth-

sellers, the money-changers, the confectioners, the grocers and the general dealers are busy all day long; in the bazar there is no holiday, but business is as brisk as it can be. The clerks and sircars in the bazar are not idle men. It is only in the public offices that stagnation reigns. It is not therefore a real or just ground for complaint if in a few public offices for public reasons a few clerks are required to attend office on certain days which are allowed to remain holidays to the great majority of clerks employed in the public service."

What is here stated regarding the activity of trade during the Durga Puja holidays is confirmed by the following passage in the letter from the Secretary to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, dated the 27th March 1890:—

"The Committee beg further to observe they take particular note of the fact that trade is very brisk during the Puja holidays, the demand for a number of articles being larger during the twelve days than throughout the rest of the year. This may be explained by reason of the large influx of people from all parts of the country bent upon making the most of the holidays. The curtailment of the holidays must necessarily involve a serious pecuniary loss to the trade."

For these reasons, while regretting that the arrangement proposed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should not commend itself to those representatives of the Hindu community whose replies are enclosed in your letter, the Government of India sanctions the proposals made, and authorizes the issue of the notifications forwarded by you.

I am, however, to observe that if the Governor-General in Council rightly understands the letters from Mahamahopādhyāya Mahesh Chandra Nyāyaratna, dated the 4th and 14th November 1889, it would seem that the 23rd October is one of those days which should be set apart as required for religious observance, and His Excellency in Council would suggest, for the consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, that it might be added to the 20th, 21st, and 22nd October in the list of holidays to be notified under the Act. If this is done the balance might be redressed by removing the 24th December from the holidays to be gazetted under the Act, and entering it as an office holiday in the other notification.

3. The Governor-General in Council accepts the proposals of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as regards the offices under the Government of Bengal to be kept open during the holidays which will henceforth not be notified under the Act. In all these offices special arrangements should be made, by contracting the hours of business, by limiting the work undertaken to what is really urgent, by granting leave to Hindu employes wherever practicable, and by utilizing as much as possible the services of their non-Hindu fellow-clerks to minimise the inconvenience which may be felt by those who have hitherto enjoyed close holidays on the days which will in future be open. Under proper arrangements, so far from hardship being entailed on any considerable section of the community, not more than three or four Hindu clerks under the Government of Bengal are likely to be affected by the change. Separate orders to the same effect will be given by the Government of India in regard to the offices directly subordinate to it which are situated in Calcutta.

4. I am to request that, with the Lieutenant-Governor's permission, this letter and yours to which it is a reply, with the enclosures of the latter commencing with your letter Nos. M1—H-1-18-22, dated the 19th January last, and the two letters from Pandit Mahesh Chundra Nyāyaratna, may be published for general information in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

No. 5107, dated Calcutta, the 30th January 1890.

From—Lieut. E. W. Petley, R.N., Port Officer and Shipping Master, Calcutta.

To—The Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. Mis. 1-H-1-35, dated the 20th instant, and annexure, calling for the opinion of this office in respect of certain proposals relating to the public holidays in Bengal, and in reply to state that it appears to me that the proposal contained in paragraph 29 of the letter of the Government of Bengal Nos. Mis. 1-H-1-18-22 of the 19th idem, will meet the requirements of the mercantile community as represented by the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association; but I fear the publication of the proposed double notification will cause hardship to the Government employes who will be deprived of their holidays. My reason for such opinion is based on the following grounds:—

In the six departments and offices which the notification will affect, the bulk of their establishments is composed of Hindus, who usually take this opportunity of visiting their country homes during the Doorga Pooja vacation. These homes, I understand, are mostly ancestral properties, where the social system of the Hindus, being of a patriarchal type, all the relatives, close and distant, of the holders of these properties meet from the different parts of India, and this deprivation of intercourse between relatives, &c., is the hardship which will chiefly be felt, and which concession in the way of leave,

&c., at other times, when families are again separated, will hardly satisfy.

No. 75, dated Calcutta, the 3rd February 1890.

From—Baboo Pratapa Chandra Ghosha, Registrar of Calcutta,  
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1-H-1-34 Mis., dated the 20th ultimo, forwarding copy of letter No. 1-H-1-18-22 Mis. of the Financial Department, with its annexure of draft notification regarding the holidays to be observed in public offices, for opinion and report.

1. In reply, I beg to submit my views on the point indicated in paragraph 29 of your letter *seriatim*.

(1) The publication of the notification, draft of which has been annexed to the letter under reply, will, in my humble opinion, make a clear distinction between public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act and those notified by executive order only in so far that the exchange banks will remain closed on the "public holidays" only and not on the other days. The excepted offices will, as a matter of fact, be kept wholly open, and although the benevolent special instructions of the Government direct that, though it is not expedient to close them on the days in question, it is hoped that it will be possible to relieve of their duties on those days any ministerial officers whose religious requirements compel them to apply for leave, the heads of departments as a matter of fact will find great difficulty in extending that privilege, exigencies of the service constraining them to refuse the just claims of the poor clerks who cannot force themselves into the notice of the higher authorities without suffering seriously in return. The Government cannot be unaware that it is as much difficult for poor clerks to make their grievances heard as it is for Government to make the heads of departments carry on their business with a portion of their establishment in attendance.

(2) I believe the effect of the publication of these notifications will wholly meet the growing requirements of trade and commerce. It is not for me to remark that whether the mercantile community have proved that they have any real complaint to make. The Negotiable Instruments Act was passed in 1881. And in 1888 and 1889 the Government has been pleased to negative the Chamber's representations because the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous though less influential portion of the community. Within this short interval, forgive me if I say no new circumstance has intervened as to justify the reversal of the most noble, wise, and statesman-like ruling the Bengal Government issued in 1889, *i. e.* last year. In my humble opinion, further enquiries are necessary to ascertain the exact nature of the loss complained of by the mercantile community. The inconvenience arising from the closure of the exchange banks may easily be removed without the direct interference of Government; for, as the constituents of these banks are members of the mercantile community, they may be kept open or close at their pleasure.

(3). I cannot help confessing that the publication of these notifications will not only inflict serious hardship on a considerable section of the community by depriving them of holidays which they now enjoy, but will extend its evil effects not only to the Hindoo community at large but to all classes of population in Calcutta. In these days, when the demonstrative feeling of the community is in its highest tension, a curtailment as indicated by the notification is likely to wake up invidious distinction in the minds of the Hindoo community especially, for within the last couple of years, while the Government has recognised the propriety of closing offices on days of Mahomedan festivals, a backward movement has been evinced in the case of the Hindoo community by the deprivation of the privileges which the latter have been enjoying ever since the British flag was unfurled from the towers of Fort William. For nearly two centuries the Government has not thought it proper to recognise the rights of the Mahomedan community of Calcutta, and the good which the extension of the privileges to that section of the community by closing public offices on Mahomedan festivals is calculated to secure will, I am constrained to admit, be greatly counterbalanced by the unpleasantness which the contemplated curtailment will create in the minds of the Hindoo community. I need not add that such a curtailment will, in addition to the unpleasantness mentioned above, materially injure and inconvenience the public non-trading community generally.

2. The question of the number of public holidays in the Bengal Province has been the subject of much discussion for upwards of a quarter of a century, and although the mercantile community of Calcutta, represented by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades' Association, have been urging for the last 30 years the desirability of affording greater facilities to the trade by reducing the number of Hindoo holidays observed in public offices, considerations of privations and difficulties to which the general community as well as the clerks would be subjected have always

influenced the patriarchal Government in ruling otherwise. The attitude of the Chamber has, however, become stronger every year, and it may be surmised that some inconvenience and loss are sustained by the mercantile community owing to the long Doorga Poojah vacation which under the Negotiable Instruments Act have become public holidays, and that that loss is principally due to the closing of the following offices :—

(1) The Office of Collector of Customs. (2) The Office of Shipping Master. (3) The Office of Collector of Stamp Revenue. (4) The Office of the Stamping Department of the Superintendent of Stamps. (5) The Office of the Salt Rowannah and Opium Sale Department of the Board of Revenue.

3. It will be observed that from the list I have excluded the office of the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, and my reason for doing so I will have the honour to submit further on. It is not for me to say that the customs and habits of the country of adoption of the mercantile and trading community should bear some weight in determining the question of holidays and balance of convenience, nor am I justified to refer in detail to the accommodations already provided for by keeping open the Customs and the other offices, but I cannot help observing that the period of 12 days already fixed for the Doorga Poojah vacation is the minimum to which it can possibly be reduced.

4. The proposal regarding the curtailment of public holidays, as has been set forth in the Government letter, has to be considered in its two different aspects—firstly, in so far as it will affect the general public by the opening or closure of the public offices generally; and secondly, in so far as it will affect them by the opening or closure of the office of the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta.

5. As regards the first side of the question I need not repeat the arguments already before the Government, as they had been put forth by abler and more influential members of the community. As a Hindoo officer and having a certain number of Hindoo clerks under me, and having to deal with all classes of Hindoo and mercantile community of Calcutta, I cannot but record that the Doorga Poojah vacation is already too short. I do not know what interested political pundit has induced the Government to believe that the real Doorga Poojah ceremonies occupy only three days. There is not a Hindoo pundit or layman who can say that the real Doorga Poojah does not extend over a period of more than fifteen days. It commences on the ninth day of the waning moon and ends on the tenth day of the waxing fortnight following. It may be said that there are not many families in Calcutta who observe the ceremony for such a long period—that is to say, who observe the *Navamyadi Kalpa*; but the same argument may be urged against the “three days” (correctly five days) ceremony, for, as a matter of fact, there are few families who observe even the same. Properly speaking, the minimum observance of the poojah occupies five days, for it commences on the sixth and ends on the tenth day of the waxing moon. But the Doorga Poojah of the Hindoos of to-day is in one sense more important than the great *Asvamedha* (horse sacrifice) of the Vedic period, inasmuch as the horse sacrifice was observed by the ruling sovereigns only, while the Doorga Poojah (the *Asvamedha* of the Iron Age) is observed by all classes of people—nay, it is said in the *Shastras* that it is to be observed by the *Mlecchas*, *Savaras*, and all non-Hindoo races; besides, the *Asvamedha* was a free will offering, while the Doorga Poojah to every Hindoo is a compulsory observance and not to observe it is a sin; and although the actual worship may not occupy a longer period, the

preparations, the collections of a thousand and one things for the proper performance of the ceremony cannot possibly be made in a short time. Besides, the five days and nights are fully occupied in observing ceremonies both social and religious. On the tenth day, until the idol is placed in the water, many Hindoo families observing fast do not prepare their food, and many a family invite their friends close upon midnight of the tenth day of the moon and feast together. It is unnecessary to repeat that all the arrangements for sending ladies to their fathers' house or bringing them back to their husbands fall on the nine auspicious days of the Doorga Poojah so well known throughout India as the *Navaratri*. And last, though not the least, is the ceremony of the autumnal *Navanna*, a ceremony observed on the income of the new crop, which is pre-eminently directed to be observed in that fortnight of the month of *Asvin* when the Devi is worshipped.

6. As regards the second side of the question, the office of the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, is not much resorted to by the mercantile community for any urgent or ephemeral or temporary accommodation of business, for, under the Act, such negotiable instruments have been classed under the optional heads. I have not as yet had an occasion to register a single on-demand note, promissory note, hundi, &c., and documents of that nature executed by the mercantile or trading community of Calcutta in course of their business. All such transactions are primarily kept confidential, and the mercantile community loathe to give publicity to such deeds which affect their commercial credit. The only class of deeds for which they resort to this office are of a permanent nature such as leases, mortgages and conveyances, which, under the Act, may be presented any time within four months from the date of execution. Powers of attorney alone of persons abruptly leaving Calcutta not previously arranged may require the Registrar to authenticate during the 12 days' vacation. But the wide distribution of registration offices throughout India and the more liberal provisions of section 33, clause (b), have provided for all such contingencies. It will thus be seen that the closing of the office of the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, is not likely to inconvenience the mercantile community any way.

I beg to append a statement showing the number of registrations effected by merchants and traders and also by the non-trading community of Calcutta during the first 15 days following the expiry of the Doorga Poojah vacation. It will be seen that the table contains statistics of the past 20 years, and the figures in column 3, which show the number of registrations by merchants and traders, fully corroborate the fact that the Calcutta Registry Office is rarely resorted to by the mercantile community of Calcutta during the period which intervenes between the expiry of the 12 days' Doorga Poojah vacation and the re-opening of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta. I have left out figures for the five years preceding the two decades, as my office records do not show any important transactions by merchants and traders during that period. It will also be seen from the statement that even of the few registrations relating to purely mercantile transactions a good portion were powers of attorney, a class of documents of not an urgent nature, as has already been noticed. Although it is out of place to mention here and in the face of the proposals for curtailment of holidays, I cannot help observing that the office of the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, may be kept closed with the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, without putting the mercantile community of Calcutta to any the least inconvenience and loss.

## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lall Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Monday the 20th day of August at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate :—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed messuage tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Muktaram Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others,

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring  $9\frac{1}{2}$  cottahs more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonnee Dass on the North by the public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydia Nath Ooriya and Nilmonnee Dass.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottahs 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhaghat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the

town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottahs more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Bural and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.

24th July, 1890.



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## TRAVELS &amp; VOYAGES IN BENGAL

BETWEEN

Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,

BY

**SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,**

Formerly Minister to the late

NAWAB FARIDDOON JAH BAHADOOR,  
(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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CALCUTTA.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of *Reis and Rayyet*, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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This Company's Steamer "SCINDE" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 29th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 26th inst.

**CACHAR LINE.**

The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 5th proximo (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 2nd proximo.

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and

**DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.**

A daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over half a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. train (Madras time) from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta *via* Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels *via* Kannia only.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1890.

No. 435

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY

### THE LAMENT OF A STRICKEN HEART.

BY HELEN IRVING.

I CANNOT smile, though joyous summer flingeth  
Her golden radiance over wood and wave,  
'Mid all her beauty, I but feel she bringeth  
Young flowers, beloved, to bloom above thy grave.

Above thy grave—the couch where thou art sleeping,  
Who wert more fair than any flower could be,  
They and the angels watch alternate keeping,  
Breathing their low, sweet requiem over thee.

On the still night wind through the lattice stealing,  
Floats in the quivering melody to me,  
But of my sorrowing soul no sad revealing,  
Angel or night wind may bear back to thee.

Thou art at rest—and all the anguish rending  
The heart erst one with thine, thou canst not know ;  
Thine ear hears not the agonized upending  
Of prayer on prayer from out this crushing woe.

Lone is the home whence thy young life hath parted,  
Hushed is the air that knew thy love's low tone,  
Gone is the light thy starry soul imparted,  
Grief's dark'ning veil o'er heart and hearth is thrown.

Waking or sleeping, comes the thought that never  
Thy hand again in love's warm clasp may thrill,  
Thine eye's soft fire shall glow no more forever,  
Thy heart's quick pulses evermore are still.

I know, the form that 'neath the sod reposes,  
Thou for an angel-glory hast laid down,  
And but put off love's coronal of roses,  
To wear a radiant and immortal crown.

I know, beloved, thy cherished voice is lending  
Its glorious music to the choir above,  
Thy soul of light, with kindred spirits blending,  
Bathes in the beauty of a heavenly love.

But ah, my world is desolate without thee,  
And storm-clouds hide the stars I fain would see ;  
Oh, for His holy presence round about me,  
To light my spirit on, to heaven and thee !

## COMMON SENSE.

By James T. Fields.

She came among the gathering crowd,  
A maiden fair, without pretence,  
And when they asked her humble name,  
She whispered mildly, "Common Sense."

Her modest garb drew every eye,  
Her ample cloak, her shoes of leather—  
And when they sneered, she simply said,  
"I dress according to the weather."

They argued long, and reasoned loud,  
In dubious Hindoo phrase mysterious,  
While she, poor child, could not divine  
Why girls so young should be so serious.

They knew the length of Plato's beard,  
And how the scholars wrote in Saturn ;  
She studied authors not so deep,  
And took the Bible for her pattern.

And so she said, "Excuse me, friends,  
I find all have their proper places,  
And Common Sense should stay at home  
With cheerful hearts and smiling faces."

## THE GRAVE.

A FRAGMENT FROM THE ANGLO-SAXON.

(MS. Bodl. 343.)

DEATH.

A House was built for thee,  
Ere thou callest dust thy Brother ;  
A mould was shapen for thee,  
Ere thou camest from thy Mother ;—  
Its height is not known—  
Its depth is not measured—  
'T is locked by no stone,  
Till thy bones therein be treasured,  
Until that I bring thee  
Whence thou shalt part never,  
Until that I measure thee  
Thy clay-bed forever !—  
Thy house is not built high,  
Nor lofty thy chamber,  
Yet therein thou well canst lie,  
Though lowly that chamber,—  
Its sideways are lowly—  
Its heelways are narrow,  
Yet therein thou well canst lie  
In that dim house of sorrow.  
The roof is built over thee  
To thy breast full nigh ; wearily  
There shalt thou dwell, in cold,  
Darkly, and drearily.  
Doorless is that dread House—  
Darkness dwells in it.  
Death keeps, for aye, the key—  
Fast art thou bound in it—  
Loathly is that Earth-House,  
And grimpest to dwell in—  
The worms shall divide thee,

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

Yet thou shalt dwell therein—  
 There shalt thou yet be laid—  
 And leave thy friends near thee.  
 Thou hast no friends ;—afraid  
 They'll never come near thee,  
 To ask how it liketh thee,  
 That dim house of sorrow,  
 Or ope the door, to ask for thee,  
 After to-morrow.  
 For soon thou growest loathly,  
 And hateful to look upon,  
 And soon from thy forehead  
 Thy locks fall one by one—  
 From thy ringlets their fairness  
 Is scattered, no finger  
 Shall pass through their smoothness :—  
 None near thee shall linger.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

LAST two weeks, we gave the programme of the Lieutenant-Governor's tour for the months of July and August. Here is the revised programme for September. Sir Steuart Bayley and party arrive at Bettiah on the 30th August :—

Sunday, 31st	...	Halt Bettiah.		
September.				
Monday, 1st	...			
Tuesday, 2nd	...	Arrive Motihari...	...	By rail.
Wednesday, 3rd	...	Arrive Siraha	...	By road.
Thursday, 4th	...	Return Motihari	...	"
Friday, 5th	...	Mozufferpore	...	By rail.
Saturday, 6th	...			
Sunday, 7th	...	Halt.		
Monday, 8th	...			
Tuesday, 9th	...	Arrive Bankipore	...	"
Wednesday, 10th	...	Arrive Gya	...	"
Thursday, 11th	...	Halt.		
Friday, 12th	...	Return Bankipore	...	"
Saturday, 13th	...	Halt.		
Sunday, 14th	...	Arrive Durbhunga	...	"
Monday, 15th	...			
Tuesday, 16th	...	Halt, including visit to Sitamarhi by rail, if open.		
Wednesday, 17th	...			
Thursday, 18th	...	Via Pertabgunge to Purneah	...	By rail.
Friday, 19th	...	Halt.		
Saturday, 20th	...			
Sunday, 21st	...	Arrive Rungpore	...	"
Monday, 22nd	...	Halt.		
Tuesday, 23rd	...			
Wednesday, 24th	...	Arrive Darjeeling	...	"

Alternative if connexion across Kosi is impossible.

September.				
Tuesday, 9th	...	Arrive Durbhunga.		
Wednesday, 10th	...			
Thursday, 11th	...	Halt Durbhunga ; visit Sitamarhi and Pertabgunge and return to Bankipore.		
Friday, 12th	...			
Saturday, 13th	...	Arrive Gya.		
Sunday, 14th	...	Halt.		
Monday, 15th	...			
Tuesday, 16th	...	Return Bankipore.		
Wednesday, 17th	...	Leave Bankipore.		
Thursday, 18th	...	Arrive Purneah.		

AN Australian clergyman, the Revd. Nathaniel Kinsman, for marrying a minor, has been fined, by the Supreme Court of Victoria, £100.

JOHN Scoles attempted to swim through the whirlpool rapids of Niagara. He succeeded in reaching the rapids, and was then dashed against the rocks and washed ashore, injured but safe.

THE remains of the Polish poet, Mickiewicz, have been reinterred at Cracow. The ceremony was very impressive and 1,00,000 Poles from various parts of Europe and America attended.

IT is said that all the Catholic bishops and cardinals will meet at Rome in the spring, to discuss the position of the Church and the question of a successor to Pope Len.

THE *Eastern Guardian* hears that Mr. C. Kunhi Kanan, late Deputy Collector of Malabar, sentenced to two years' imprisonment for bribery and corruption, has been set free and is now at Calicut.

THE Madras Railway has commenced to run third-class carriages specially constructed with latrine accommodation for female passengers. When will the East Indian Company introduce the reform?

MESSRS. Petty and Co. (Silver-town, London) have, it is said, been able to prepare castor oil free from its characteristic odour and taste. The *London Medical Journal* certifies that it has not the slightest odour of castor oil and that it possesses a bland, pleasant taste.

IT is reported from Toth-Aradacz, in Hungary, that a stone shaft from heaven weighing eighty pounds fell and forced open a spring of water. It was truly a godsend, for the neighbourhood had been badly in need of good drinking water. An Anglo-Australian who has a collection of such curiosities has purchased the aerolith for £200.

WE take the following Hyderabad news from Our Own Correspondence column of the *Advocate of India* of July 28. The letter is dated Hyderabad (Deccan), July 24 :—

"Heretofore the topic of conversation was the Sowar Commission. Now the name of Abdul Huq is on the lips of every one. With the concurrence of the Resident, the Nizam's Government has decided to institute legal proceedings against Sirdar Abdul Huq for the recovery of the large amount he obtained from the Deccan mining concessionaires. A meeting was held at the Residency on Sunday last, and the question was discussed there in the presence of three leading officials of the Nizam's Government. Sirdar Abdul Huq has arrived here, and naturally all sorts of rumours are rife about his visit.

The *Shaukat-ul-Islam*, an Urdu weekly, had a leader the other day on the doings of the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Syed Hussam Bilgrami. The *Shaukat* denounces Mr. Bilgrami's measures in very strong terms. The article has created quite a sensation here. A correspondent contradicts the *Shaukat* in the columns of the *Safa-i-Deccan*, the leading Urdu paper here. It may not be out of place to add that the *Safir*, which is now the only daily in the Deccan, [is] edited by Mr. S. M. Mitra, a Bengali gentleman from Calcutta, who read Persian and Urdu at Lucknow, Agra, and other centres of Mahomedan literature.

We have amongst us a Hindoo *swami* who has travelled from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin, and has besides, visited China, Japan, Ceylon, and Russia. It is worth noticing that he went all the way to Russia by the land route during the troublous days of 1879. He has always been a vegetarian. In Russia he was the guest of Dr. Nishikanta Chattopadhyaya, late Principal of the Hyderabad College. At the request of the Hindu public the *swami* has very kindly consented to deliver a lecture on his experiences as a traveller. He speaks English fluently.

We have now amongst us the Rev. Rajab Ali. This gentleman is a native of Peshawar, and, as the name will show, was born a Mahomedan. He is now a Wesleyan missionary. He has in the press a work in Urdu on the administration of Hyderabad and the principal families of the State, including the Paigah, Salar Jang, and the Peshkar family."

An Arabic name is no more evidence of Mahomedan birth than an English name is guarantee of British birth.

This Mahomedan Wesleyan seems more of a political *litterateur*, if not a publishing hack, than a missionary.

A travelling Swami who speaks English fluently, must be an interesting character. But it is nothing surprising that a Hindu *religieuse* has always been a vegetarian.

A. M. MORELLETT has found that suddenly dipped in boiling glycerine, vulcanised india-rubber becomes non-vulcanised, that is, its parts can be readily united and it dissolves in the common solvents of caoutchouc. The glycerine must be boiling at the moment of contact.

HERE is a mermaid story :—

"W. W. Stanton, mate of the schooner 'Addie Schaeffer,' now lying at the Market House Dock, Jacksonville, while fishing for bass 300 miles off St. Augustine, drew in his line, and found entangled therein the strangest fish, if it is a fish, that has ever been caught. This strange creature is about six feet long, pure white, and scaleless. The head and face are wonderfully human in shape and feature. The shoulders are well outlined, and very much resemble those of a woman, and the bosom is well defined and shows considerable development, while the hips and abdomen continue the human appearance. There are four flippers, two of which are placed at the lower termination of the body, and give one the impression that nature made an effort to supply the strange creature with lower limbs. Mr. Stanton confesses to quite a fright at first sight of his queer prize, which, on being drawn on board, gave utterance to a low, moaning cry, which might easily have been mistaken for the sobbing of a baby. It is extremely unfortunate that Mr. Stanton did not succeed in keeping the creature alive, which he thinks might have been done, as the strange object lived two days after being taken. The schooner has been thronged daily by curious visitors, who express much wonder and astonishment at the strange object. Mr. Stanton, after visiting several ports and showing his queer creature, will donate it to the Smithsonian Institution. The fish, or mermaid, is in a large six-foot glass jar in alcohol."

BRITISH power is being firmly founded. The Sessions Judge at Quetta has capitally sentenced Sirdar Sher Khan, a man of consequence on the frontier, on a charge of murder of Sher Mahomed. There is great sensation in consequence and an attempt is being made to procure a reprieve.

HERE is an instance of commercial morality which is exceedingly rare in these hard—and "fast"—times. We read:—

"A large European firm in Bombay discovered that in its transactions with a certain railway company, it had unwittingly cheated. The transactions were all over, and there was no probability that the Railway people would ever come to know the true state of the case. Messrs. A. and Co. however drew up a cheque for Rs. 17,000 and sent it to the company as the sum that should have been paid but for the trickery of an up-country agent of theirs whom they dismissed."

This was the usual thing among native merchants, before the invention of stamp and registration and scientific codes.

LADY Lansdowne left Bombay on the 18th July and reached Aden on the 26th after a protracted and extremely rough voyage.

MR. Seymour Keay, M. P., is expected at Hyderabad shortly, to return in time for the Session in November.

MR. A. O. Hume will leave London by the Peninsular line on the 4th October, reaching Bombay towards the end of the month. Having finished his business in connection with the Congress, he hopes to be able to leave at the end of March.

THE Administrator General's Act, II of 1874, as amended by Acts I of 1879, IX of 1881, and II of 1890, has been extended to the whole of Upper Burma, excepting the Shan States.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

SOUTH America seems in the full swing of one of her periodical fits of civil commotion and bloodshed. Our readers are already aware of the Revolution in the Amazonian land of Brazil. She packed off to Europe the Emperor she gave her. The revolutionary spirit is wonderfully catching and is making itself felt in the adjoining states, all peopled by Indo-Portuguese or Indo-Spaniards. There has been a revolt in the Argentine Republic, originated by the military. It was aimed principally against the President Celman and his corrupt practices. It commenced with fighting in the streets of Buenos Ayres in which many persons were killed. The President fled to Rosario and the rebel government was proclaimed. The Foreign Ministers mediated, the Government troops were reinforced, the President reappeared from his hiding place, but the insurgents insisted on his resignation. They entrenched themselves with artillery in the Retiro quarters of the town, the Government fortifying the Plaza Mayo facing Government House. A general amnesty followed. It was at one time reported that M. Celman had resigned and M. Pellegrini been appointed President and quiet restored. That news was, however, contradicted. The latest advices spoke of continuous firing until the rebels had exhausted their cartridges. The resignation of the President was doubted, but the insurgents had yielded and rebellion was suppressed. Another telegram confirmed the restoration of peace, and the surrender of the rebel squadron, giving the total loss at a thousand killed and five thousand wounded, and announcing the decision of the Chambers suspending payment of the state's obligations for a month. This peaceful news was immediately followed by that of rioting in the country districts and the tearing up of the Southern Railway. All, however, is quiet at Buenos Ayres. The Banks have reopened. A conciliatory cabinet is being formed and M. Celman continues as President.

An insurrection too has commenced against the President Barillas in Guatamala. It is feared, that the troops will join the Salvadorians who are advancing and a decisive battle is shortly expected. The telegraphic communication with the Argentine Republic and Guatamala is suspended.

COTTON disease has broken out in Egypt. The worm is ravaging the crops in the provinces. Poor Egypt!

The United States Government begin, from the 13th, purchasing silver under the new law which has raised the price of the metal, to the joy of the exporters and grief of the importers in this country.

The cry against the sentences on the Grenadier Guards has not been unheeded in the proper quarters. The Duke of Cambridge will reconsider the orders with a view to remission.

The six new Indian Civilians have been entertained at dinner at the Northbrook Club.

Severe cholera is reported from Mecca.

THE House of Commons has passed the Bill for the cession of Heligoland. During the debate Sir James Fergusson admitted that a portion of the commerce from the African mainland would be diverted to German ports, but it has been arranged that the Germans would gladly welcome any British Indians who might be tempted to settle there.

LORD Cross is anxious that the Indian Councils Bill be passed this session. The second reading in the Lower House was fixed for Thursday, but it had to be postponed until after Supply. It may if feasible be taken up during the stages of the Appropriation Bill. Mr. Bradlaugh stigmatised the tactic as a breach of promise.

THE Uncovenanted Service Committee propose that the paying of pensions to civilians resident in Great Britain be at a minimum of one shilling and nine pence per rupee, that a portion of furlough count as service towards pension, and that the age of twenty instead of twenty-two count for pension service. They are not, however, prepared to recommend any distinction for Engineers. Sir John Gorst has announced that the new rules will not have retrospective effect.

THE Wandering Jew must work out his primeval curse to the bitter end. He is that abject thing, that anomaly in creation, who defies the philosophy of Walter Scott and boldly faces the Poet's self-complacent question,—

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,  
As home his footsteps he hath turned,  
From wandering on a foreign strand!

and boldly proclaims, Behold! I am the man! He is not only without a country but without even a resting place *pro tem*. The Czar has issued an ukase expelling all the Jews from the country districts and ordering them to live in Ghettos—wherever or whatever that may be—in towns, thus by one stroke—a single scratch of the quill—rendering a million of the chosen people homeless. They are further excluded from all liberal callings.

Alas! for the rarity  
Of Christian charity  
Under the sun!  
O! it was pitiful!  
In a whole Empire full,  
Home they had none.

WE are glad to notice a proper utilisation of the Rampore hoards. The Council of Regency has been advised to provide the capital estimated at half a crore of rupees for a railway line from Bhoj-pura, on the Rohilkhand and Kumaon line, to Rampore and Moradabad, the Bengal and North-Western Company undertaking the construction.

THERE is a movement for abolition of the Simla Municipality. Can the summer capital be above that needs of modern civilization, or are the municipal rates too heavy to be borne with easy enjoyment of life up in the hills?

IT is no small evidence of progress in these days that the value of European medicine has penetrated malarial belt and dense forest up the hills to the great independent principality in the North. The Nepal Durbar has recognized the need of a public hospital. On the



9th July one such was opened at Khatmandu with some ceremony, in the presence of the Minister and the British Resident. It is, we believe, intended to give relief of all kinds.

THE educational destitution of Indore having attracted the notice of the British authorities, we are glad to notice that the Maharaja is exhibiting signs of attention to the subject. He is going to start a College towards which a monthly grant of Rs. 2,500 has been sanctioned. This institution will teach up to the M. A. standard of the Calcutta University, with which it will be affiliated.

IT is reported that Sir Mortimer Durand is not returning till the Government goes back next year to Simla, with which view he will obtain extension of leave to March 1897. At the same time, the rumour having been revived of Sir Stuart Bayley retiring shortly, the Foreign Secretary is named one of the three candidates for succession, the others being Sir David Barbour and Mr. Mackenzie, Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces. All first class men, though the two latter only have adequate civil experience. The first would suit the Punjab better.

VERILY, the Annexander is abroad—as at home, in the Archipelago as on the Continent. After his late return from London, Raja Brooke of Sarawak has annexed Limbang, the largest and richest of the Provinces of the Raja of Brunei, on plea of misgovernment by the latter.

THE Maharaja of Indore had invited the Europeans to a grand ball at his Lal Bag Palace on the 26th July, towards which His Highness had sanctioned Rs. 30,000. But it could not take place owing to a death in the ruling family. There is great disappointment in consequence in European society in Central India. But it could not be held. There is mourning in the whole state. The deceased was no other than the reigning Prince's younger brother, Bala Saheb Yeswant Rao. He was a young man of great amiability as well as education, which he originally received at the Rajkumar College, under the late Abernethy-Mackay, the "Ali Baba" of Anglo-Indian Literature. The Maharaja Holkar showed every brotherly solicitude for his recovery, removing him to quarters near his own residence in order the better to be able to look after him. But notwithstanding all the care taken, his fever could not be combatted, and the young Prince at last died in the morning of the 24th, two days before that fixed for the ball.

The Maharaja Holkar doubtless appreciated his brother's innocent and retiring disposition. In an atmosphere of intrigue, the young Prince kept himself free from it. Many were the attempts made by the interested to embroil him, but in this he always showed a firmness apparently foreign to his character. The country will be a loser by the loss of so fine an example.

When Sir Lepel Griffin ruled in Central India as Agent to the Governor-General, he obtained the Maharaja's sanction to a monthly allowance of one lac between Bala Saheb and his mother Maharani Radha Bai. It was never paid, because it would not be received on the condition which was tackled to it, of enjoying it out of Indore Territory. A most honourable refusal. Good and gracious as they were, pliant to a degree, abstaining religiously from cabals at court or family feuds, loyal to the Maharaja, and agreeable to every wish of His Highness, neither mother nor son would consent to expatriation. Notwithstanding the associations of mammon-worship amid which they had been brought up, they spurned the humiliating offer to put money in their purse at the price of self-effacement as Indorees. They would leave their country under nothing short of state coercion. To the credit of the Maharaja, the patriotic citizens were not disturbed.

To the Bala Saheb's young widow and the Dowager Maharani, Radha Bai, his mother, we beg to offer our sympathy.

UNDER our head of News and Comments will be found a Hyderabad letter reproduced from another source. It calls for some additional remarks.

Sirdar Abdul Huq is now one of the millionaires of Bombay where he lives as a prince, independent of the favour of princes and ministers, and free from their anxieties. He is naturally a mark for the jealousy of his former fellow Durbarees.

What is the cause of the dead set against the Syuds of Belgrami? Is it because at a court of Loot they have not touched any? Or is

Bceotia wroth with the man who by creating out of nothing and organising out of chaos a department of Education, threatens its very character?

IN a contest for the Trades Challenge Cup under the Association rules, the Babus of the Shobhabazar Football Club, last week, beat the first team of the East Surrey Regiment by three goals to two. It is satisfactory to find that the Babus are going in for manly sports, but they should not make too much of the present triumph, which may have been accidental. That does not prove the masculine strength or muscularity of the Babu above the European. The name of the institution, we are afraid, is not handsome. To begin with, it is a misnomer. If our young gentlemen would be wedded to locality and are enamoured of the Bazaar, why, then there is every reason to prefer the good and excellent Bow to the vain Shobha. It is more Bowbazar than Shobhabazar.

So Harimohun Maiti must wash out his crime of rash lust on his child wife Foolmoni, by a twelvemonth's residence in No. 1, Chowringhee. He was already familiar with the place, for attempting a fraud on a neighbour. He challenged many European jurors, preferring to be tried by his own peers or countrymen. But his young advocate, without counting on the temper of the Bengali jurymen, essayed his rescue from the grasp of the law by fastening the guilt of his client on the customs of the country. This audacity the Bengali gentlemen of the jury resented. They, we understand, requested the foreman on their behalf to give a distinct denial to such imputations, which the maladroit foreman did not convey to the Judge. Maiti was charged under four different counts, namely, with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, causing death by a rash and negligent act, and causing hurt. He pleaded not guilty and denied that he had any intercourse with Foolmoni on the night preceding her death, although he had had several connections before. The Jury guided by the Judge's eminently impartial charge found Maiti guilty under Section 338 of the Indian Penal Code, of causing grievous hurt by doing an act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life, and Mr. Justice Wilson sentenced him to one year's rigorous imprisonment. The penalty laid down in the section is two years' imprisonment, of either description, or a fine of one thousand rupees, or both. So it was not a lenient punishment by which the Judge marked his disgust for the brutality of a husband of 36 on an immature wife of 10. Mr. Wilson is strong in these cases, and thoroughly British. He thus directed the Jury as regards the law in the case:—

"His lordship did not propose to do what he thought was dangerous, and give any universal and abstract definition of words used in law which the framers had not minutely defined. The wiser course would be to try and define and explain these words so far as was necessary for the purposes of the particular case before them. With regard to this case, he would tell them that if they were of the opinion that the accused caused the death of the girl, or further, if they were of opinion that the act was in itself dangerous, and further, that the act done was of such a nature as to indicate reckless indifference of the welfare of the girl, or a want of reasonable consideration about what the man was doing; if they thought the act was one which the husband, and the husband of a girl, if he had any reasonable regard for her welfare, and exercising reasonable thought of the act he contemplated, he would have refrained from doing it—the jury would be justified in finding him guilty of doing a rash and a negligent act."

He was judicial throughout. He would not import into the case the question of social reform raised out of it by some of the newspapers:—

"The case did not involve a question as to what was the proper age of marital intercourse, or what was the best test of fitness or unfitness for intercourse: that was a matter which was not for them to decide."

The guilt of the prisoner therefore rested on the condition of the girl—Was she in a state to receive the violence offered? If the section has been rightly applied, it applies to all cases irrespective of age of the wife. The condition and not the age of the wife and the conduct of the husband are material factors in the determination of the

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Vicissitudes of climate, exposure and hardships, tell heavily on soldiers and sailors, sowing the seeds of diseases which may ultimately break up the constitution. Naturally careless of their health a word in season may avert many evils, and may cause them to resort to timely measures without any difficulty or publicity. Holloway's effectual remedies are so suitable, and are so easily adapted for the varied complaints to which our soldiers and sailors are liable, that a supply should always be obtained before proceeding abroad. It may with confidence be stated that many a valuable life might have been saved, or confirmed cripple prevented from begging in the streets, if Holloway's remedies had been used in time.

guilt of the husband. The moral of the trial is a warning to all under the dominion of the Indian Penal Code, whosoever they may reside, not to use their marital rights rashly or negligently so as to endanger human life.

Here is the Judge's justification for invading the secret chamber of husband and wife :—

"To bring the law of the question to bear on the evidence in this case on the various charges framed against the prisoner, his lordship thought he must begin by asking the jury to give their careful consideration to distinguish between certain branches of the law, which had no connection with this case, and that which had connection with the case. The branch of law which had no connection with this case was that relating to rape. Rape constituted the offence of having intercourse with a female against her consent and when by the law she was not of the age to consent. In the case of a married female, as the jury probably knew, the law of rape did not apply as between husband and wife after the age of 10 years. But it by no means followed that because the law of rape did not apply between husband and wife after the wife had attained the age of 10 years, that it could be supposed that the law regarded the wife above 10 years as 'being made over to be the absolute property of the husband, or as a person outside the protection of the criminal law. It was not the law, and had never been the law, his lordship thought, under any system with which the Courts have had to do in this country, whether Hindoo or Mahomedan, or that framed under the authorities of the British rule—it had never been the rule that a husband had an absolute right to enjoy the person of his wife without regard to the question of her safety. If the circumstances were such that it was certain death of her, or that it was probably dangerous to her life, there is no absolute right to her husband without proper restraint on the husband of which the law takes care. The law is exceedingly jealous in all rights of the law. The law is exceedingly careful not to trespass inside the chamber of husband and wife, and never does, except in cases of absolute necessity; but as had been said before, the criminal law was applicable where the facts were such as to bring the case within the purview of the criminal law. His lordship was not aware of any recent case in this country in which such matters have had to come under the notice of a criminal court, but in earlier times there were reported cases in the Sudder Nizamat in which the husband was punished for having intercourse with his wife, she being unfit and immature."

We are truly grateful for such a declaration from the highest Court in the Empire, and we are sure the whole respectability of the Hindu community will bless the true Dharm Avatar whose dictum will be the protection of the weaker sex from the violence of the stronger, in the most momentous relation of the two.

All the same, we cannot help confessing some lurking doubt as to the technical accuracy of the view. It is scarcely consistent with the law that allows a suit for restitution of conjugal rights. In fact, that law requires amendment.

HER Majesty has created Prince Albert Victor, after his return from, and in reward apparently for, his arduous voyage to India and sight-seeing through the Empire, "Duke of Clarence and Avondale." That is all right—at any rate, quite in accordance with precedent. It does not take long or much for children of the Blood to win titles and even renown. In some strictly monarchical countries they have born Generals and Admirals—though these may not all prove Heaven-born warriors on land or sea. We now find the creation interpreted as a graceful compliment paid by the Queen to, above all, the subject who, in the opinion of many loyal citizens, is essaying heart and soul, might and main, to cause the virtual dismemberment of Her Majesty's dominions—Mr. Parnell. Avondale is the name of the great Home Ruler's Irish estate, from which he himself derives his title of "Master of Avondale." Thus is the compliment made out by loyal publicists. We confess this is beyond our loyalty or common sense. Had Her Majesty created Mr. Parnell Duke of Avondale—a capital idea, by the way, worthy of a Cæsar, which could not fail to have the most important political effects—we might understand. As it is, it looks like an unfair swamping, not to say niching, of the poor Irish squire's humble distinction.

THE glory of the unfortunate *Great Eastern* is about to be eclipsed, if, as is said, the Americans are going to construct a steamer, over a quarter of a mile in length, with accommodation for 10,000 passengers, to be propelled by electricity, which will run from Sandy Hook to Liverpool in thirty-six hours, keeping railway time despite storm or fog.

They have performed many a feat in engineering, and we doubt not their capacity, but is the game worth the candle? Their things are not usually "tip top," they having a sneaking leaning to Brummagem and the fictitious. But as in talk so in other matters, they have a fondness for the tall and the prodigious. If volume be a necessary element in sublimity, they are the sublimest people on earth: they certainly beat

all nations in the love of amplitude and vastness. Accordingly, they delight in Empire-Cities, monster hotels and theatres, mammoth shows, colossal statues. But whatever they put their hands to, they never forget to ask themselves, Will it pay? After the disappointment of the builders of the British Leviathan of the deep, we cannot suppose any business man will rush after another and a much greater monster of mechanical ingenuity and labour in the same line. Is electricity already dirt cheap? At any rate, it ought to be more extensively employed as a motive for ocean vessels before it was tried on such an enormous scale. So far from its use being common, we have not yet a name for the new vessels. We have no end of steamers—where are your, say, *electrimers*? After all the mechanical and material conditions are fulfilled, the prohibitive practical difficulty will remain—how to find the ten thousand passengers for each voyage? On the whole, we are inclined to dismiss the announcement which is going the round of the press as a piece of the yarn characteristic of trans-Atlantic journalism.

THE Paper Currency Act, 1882, provides for the retention of the coin and bullion received for currency notes as a reserve to pay these notes, excepting a sum not exceeding six crores of rupees as may be fixed by the Governor-General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State, such coin or bullion being investible in securities of the Government of India. Since 1877-78, such investment is at its maximum six crores, whereas the total note circulation has largely increased. In 1877-78 the minimum was Rs. 11,13,00,000; in 1888-89, it rose to Rs. 14,82,00,000; in 1889-90 it swelled to Rs. 14,96,00,000; and on the 7th July last it was as high as Rs. 18,00,00,000. It has, therefore, been thought desirable, with the acquiescence of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Chambers of Commerce and the approval of the Secretary of State, to increase the limit of investment from six to eight crores of rupees. Accordingly, the Finance Minister Sir David Barbour has introduced a Bill to amend the Act. The mover thinks that if the Government err at all, it is on the side of caution rather than that of rashness, and believes that there will be no opposition to a measure which is well within the limits of safety and which will ultimately add eight lacs of rupees yearly to the public revenue.

FOR the last two weeks, the Sujjada Nashin—the Pontiff—of the famous Mahomedan shrine at Ajmere has been in Calcutta. His name is Dewan Syud Ghyasooddeen Ali, and the title of Shaikh-ul-Mashaikh has been conferred upon him by His Excellency the Viceroy. He is a lineal descendant of the celebrated Mahomedan saint, Khajah Moenooddeen Chishtee, who died at Ajmere about six hundred years ago and whose remains lie buried in that shrine—one of the most magnificent mausoleums of India. This tomb is an object of the greatest veneration amongst the Mahomedans throughout India, and thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the country proceed there in all seasons of the year, but on the occasion of the Anniversary of the saint's death, the gathering is prodigious. The shrine is held in great reverence by even the Hindoos, and is visited by many of them. Readers of Indian History need not be reminded that the great Emperor Akbar went to Ajmere from Agra, all the way on foot, by short marches, on a pilgrimage to the saint's tomb. The Sujjada Nashin is in enjoyment of valuable Jageers not only from the Emperors of Delhi but also from the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Maharajah of Jeypore and others.

He is a guest of our townsman Nawab Abdool Luteef, and has made a very favourable impression upon those Mahomedan gentlemen here, who have visited him.

He had been to Dacca, where he stopped for a week or two, as the honored guest of Nawab Sir Abdool Ghunny.

THE Begum of Bhopal has, we hear, just purchased two of the buildings of the late King of Oudh, at Garden Reach, for a lac and ten thousand. This purchase must have been made with the express sanction of the Foreign Department, for, if we remember aright, Her Highness, when she was in Calcutta some years ago, entered into negotiations with the owner of Mr. Peacock's house in Russell Street, for the purpose of purchasing it, but Government refused to give their sanction to the purchase, probably on the ground that it was not convenient to allow Independent Chiefs to become owners of landed property in British India, and thereby become mixed up in lawsuits in our ordinary courts.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1890.

### UNIVERSITY SCANDALS AND THE REGULATIONS OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

SOME of the affiliated institutions of the Calcutta University have been caught tripping. When writing, last week, on the moral havoc worked by the University regulations for attendance, we had no idea that our remarks would receive such prompt verification. Not that breaches of regulations were not of frequent occurrence nor of the widest notoriety, but the University habitually shut its eyes and ears to them. It would take no cognisance of them without formal and specific complaints. Such complaints, however, are not easily made. A feeling of delicacy and personal dignity would deter most people from taking up such a position. No respectable man would relish the idea of being an informer. For the rest, violations of the University regulations were probably not confined to one or two institutions, and a sense of common interest sealed the mouths of all. Fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind. As for outside people, they had scarcely a sufficient motive for mixing themselves up with unpleasant matters. There are, besides, obvious difficulties in their way. Things must indeed have come to a serious pass to have at last roused the University from its lethargy. Some complaints of a specific kind have at last been made, and according to a report that has appeared in the papers they have been enquired into with the result that two of our Colleges have been found guilty. The following is the story of the *Hindoo Patriot* :—

"A serious complaint was made against the Ripon College by the authorities of a rival College. The charge was that the Ripon College granted a certificate of attendance to a habitual absentee, who went up to the last B. L. Examination and gained a high place in the University list. The student who brought such 'honor' to the College never attended its lectures, and yet managed to secure a certificate of attendance required by the University regulations. The Syndicate appointed a Committee to investigate the charge. The Committee found that the charge was not without foundation. The Syndicate has *disaffiliated* the erring College, in law, for one year. Some 'shady transactions' were also brought to light with regard to another College. It has escaped, we hear, with a heavy censure."

That story, circumstantial as it is, is not all true, we are afraid. At any rate, the *denouement* is premature. Certainly, no order of disaffiliation has been passed. The matter is still under consideration. The statement that the enquiry is due to a complaint from a rival College is also, we believe, incorrect. The complaint was made by a passed candidate who stood third in order of merit at the late B. L. examination. He urged his claim to the Gold Medal awarded annually to the highest in order of merit at this examination, on the ground that he was a *bonâ fide* student, while the two who stood above him and for whose success with such distinction the Ripon College had received so much credit never attended lectures. It was this which led to the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry. Before this Committee the authorities and records of other Colleges were, indeed, examined upon incidental issues, and this may have given rise to the impression that the enquiry was at the instance of another College.

Without any wish to defend the accused Colleges, we cannot help remarking that the vigor now displayed by the University is in marked contrast with its past attitude of indifference in regard to such and similar evasions of its regulations. That indifference is not

a little responsible for the prevailing laxity. The Minutes of the University bear witness that it had been apprised of these things, of course, in a general way, before this time. But it declined to take any action, unless furnished with specific allegations. One such complaint was, we understand, made by the Principal of the City College against one of the very Colleges that have now been found in fault, without eliciting any enquiry. The complaint was not even forwarded to the College complained against, for a report. The University may say that it only showed proper regard for the dignity of its affiliated institutions by the course it adopted in the case in question. It will nevertheless be asked, Had it no inkling of a state of things that was already a thing of general notoriety and that was serious in all conscience? If so, all the worse for a body that is so ready to lay down regulations which it has no means for enforcing. The Department of Education has prescribed a body of inter-school rules and it has an Inspecting agency to see to their observance. The University keeps no such agency for tracking out offences against its rules, nor apparently cares to note how far they are obeyed, nor will it listen to complaints when they are made, on the score of their being vague and general. All this is symptomatic of an easy-going disposition. This *insouciance* is not unnaturally interpreted into a desire to wink at evasions or violations of rules. At any rate, this is the popular interpretation, and it has certainly emboldened the parties and stimulated the practices which are, rather late in the day, being threatened with censure and disaffiliation.

The University may possibly have very good reasons for its past attitude. That attitude may be regarded as one of dignified non-interference, although it does not strike us as a policy of masterly inactivity. No doubt, the appointment of a regular agency for the detection of violations of its rules would scarcely be consistent with the dignity of the University itself or that of the Colleges. The very idea of espionage and of police surveillance in the hallowed domain of liberal culture is revolting. Nor is the encouragement of general complaints a desirable thing from even a business point of view. But what we urge is that its regulations should not be of a character to require a detective agency, or to give rise to evasions against which there must necessarily be complaints. They should not be such as to provoke a spirit of resistance in those who are affected by them. The University should not interfere too much with the internal economy of its subject institutions. Nor should its laws be too many or too complicated. They should avoid entering too much into details and, above all, they should not unnecessarily fetter the discretion of Heads of institutions in matters like the selection of candidates. Holding this view, we think the framers of the early bye-laws of the University were wise in avoiding the temptations to detailed interference. Those bye-laws were sufficiently general, and left a proper degree of discretion to the authorities of schools and Colleges. They might have been open to abuse now and then. Discretion is always liable to abuse, but there is no help for it. Abuse of discretion is a lesser evil than dishonest evasion of impracticable limitations. One of these limitations to the discretion of school-authorities, requiring them to certify to the "reasonable probability" of Entrance candidates passing the Examination has proved a fruitful source of mischief. Hundreds of candidates with no chance of suc-

cess have been, year after year, sent up with only the effect of swelling the revenue of the University and compelling the Headmasters of schools to give false certificates. The governing body of the University could not be ignorant of the falsehood of such certificates, but they winked at the fact until, in a year of an abnormally high percentage of failure, it was forced on their attention by a clamorous public opinion. They reconsidered the form of certificate, and, instead of expunging the impracticable clause and simplifying the form, they made the thing worse by introducing what are doubtless regarded as guarantees and safeguards against lax interpretation of the clause in future. The practical effect will be, as every body else knows, that where one falsehood was committed before, there will henceforth be a pack of recorded lies.

The rule requiring from candidates, at the higher University examinations, an attendance at 66 per cent. of the lectures in each subject is one which could have been conceived in only pedagoguish brains. In all probability, it has its origin in personal reminiscence. A Professor of History finds it hard to make his lectures sufficiently interesting: there is a stampede amongst the students the moment his turn comes. It is certainly very irritating to have to speak to all but empty benches, specially if the poor occupant of the chair does his best to make his lectures attractive. Failing to draw, he can bethink himself of nothing better than to compel reluctant attendance by procuring the passing of a regulation like the one under consideration. The tendency to keep away from lectures should certainly be checked. This tendency is now-a-days on the increase. The students rely too much on "coaches" and examination manuals and other instruments of cram to care much for the help of the recognised teachers. From all points of view, this is an evil which should be discouraged as far as possible, but the remedy should be sought in other ways than by the passing of hard and fast regulations. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that attendance is at best but a mechanical test of knowledge. There may be students, attending from year's end to year's end, who never come to any good, while others, prevented by illness or other equally unavoidable causes from attending the prescribed number of days, may yet be superior to them in point of merit. To exclude these on the score of their being short of the rigid standard of attendance by ever so small number of days, is a great hardship. Amongst these, there may be poor students, to whom a year's exclusion from the examination may really mean exclusion for ever. There is another aspect of the question. The test of attendance may, after all, be thoroughly fallacious. In the overgrown size of College-classes in these days, a species of immorality has come into vogue which cannot be easily checked, namely, that of getting oneself marked present in the register by proxy. This single fact ought to be enough to make the University hesitate in insisting on a test which, in reality, possesses little value. Indeed, the case resolves itself into one of much ado about nothing. It is a perfect farce when, for an object of such problematical importance, a number of registers has to be kept involving a large amount of clerical labor and of expenditure of vocal energy on the part of the lecturers who call the registers—all, to find that their registration has no statistical value. The absurdity of the

rule is made clear by other facts. The roll-call is by no means an easy affair in these days of unwieldily large classes. A quarter of an hour is the least time required to finish it. It entails a severe strain on the lungs—a strain further increased by the noise which cannot be prevented during the operation. To make the calls audible enough, one must pitch his voice to a high key, and this expenditure of energy represents so much loss of the power which should be carefully reserved for the main work of teaching. One would think this were too much of a terrible ordeal to go through once in the day to make the prospect of its repetition at all agreeable. But, under the present regulations, this must be repeated a number of times in the day, to the virtual diversion from study of one-fourth of the hours set apart for this purpose. Altogether, it is a most curious regulation which can only be worked at a serious sacrifice of time and energy, without any adequate advantage. This, coupled with the more serious hardships it entails on meritorious students unable, for no fault of their own, to complete the required attendance, ought to clinch the argument against its retention. The sooner it is withdrawn, the better for the good name of the University and the legitimate interests of all concerned.

#### THE DOORGA POOJA HOLIDAYS.

THE success of the mercantile agitation for the reduction of the Dooorga Pooja holidays is a striking instance of indomitable British energy. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce was determined to succeed and it has succeeded—by simple persistence. It was only in December 1889 the Chamber was told by the Government "that the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous, though less influential, portion of the community." Words could not more plainly convey a refusal, but their effect upon the Chamber was only to stimulate its resolution. It went to work with redoubled energy. In a week after the receipt of this apparently final reply, a deputation from the Chamber, consisting of Sir Alexander Wilson, Mr. Wylie, Mr. McCaw and Mr. Stuart, waited on the Lieutenant-Governor at Belvedere. This interview was the turning point in the history of the question. Influence and personal pressure at last prevailed where argument had failed. "The numerous, though less influential, portion of the community" were lost sight of in the presence and personality of the small deputation. The Belvedere interview was a happy hit, and it told. Since that event, the attitude of the Bengal Government underwent a complete change. In fact, the case had already gone *ex parte* against the holidays. One glimmering hope, indeed, remained, in the opposition of a portion of the mercantile community themselves. The Exchange Banks stood out for the holidays, and this was a fact which could not be brushed aside summarily even by an accommodating Government or an accomplished Secretary. These Banks plainly hinted that the majority of the mercantile community were not in favor of the reduction, and said "that it has not been effectively demonstrated, by a general vote or otherwise, whether reduction of holidays finds favor or disfavor among the majority at the present time." The Lieutenant-Governor was



thus confronted by a division in the camp of his *protégés*, and the way this difficulty has been got over shows which side the wind now blew. The Chamber was, indeed, called upon to set the doubtful point at rest by taking a formal vote. This the Chamber declined to do, for reasons which have not been given. The Committee of the Chamber only curtly replied that "they were unable to comply with the suggestion of the Government." They must have had good reasons for not trying. However, by way of strengthening the hands of Government which piteously called for help, they got an informal vote somehow or other passed unanimously on the occasion of the Chamber's Annual Meeting. No notice, be it remembered, was given to the members that the question of the holidays would come on for such a disposal. The value of an expression of opinion so procured may be appraised without much difficulty. Yet it was deemed sufficient by the Government of Bengal. The native community would have probably been content to rest the question on the point raised by the Exchange Banks and already accepted by the Government. But even this source of satisfaction is denied. The Chamber refuses to put and, the world may not unfairly take it, shrinks from putting the question to the only fair test of a majority of votes, and the good Government of Sir Steuart Bayley has only satisfaction to express in return for the Chamber's rebuff. Mr. Secretary Cotton is a courageous Knight of the quill and, after his recent *escapade*, he has need to plunge in desperate services to prove his loyalty. He puts a good face on the matter thus: "Although, as stated in my letter to the Chamber, it would have been more satisfactory to Government to have received an official reply as to whether any considerable minority of their members was opposed to any change, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the expression of opinion of the members of the Chamber on the occasion of their Annual General Meeting may be accepted as conclusive proof of the views of an overwhelming majority of the mercantile community of Calcutta." After this, the fate in store for the dissents of the other public bodies, and of some individuals, consulted by the Government on the subject, may be easily imagined. The reasons assigned by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Association, and the British Indian Association are set aside as being nothing new. New reasons on an old and threshed out matter are not so easy to create, while the fact must remain that those very reasons had, until now, their weight in the long protracted agitation on this subject of over thirty years.

The Lieutenant-Governor's sudden zeal for mercantile interests finds other incidental expression. His Honor would not allow a holiday even on the great day of Doorga Poojah Eve—the *Sasti*. Even the paid Kala Pahar of the Government of Bengal—the great iconoclast himself, who would have been better dubbed *Shums ul Olema* than *Mahamahapadyaya*, spared this day. But, evidently from an amiable wish to overwhelm the Chamber of Commerce with unexpected favors, Sir Steuart ran his pen through this day expressly retained in the list of the Pandits. This, however, has not escaped the discerning eye of the Viceroy. Lord Lansdowne has, with his usual consideration for the subject race, in terms of official courtesy asked the omission to be supplied. He has done more. With a touch of statecraft worthy of admiration, he suggested the removal of the Christmas Eve from the list of

holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, to leave the total of holidays under the Act intact. A little act of religious impartiality like this goes a great way to conciliate the people. The Viceroy's attitude on the general question is also marked by great sympathy for those who are politically precluded from the exercise of personal pressure on an alien government. Evidently, his Lordship has given his sanction to the proposals of the Local Government with the greatest reluctance. The evil done will work all the same, though.

Both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy are anxious that the effects of the reduction upon the Hindu employes in Government offices should be minimised as far as possible. His Lordship endorses the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks on the subject and says:—

"The Governor-General in Council accepts the proposals of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as regards the offices under the Government of Bengal to be kept open during the holidays which will henceforth not be notified under the Act. In all these offices special arrangements should be made, by contracting the hours of business, by limiting the work undertaken to what is really urgent, by granting leave to Hindu employes wherever practicable, and by utilizing as much as possible the services of their non-Hindu fellow-clerks to minimise the inconvenience which may be felt by those who have hitherto enjoyed close holidays on the days which will in future be open. Under proper arrangements, so far from hardship being entailed on any considerable section of the community, not more than three or four Hindu clerks under the Government of Bengal are likely to be affected by the change. Separate orders to the same effect will be given by the Government of India in regard to the offices directly subordinate to it which are situated in Calcutta."

These remarks are conceived in a thorough spirit of consideration. They are no doubt meant to sweeten the pill. The grievance, however, of Hindu clerks in mercantile employ is practically beyond any palliatives. It depends on the demeanour of their own masters, and the future will show where the present measure will culminate.

#### MONGHYR.

*Junalpoore, 30th July 1890.*

The local municipality has been working for sometime past without a chairman of its own, owing to the retirement of Mr. Strachan, the late chairman. All the European Commissioners too have resigned. It is at present managed entirely by natives, consisting of the Bengalee and Behari Commissioners, headed by Babu Doorluv Chunder Mozoomdar, the Vice-Chairman. Recently, an election took place by which a Bengali clerk attached to the Locomotive Department, E. I. Railway, was voted to the chair. Both Bengali and Behari Commissioners were present and voted, and although the Beharis by far outnumber the Bengalis, one of the latter people obtained the majority of votes, and the said Babu was elected as chairman. The matter is exercising the community. The rate-payers are some for and others against the result. There is even a talk of memorializing the higher authorities with a view to annual the election, and to appoint a suitable chairman in place of the elect, meaning a European of course.

A European by name Parsons, P. W. Inspector, employed in the E. I. Railway at Luckesra, committed suicide at his residence the other day. He tied a bed sheet round his neck and attaching it to a rope, by which a meatsafe was suspended, let himself drop to the ground, whereby the bed sheet tightened round his neck and strangled him. The cause has not been ascertained, but the deed is attributed to excessive drinking.

The people are suffering from the effects of the damp weather. It has been raining cats and dogs incessantly day and night, right through, for some days past. The river has risen unusually high, causing the low lands to be submerged, to the destruction of the crops.

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN BENGAL.

No. M1-H-2 16, dated Calcutta, the 21st April 1890.

From—H. J. S. Cotton, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Financial Dept.,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Dept. of Finance and Commerce.

I am directed to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, a copy of the correspondence which has passed between this Government and various local Associations and Offices regarding the notification of public holidays in the Bengal Province.

2. The history of the question is given in my circular letter of the 19th January to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and other Associations. The holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act in Bengal are now exactly the same as those which were sanctioned by the Government of India on the 29th October 1867. Although the Chamber of Commerce have not ceased to press for their reduction, their representations have, with reference to the orders passed by the Government of India on the 28th January 1880, and reiterated in 1882, been invariably rejected by this Government. A copy of the reply sent by the Lieutenant-Governor to the Chamber of Commerce in 1888 was transmitted to the Government of India with my letter No. M1-H-17, dated 17th September 1889. A copy of a correspondence with the Chamber in 1889 is among the enclosures now submitted. In the orders issued by Government on that occasion it was pointed out that the reasons adduced by the Government of India in 1882 against any reduction in the number of holidays were in full force, and the following extract from your letter No. 3712, dated 12th September 1882 was quoted:—

"The Governor-General in Council is aware that the closing of the Government offices in Calcutta for a period of 12 days is productive of some inconvenience to the mercantile community, but on the other hand it cannot be overlooked that, in the words of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous though less influential, portion of the community."

3. A new suggestion has, however, now been made, which it is believed will be able to satisfy the reasonable requirements both of the European commercial body and of the Hindu community. When the holidays for the current year were notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act by Government, a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce waited on the Lieutenant-Governor at Belvedere in December last, and strongly pressed upon His Honour the necessity of modifying the form of notification by which public holidays were gazetted. The deputation laid stress on the alteration which the passing of the Negotiable Instruments Act had introduced into the conditions of the problem since the decision of Government was arrived at ten years ago, and indicated that it might be found possible to find a solution of an admitted difficulty by restricting the number of holidays gazetted under the Act, but at the same time retaining by executive authority the existing number of holidays for all public offices save the few which are indispensable to the foreign commerce of the port. The question thus stated was then very carefully considered by the Lieutenant-Governor, and the result was the issue of the circular letter of the 19th January, to which I am to request that a reference may be made by the Government of India for a *résumé* of the discussion as well as of the arrangements it is proposed to adopt. His Honour's views are so fully expressed in that letter that it is not necessary to enter again upon the subject at any length.

4. Briefly speaking, it is now proposed to notify holidays in Bengal under two separate notifications: first, in regard to public holidays notified as such under the Negotiable Instruments Act; and, secondly, in regard to holidays which are notified as such by the closure of public offices. These two separate notifications would be in the form given and apply to the days specified in the draft notifications annexed to this Government letter of the 19th January.

5. Before publishing these notifications or applying to the Government of India for permission to modify the form in which public holidays are notified in Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor desired that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta Trades' Association, the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, the Bank of Bengal, the Exchange Banks, and the Heads of the Offices immediately concerned, should be consulted; and it will be seen from the replies which form an enclosure to this letter that the proposal has elicited considerable difference of opinion. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bank of Bengal, the Trades' Association, and the Board of Revenue give it their concurrence. But the letter from the Exchange Banks accords only a hesitating and incomplete support. The managers of these banks would evidently prefer to retain intact the holidays notified under the Act. They express themselves as perfectly willing to accept the proposals put forward by Government, if only the majority of the mercantile community is in favour of them. But they observe that "it has not been effectively demonstrated, by general vote or otherwise, whether reduction of holidays finds favour or disfavour among the majority at the present time." Looking to the importance of this question, the Lieutenant-Governor deemed it right to transmit the letter of the Exchange Banks to the Chamber and to consult the Committee again on the subject. Accordingly, upon the 17th February, I was directed to inform the Chamber that although the Lieutenant-Governor had no doubt that the opinion of the Chamber as a body had been expressed in the letter already received from their Secretary, yet, with reference to the observation made by the Exchange

Banks, it would be more satisfactory to Government if, with the permission of the President and Committee, it could be stated approximately how far the doubt expressed by the Banks, "whether a majority of the (mercantile) community is in favour of fewer holidays," can be set at rest by reference to the relative number of supporters of either view among the members of the Chamber. In reply to this letter the Committee intimated that they were unable to comply with the suggestion of Government that a formal vote of the Chamber should be taken on the question; but on occasion of the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Chamber, the President, Sir Alexander Wilson, referred to the subject in his address, and in the course of the proceedings called for an informal vote as an expression of the Chamber's opinion. The result is reported to have been the unanimous confirmation of the views expressed by the Committee. The list of gentlemen present at this meeting is given in Mr. Clarke's demi-official letter of the 7th March, and it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor to contain as complete a representation of the mercantile interests of the port as it could be possible to assemble together for such a purpose. Although, as stated in my letter to the Chamber, it would have been more satisfactory to Government to have received an official reply as to whether any considerable minority of their members was opposed to any change, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the expression of opinion of the members of the Chamber on the occasion of their Annual General Meeting may be accepted as conclusive proof of the views of the overwhelming majority of the mercantile community of Calcutta. This opinion is in accordance with the views expressed by the Bank of Bengal, the best judge of the requirements of the commercial public, by the Trades' Association, and by the Committee of the Chamber, during a period of agitation for thirty years.

6. On the other hand the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Association, and the British Indian Association are opposed to any change in the method of notifying the existing holidays. Their letters are enclosed, and are entitled to the consideration they deserve as undoubtedly representing the great mass of Hindu opinion on the subject. But the Lieutenant-Governor does not find that they bring forward any new arguments or raise any objections which have not already been met by anticipation and fully replied to in my letter of the 19th January. The British Indian Association are, indeed, prepared to admit that the Currency Office and Shipping Office should be kept open during some of the holidays along with the Custom House. The National Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Association are not willing to make any concession. Their apprehension is, as the National Chamber of Commerce puts it, that the Government proposals are "but the thin end of the wedge, which in time must bring about the total abolition of the Doorga Poojah holidays in all public offices."

7. With reference to this remark, I am to explain that the objection of the naive associations appears to be based in a large measure on a misconception of the arrangements proposed by Government. The effect of a notification under the Negotiable Instruments Act is that Promissory Notes or bills of exchange do not mature on the holidays therein specified, but are deemed to be due on the next preceding business day, and it is complained by the mercantile community that business is to a large extent paralysed when there are twelve such holidays in succession. There can be no dispute of the justice of this complaint and of the great inconvenience which the present procedure affords to the commercial public. The great increase in the number of steamers visiting the port, and the consequent necessity of expedition in despatching them, has also largely augmented the inconvenience caused by a twelve days' continuous closure of the offices to the trade of the port. To remedy these grievances, it is proposed that the number of holidays under the Act should be reduced; but it is not proposed that the number of holidays in Government offices generally should be diminished, and the executive order which it is intended to issue sufficiently shows that they will continue to be closed for the same period as at present. Nor will the promulgation of these parallel orders produce any perceptible effect upon the general body of the Hindu community. Certain social festivals of the Hindus will be placed on the same footing as Mahomedan holidays. But in both cases reasonable facilities will be afforded by Government for carrying on business. This is now done in the case of Mahomedan holidays and ought to be done in the case of Hindu social festivals. On the other hand, certain Mahomedan holidays are now granted by executive order, and are, as a matter of fact, universally enjoyed in all parts of Bengal except in certain specified offices at the Presidency. The opening of these particular offices does not in any way govern the practice elsewhere, and we may expect that certain Hindu holidays, if notified in the same way as Mahomedan holidays as days upon which certain offices in Calcutta will be open, will be accepted in exactly the same way as Mahomedan holidays are now accepted.

8. The view which the British Indian Association appear to hold that the holidays under the Act should not be altered, but that by executive order the holidays in certain offices should be reduced, does not in any way meet the difficulty of which the commercial community complain. The opening or closing of a particular public

office (important as it is that the offices should remain open) does not so much impede the transaction of public business as the declaration that for twelve days in succession exchange bills receivable cannot be legally collected, and Promissory Notes payable cannot be legally paid. The only manner in which this difficulty can be met is by reducing the number of holidays notified under the Act. And this is what it is now proposed to do without at all interfering with religious prejudice. The proposals now made declare that all days necessary for the performance of religious ceremonies shall be holidays under the Act. The remaining days of the Doorga Poojah, which are devoted to social festivities, are no longer included in the category of such holidays: but in order to allow every possible concession to the claims of Hindu clerks who are employed in public offices, it is proposed to declare by executive order that these offices, with a few specified exceptions, shall remain closed as they are at present. A distinction is drawn between holidays notified under the Act and those declared in public offices by executive order, and it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that, by the recognition of this clear distinction, a compromise has at last been found, in the only way in which it was possible to find it, which satisfactorily meets the reasonable claims of the Hindu community as well as the interests of trade and commerce.

9. The Registrar of Calcutta and Shipping Master are opposed to the exclusion of their offices from the holidays notified by executive order, but in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor the arguments adduced by these officers are of no validity. The commercial community have always objected, and with reason, to the closing of the Registration Office for twelve consecutive days; and although, as represented by the Registrar, the number of documents presented for registration at this season is likely to be considerable, it is apparent from this fact that a small establishment will be sufficient for carrying on the work, and that the hardship of attending office will therefore be felt by very few. The Shipping Office is one which, in the interests of the Port, it is absolutely necessary to keep open on every day on which it is possible to do so.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor has the strongest sympathy with the very general desire of the Hindu community that no obstacle should be placed by Government in the way of its Hindu employes meeting together at their homes, at the season of the Doorga Poojah holidays, for the celebration of religious, social, and domestic ceremonies. It is far from His Honour's desire to encourage any policy which would deprive Hindu employes as a body of the satisfaction of enjoying their great annual festival in the future as they have done in the past. There is nothing, however, in the proposals now made which, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, is likely to lead to any such unfortunate result. It is true that a few clerks employed in a few offices may be subjected to some inconvenience by being required to attend office on days on which they now get a

holiday. But the inconvenience is one which they must bear in the public interest. They will enjoy some compensating advantages. And it is not to be forgotten that in all places in Bengal, and especially in Calcutta, the Doorga Poojah holidays are the season of the busiest life in all the year. The shop-keepers have no holiday, the cloth-sellers, the money-changers, the confectioners, the grocers and the general dealers are busy all day long; in the bazar there is no holiday, but business is as brisk as it can be. The clerks and sircars in the bazar are not idle men. It is only in the public offices that stagnation reigns. It is not therefore a real or just ground for complaint if in a few public offices for public reasons a few clerks are required to attend office on certain days which are allowed to remain holidays to the great majority of clerks employed in the public service.

11. Having regard to the correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of holidays in Bengal on previous occasions, the Lieutenant-Governor does not wish to take action in the direction now proposed without the previous sanction of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council. I am now to request that this sanction may be accorded and permission given to publish the draft notifications which are the annexure to my letter of the 19th January. It will be seen that the opinion of the law officers of Government has already been obtained that there appears to be no legal objection in the way to prevent the Government from cancelling the notification of public holidays already published at page 1010 of Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of 11th December 1889, and substituting in its place a new list.

12. I am to add that the executive order of the Government of Bengal, under which the public offices under this Government (excluding those specified in the notification) will be closed during certain days of the Doorga Poojah holidays in the same manner as these offices are now closed on the occasion of Mahomedan festivals, will obviously have no force in regard to offices under the Government of India, and the Lieutenant-Governor would therefore venture to recommend that the benefit of similar orders may be extended generally to the offices under the Supreme Government employed in the Lower Provinces. It will no doubt be necessary to exempt certain offices from the effect of such an order, as has been done in regard to offices under the Bengal Government; and in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, as intimated in a separate letter of this day's date, the Currency Office should be so exempted; but it may easily be arranged that in these offices, as in the excepted offices under the Government of Bengal, if it be found impossible to grant the Hindu employes their holidays during the excluded days of the Doorga Poojah festival, they should not be required to attend in larger numbers than are actually necessary for the transaction of business, and that other concessions in the way of leave at other times should be given to them.

## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lal Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Monday the 20th day of August at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate:—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed message tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattraks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Muktarab Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring 9½ cottas more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonee Dass on the North by the

public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boudya Nath Ooriya and Nilmonee Dass.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built message tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottas 4 chattraks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built message tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottas more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadah Chunder Burrall and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will

be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.

## KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund:—

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Formerly Minister to the late

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Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of Reis and Rayyet, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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them. Others sell at double our rates. Mr.  
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Rs. 7-8 watch for Rs. 15." Mr. J. Sutcliffe, R.  
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it at Rs. 15 and were completely surprised when  
I told them it only costs Rs. 7-8." Pretty  
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The Rivers having risen, steamers are now  
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CACHAR LINE.

The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will  
leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 5th August  
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Goods Upward or Downward from and to  
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1890.

No. 436

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY

### SONNETS ON SICILY.

#### I.

Not those I envy who from cups of gold,  
Round which a carver's cunning hand hath wrought  
Fair fantasies of earth's awakening thought,  
When warm her blood was, and fancy bold,

Quaff wine of fame and virtues manifold,  
Whence poets in their feasting moments caught  
More glorious madness than Apollo taught,  
And loves the Muses' lips had left untold.

Not these I envy, for my feet have trod  
The ground of Sicily, my eyes have seen  
The sands and bays where Galatea sung,

The deathless mead in which uncrowned and young  
Proserpine played, witless of that sad God,  
And fields where no flowers blow, no grass is green.

#### II.

Here from this stony ridge where shepherds stray,  
A host whose thoughts were firm, whose hopes were keen,  
Looked down on Syracuse, the Dorian Queen,  
Defiant, an invulnerable prey ;

Here through their lines Gylippus forced his way ;  
And in that chasm where towers and masts are seen  
Confused with golden air and wave serene  
Imperial Athens torn and bleeding lay.

Ah ! here indeed the hand of mortal things  
Touches, and Pity haunts us for their lot  
Who change the nobler for the meaner aim ;

Here yielded to the vulgar fate of kings,  
She who in worlds where Rage and Death come hot  
Had built, nor knew it, an immortal name.

W. W.

*Times of India.*

### A STILL DAY IN AUTUMN.

I love to wander through the woodlands hoary,  
In the soft gleam of an autumnal day,  
When summer gathers up her robes of glory,  
And, like a dream of beauty, glides away.

How through each loved, familiar path she lingers,  
Serenely smiling through the golden mist,  
Tinting the wild grape with her dewy fingers,  
Till the cool emerald turns to amethyst—

Kindling the faint stars of the hazel, shining,  
To light the gloom of autumn's mouldering halls,  
With hoary plumes and clematis entwining,  
Where o'er the rock her withered garland falls.

Warm lights are on the sleepy uplands waning,  
Beneath, dark clouds along the horizon rolled,  
Till the slant sunbeams, through their fringes raining,  
Bathe all the hills in melancholy gold.

The moist winds breathe of crisped leaves and flowers,  
In the damp hollows of the woodland sown,  
Mingling the freshness of autumnal showers  
With spicy airs from cedar alleys blown.

Beside the brook and on the ambered meadow,  
Where yellow fern tufts flake the faded ground,  
With folded lids beneath their palmy shadow,  
The gentian nods, in dewy slumbers bound.

Upon these soft-tinted lids the bee sits brooding,  
Like a fond lover loth to say farewell ;  
Or, with shut wings, through silken folds intruding,  
Creeps near her heart, his drowsy tale to tell.

The little birds upon the hillside lonely  
Flit noiselessly along from spray to spray,  
Silent as a sweet, wandering thought that only  
Shows its bright wings and softly glides away.

The scentless flowers in the warm sunlight dreaming,  
Forget to breathe their fulness of delight,  
And through the tranced woods soft airs are streaming,  
Still as the dewfall of a summer night.

So in my heart a sweet, unwonted feeling  
Stirs like the wind in ocean's hollow shell,  
Through all its secret chambers softly stealing,  
Yet finds no words its mystic charms to tell.

SARAH HELEN WHITMAN.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Bilious affections, with all their concomitant annoyances induced by atmospheric changes, or too liberal diet, should be checked at once, or serious consequences may ensue. When any one finds his ideas less clear than usual, his eyesight dimmed, and his head dizzy, accompanied by a disinclination for all exertion, physical or mental, he may be quite sure that he is in immediate need of some alterative medicine. Let him at once send for a box of Holloway's Pills, a mild course of which will remove the symptoms, and speedily renew his usual healthful feeling. If the bowels be irritable, Holloway's Ointment should be diligently rubbed over the stomach and liver every night and morning.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

A FOOT-NOTE at the bottom of the race cards of an up-country meeting, at the close of last season, ran thus :—"Any person bringing a dog to the race course will be shot!" meaning any dog brought by any person, and not the person, we presume. It is easier to

Break Priscian's head instead of Britons'.

The Secretary was no "classical Baboo"—or unclassical, either.

EDISON, who for the last dozen years has taken the shine of all the edifiers of man in the mysteries of Nature and thrown into the shade their most marvellous inventions, is determined to out-Edison himself. He is now engaged on an instrument for seeing distant objects, by the aid of which a man in New York will distinctly recognise a friend in Boston. It will be ready by 1892.

At the hearing of Lord Dunlop's petition for divorce the other day, a witness, Wood, deposed having seen Lord Albert Osborne, then in Ceylon, toss with petitioner, who should sleep with Lady Dunlop, and the former won. Well might Dilke say, there are as *bad* fish in the sea as out of it.

THE enquiry extending over four months into the Hindu-Mahomedan riots at Belgaum has at length ended. Thirty men were arrested by the police for rioting, and the magistrate has committed twenty-seven to the Sessions on charges of rioting, murder, &c., releasing three.

OUR people are becoming civilised—in no becoming way to our antiquated mind. They are following—at a respectful distance—the Go-ahead of the West. The dastardly outrage lately reported in the *Indian Mirror* in equivocal, if alliterative, terms as a "case of mortifying a Brahmo Somaj Missionary," reveals a novel and rather alarming phenomenon in our society. We are told

"The melancholy affair took place over the conversion of two youths against the will of their relatives. These waylaid the Missionary, and got him into an empty house. Here they put a garland of shoes round his neck, and plastered his cheeks, one with lime, and the other with ink, and drove him into the street."

That is a "mild Hindoo" apéry of the trans-Atlantic pastime of tar-and-feathers.

ANOTHER Western crime of a far more serious kind is reported by a correspondent of the *East* writing on the 27th ultimo. Although described as a very daring dacoity attended with two murders committed last week in the village of Hijuli, close both to the Manick-gunge Thanna and sub-divisional Headquarters, it has all the appearance of a Jew murder in Eastern Europe in a community exasperated by grinding and pauperising usury. The facts are thus given :—

"One Ram Kormakar and his wife were found dead on the courtyard of their house and their iron chest and wooden trunk were found all opened from which all the valuable articles, cash money, account papers and bonds were taken away. There were no marks of violence on their bodies but their necks were firmly tied round with cloth. This shows that they were both strangled to death by the culprits. There was no one else in the house except the poor husband and wife. It is said that the deceased was the owner of a large sum of money and his profession was money lending. They had no children nor any servant to attend them. The local police is trying hard to bring the culprits out."

THERE is a pretty quarrel at Hyderabad between two European military officers in the State Service over the death of a native Christian cook. The *Deccan Times* informed the world that the man Lazar was done to death and secretly buried by Lieutenant Rowe. On the appearance of the paragraph, Colonel Neale, the Commandant of the Paigah troops, a brother-in-law of Lieut. Rowe, telegraphed to the latter to return from Poona where he had gone on short leave, while he requested the City Commissioner of Police to institute a police inquiry into the matter. The paper was called upon for the name of the informant, which was given. The police on inquiry declared the charge against Lieutenant Rowe unfounded. Lieutenant Rowe also published a letter denying the accusations and attributing Lazar's death to diarrhoea from excessive drinking, the liquor for which was supplied him by Captain Sayce, Commandant of the Minister's Body Guard. On the day of appearance of this letter, Captain Sayce informed Colonel Neale that he had obtained leave for three months and asked permis-

sion to leave immediately. He was told to wait till the leave of absence was officially communicated, the Colonel not yet knowing anything of it. Captain Sayce, however, did not wait. Without making over charge, he left the same evening for Dera Dun, and remained at Mussoorie for three months. He has now returned to be suspended by order of the Minister. On his side, it is said that Captain Sayce saw the Minister's order granting him leave before he left Hyderabad. He also professes his ability and determination to prove the charges he preferred against Lieutenant Rowe.

ACCORDING to the *Deccan Times* of Aug. 2, the sale of the Salar Jung horses and carriages, last week at the Nizam Club in Chudderghaut, fetched only Rs. 20,000. How many twenty thousands the Jungs had paid in buying up the equipages of others going on furlough or retiring!

WE read in the same paper :—

"The Nizam's Government have extended for a further period of four years the sole right granted three years back to Signor Cauzio, an Italian gentleman, grandson of Garibaldi, to erect a grining factory in the Aurangabad district. The Government have further advanced him a sum of fifteen thousand Government Rupees to extend his factory, which amount is to be repaid in four yearly instalments."

We have great respect for red shirts, and coats, for the matter of that—and we know nothing of this new factory. Only, we are afraid there is far too much grining—metaphorical if not literal—and grinning—in the sleeve or on—already in the dear Deccan, to allow us to look with unconcern on the addition of another concern of the same ilk. But God is great. Long live the Nizam!

A PARSEE Khansama named Dadabhoj Rustomjee in his employ while living claimed a large sum against Sir Salar Jung II when dead. The Committee of Administration have satisfied the claim by payment of about Rs. 1,700. The Committee have been authorised to call witnesses, and they are now sitting regularly three days in the week. We hope they will be able to reduce the amount of the alleged debt very considerably.

SYED Mahamed Belgrami, the Deputy Commissioner of the Inam Department at Aurangabad, goes to England to study agriculture. He has obtained special leave for the purpose and will besides receive £300 a year from the Nizam's Government.

THE Director of Public Instruction in the Nizam's Dominions in his last report thus compliments Raja Murli Manohar :—

"I cannot close my remarks on the Nobles' school without placing on record the service done to the cause of education by one of its oldest pupils—Rajah Murli Manohar Bahadur. He is one of the brightest products of our system. Belonging to an old family of high State officials, he has assimilated what he has learnt and made excellent use of it, in trying to benefit his fellow castemen and fellow citizens. He has opened and maintains a well-attended school at his own expense for members of the Kayesth community which is numerous and influential in Hyderabad. He has found a ginkhana in the city for tennis, polo, tent-pegging and other manly sports, and there are few open competitions in which he or his colleagues do not take an active part. Although he has passed no examination—not even matriculated—the training he received at school has made him an active man of business, and an accomplished gentleman."

The Raja has since founded "a Hindoo Sanscrit school, where "vads, Sanscrit Grammar and Sanscrit prose and poetry will be taught." The school has just been opened with 40 Brahman boys, who will receive their education free.

THE Rajah of Anagoondy near Bellary had been to Hyderabad on business. He is a tributary chief under the Nizam, paying a *samasthani* or state revenue of Rs. 22,000. He has lately been saddled with a *peschkash* or *muzzurani* of Rs. 19,000, besides being relieved of his private revenue of about Rs. 10,000.

CAPTAIN Ravenshaw, Cantonment Magistrate, Secunderabad, has sentenced one Chinnappa, for rape on a girl of tender years, to three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 with the alternative of 6 months' additional imprisonment. If an appeal lay to our High Court here, Mr. Justice Norris would probably have enhanced the hard labor on the brute to 7 years, and possibly remitted the fine.

THE Tejnarayan Jubilee College, Bhagalpur, has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Arts up to the B.A. standard and in Law.

THE Indian Railways Act (IX of 1890) has been declared to be in force in the Tarai parganas in the dominion of the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. P. and Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

THE Cantonment Magistrate at Nowgong has been made to be *ex-officio* Assistant to the Political Agent in Bundelkhand.

THE European Vagrancy Act, IX of 1874, sections 4 to 9 and 19, 20, 24 and 29, has been, from the 31st July 1890, declared to be in force in the dominions of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Will this extension relieve the dominions of all the European vagrants?

WE read :—

"A Defamation case of some interest has just been decided at Delhi by Pundit Somdat, Magistrate of the 1st class. It appears that two men named Bulaki and Karim Bux, municipal contractors, were called upon by Mr. J. S. Aldwell, Sanitary Inspector of Delhi, to alter certain objectionable drainage arrangements, and made a report to that effect to the Municipal Board, who called upon the contractors for an explanation. These men wrote on the back of the report that it was false, and that the Inspector was in the habit of making false reports like this, insinuating that the 'cause of the displeasure between the reporter and accused and his family will be fully explained to any officer who will be good enough to inquire about it.' Upon this Mr. Aldwell brought a charge of defamation against the accused. Pundit Somdat delivered judgment last Monday, sentencing Karim Bux to pay a fine of Rs. 100, or in default two months' simple imprisonment, and Bulaki to pay a fine of Rs. 25, or in default one month's simple imprisonment."

THE next half-yearly departmental examination of Assistants and others in the Chittagong division will begin on Monday, the 6th October next. There will be two centres, one at Chittagong for the examinees employed in that district and the districts of Noakhally and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the other at Comilla for the Tipperah examinees.

THE Earl of Ava, 17th Lancers, eldest son of the late Viceroy, shortly proceeds to England to re-join his regiment at home.

WE condole with the Maharaja of Hutwa on the death, from epilepsy, of his son and heir. The loss is not confined to the Maharaja's household. Behar itself must feel it too, seeing that the chief Houses there are generally childless.

THE Calcutta Bar has sustained a loss in the death of Mr. M. P. Gasper, one of the ablest advocates. He had been ailing for some time, and was ordered a change of climate. But he was not three hours out from Suez when he breathed his last.

THE pious are given, we know, to singing—psalmody, but the *Indian Messenger* seems to dance in delight over the good cheer—with liquor drawn from the inexhaustible municipal hydrants—at the entertainments, cheap and plentiful, to which the Calcutta Congress delegate is being treated. One of these is thus described :—

"The Indian Association entertained Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee at a banquet in oriental style at the rooms of the Association on Friday last. There was an influential gathering, many of the distinguished citizens of Calcutta being present. It was from beginning to end in a truly national style. No healths were drunk, and there were no after-dinner speeches, but the absence of these formalities rather added to the heartiness of the occasion."

We thoroughly understand it. After-dinner speeches would have spoiled the game for most of us. There is no damper to the appetite like a call to "orate." There would surely have been a stampede had a sudden announcement been made at the outset that such a torture was in store. Only the principal guest of the evening could do justice to both the dinner and the after-dinner "function." He is preeminently endowed with the gift of the gab—in the Scotch sense of the word. He would dumbfound Baboo Jugdanand Moukerjee who, the other day, lavished his *naïve* admiration on the gormandizing powers of the editor of this journal. Herein, as in his energy, he is truly British, however much he may otherwise be an Oriental of Orientals. For the load of work and cares, responsibilities and ridicule he has borne, he is

a very Atlas. But even our wellknown compatriot is not big enough to carry a whole dinner for a large assembly all in his hold, nor fiery enough to consume it quickly in his anatomical furnace. Hence, we suppose, there was no call for postprandium exhibitions upon the innocent wights who attended no less to satisfy their inner man than to do honour to the Conquering Hero—who did not conquer.

THE Elwes—we beg pardon of the family, we mean the millionaire—of Anglo-India, has at last been forcibly parted "for good" from his money-bags. He is said to have left about a million sterling, principally in Government securities and partly in landed property in several districts. How he lived or what use he made of his means, we are not permitted by the law to say, any more than to inquire how the heirs of this vast fortune fared during their parent's protracted sojourn.

THE *Indian Mirror* used to be distinguished for the length and breadth of the headings of articles. It has been beat in the South, where one of the newer native papers has an article or leaderette of not full 36 lines capped, by way of title, with the following peremptory pronouncement :—

"A SPECIES OF MUNICIPAL OPPRESSION MUST NOW CEASE!"

The sentiment is accurate, whatever the case of the sentence.

A MORNING contemporary has, in the absence of more popular topics, been treating its readers to discourses in science. It published on Sunday a paper by Sir Andrew Wilson on the "Spleen and its functions." This was followed up with a leader on Thursday. We may notice the subject hereafter. Meanwhile, we would draw the learned writer's attention to a queer statement of his. What does he mean by "the scientists of the times of Pope and Wordsworth?" Were these poets contemporaries?

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

AFTER our notice last week of the Imperial ukase for expulsion of the Jews from the country districts, we were glad to find immediately the order declared to be unfounded. That, at any rate, shows that in certain high quarters such an exercise of authority is not deemed the right thing. Notwithstanding, the Exodus of Israel from Russia has already commenced. The Central News Agency on the 8th reports that the Jews are quitting Russia in thousands, in consequence of the new laws, and are proceeding to Brazil and Algeria.

ORDER has been completely restored in the Argentine Republic. President Celman has resigned and M. Pellegrini appointed in his place. A new ministry has been formed and the people are represented thoroughly satisfied.

THE Uncovenanted have won another concession. The improved rate of 1s. 9d. will apply to pensions granted during the present financial year. They cannot be too grateful to Mr. Jenkins for the happy denouement of this Parliamentary romance.

A WHOLESALE strike has commenced at Cardiff. The passenger traffic with South Wales has ceased. The mails are being sent by road. The Men's Committee insist that a working week shall be no more than sixty hours which the Companies refuse to agree to.

VALUING the friendship of Great Britain, the Volksraad has accepted the Anglo-Transvaal Convention upholding the autonomy of Swaziland with a joint administration of Boers and English for the Whites, and allowing the Transvaal to receive the port of Swaziland with the right of railway thereto.

THE Anglo-French agreement arising out of the Anglo-German Convention has been signed. As a set off against the British Protectorate over Zanzibar, there is the French Protectorate over Madagascar and the extension of the French sphere of influence up to Lake Chad.



KEMMLER, sentenced to death two years ago, was tortured to death at New York on the 6th instant by electricity. Death was not instantaneous. Three shocks were given, the man breathing after each shock. Life was not extinct before several minutes had passed.

EMPEROR William has revisited England. He arrived at Dover on the 3rd instant and proceeded to Cowes next morning. He was received most cordially at Osborne. On the 6th, he crossed over to Southsea to witness a shamfight at Eastney—the new method of attack under cover of smoke.

CHOLERA is still raging at Mecca. It has broken out as fearfully at Jeddah too. The deaths are given at both the places at one hundred a day. There has been a death from the same disease at Madrid.

The fate of this year's pilgrims to Arabia is most sad, from every point of view.

SPRAKING at Birmingham on the 2nd, Mr. Chamberlain lamented the persistent obstruction of the Opposition in the House of Commons, the contempt to which Parliament is being brought and the destruction of its power with the people. But that is the abuse of Party Government, if not a necessary evil of Government by Public Meetings governed by a majority of votes.

THE agitation against the Indian Councils Bill has so far prevailed that Mr. Smith, on the 5th, announced in the House that it would be abandoned for the present session. Woe to India! Othello, however, is to be congratulated on the maintenance of his occupation.

NOW that the present session of Parliament is towards its close, the Viceroy of India is free to take his projected trip beyond the pale of civilization. On account of a heavy landslip near Bagi, the small party did not leave on the 7th, postponing the start to next day.

THIS year the rainfall along the outer range of the Western Himalayas has been excessive. At Naini-Tal, from the 19th July for a full fortnight, the fall was uninterrupted and measured a continuous 44 and 50 inches at the west and east end registering centres of the lake. Since 1880, the year of the great landslip, Naini-Tal has not been visited by such a heavy downpour. The wind, however, was not violent. The tonga road between Katgodam and the Brewery and the bridle road between the Brewery and Naini-Tal are impassable, while the Ballia Bridge has been swept away. The actual registers at Simla, Murree, Mussoorie, and Ranikhet are respectively 11'31, 3'54, 2'24 and 15'14 inches more than the average, namely, 37'72, 16'70, 14'19 and 35'39. There have been several slips at Simla. The Mashobra Road was blocked for two days, the short road to Annandale is impassable. A house in the Bazaar collapsed, killing two men.

AT Darjeeling too, it has rained methodically since April. The place is dull and wet, and landslips have interrupted the running of the railway line.

THE plains have suffered no less, from the floods. There have been breaches on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway between Bisharatganj and the Ramgunga bridge. A correspondent from Bareilly writes to a contemporary :—

"It is impossible to describe the state of the surrounding tracts of land. You have only to walk a few paces out of the Cantonment Station yard when one huge expanse of water, as far as the eye can reach, meets your view. The only vestige of once standing and prosperous villages is to be found in mud walls which here and there stand out in relief in the midst of the floods. Thatched roofs float past you with awful rapidity. Men, women and children, cows, buffaloes and pigs are to be found huddled together along portions of the railway line and square inches of dry ground near the level crossings. A passenger who came down from Aligarh way just a few hours before the line was breached mentioned that for forty miles and more the country on both sides of the railway line was one sheet of water, the east expanse being here and there dotted by merely the tops of mango groves which were visible. As I have already informed you there are no less than three breaches between this and the nearest station on the up line. The first breach is about 100 feet in length: the embankment has been completely washed away, leaving the bare rails under which the water runs with great force. The chief railway officials have all come in from Lucknow and are working with might and main to

facilitate traffic. Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Muirhead, Stationmaster, who was one of the first on the scene when the breach was reported, and on his shoulders first fell the arduous task of transshipping the first lot of passengers and goods. In Bareilly city itself hundreds of the inhabitants have been rendered homeless owing to the floods having washed away their houses, goods and chattels. When dry weather (and at present there is not the remotest sign of a break in the clouds) comes once more, and people can look round a bit, I fear the reckoning will be a long and expensive item, necessitating in the first place a large remission by Government of its revenue."

THE high floods on the Ganges completely severed the communication between Cawnpore and Lucknow. Since Tuesday no mails have been received from Cawnpore.

THE Irrawaddy is in high flood and there are fears of inundation at Maadalay.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is timed for Monghyr on the 12th. The Ganges there has not yet reached its average. The register gives 27'2, or one inch below. Preparations are making for his reception. The Maharaja of Giddhore gives a grand dinner. The Ghats will be illuminated. Fireworks and a Ball are on the programme. Invitations are out and subscriptions pouring in rapidly.

THE operations of the Burma and Chittagong Columns of the Chin-Lushai Expeditionary Force, were intended, as explained by the Most Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, "to inflict chastisement on such tribes as had committed depredations on British territory, to extend British influence over these and other tribes, to explore the country between Chittagong and Burma, to complete, if possible, a mule road between Bengal and Burma, and, by the establishment of communications and military posts, to ensure the recognition of the paramount power and the pacification of the country." The Governor-General in Council is satisfied with the Commander-in-Chief that all these objects have been successfully attained, and expresses "his great appreciation of the excellent conduct of the British and Native troops, who so well sustained the reputation of Her Majesty's army under circumstances of difficulty and hardship and, especially on the Burma side, in the face of severe sufferings from sickness." Every person or thing connected with the Expedition comes in for his or its share of praise.

KALKA on the road to Simla has not the distinction of a municipality. It is proposed, however, to raise it to one as it will be the terminus of the railway towards the summer capital. But in the Hill capital itself, they have grown sick of municipal government.

THE London correspondent of the *Hindu*, talking of the Cashmere debate in Parliament, says :—

"What amazes me is the cowed—I had almost said the cowardly—attitude of the Indian Princes generally in view of the wrong done to the Maharaja of Cashmere in deposing him without inquiry of any kind. Should it suit the views of the Government of India to virtually annex any territory of a feudatory, the said case of the Maharaja may be that of any Prince. The Princes do not seem to have even the instinct of self-preservation."

That very instinct keeps them aloof. They know too well that that fate may overtake them any moment, and all the sooner for any overt demonstration, in word or deed, of sympathy for an oppressed brother. For all that, their prayers are constantly offered for him in secret to Heaven. Alas! that Heaven should so often seem to be on the side of the master of the more efficient battalions and play into the hands of Power, in fact!

THE Petroleum Act, XII of 1886, was passed in March of that year. But it has hitherto been a dead letter, not being in operation. On the 31st July 1890, it was amended by a change in the schedule. It came into force only from the 2nd August 1890. And then there are honest men who argue that the "Exodus" does no harm to the country. It took the Government four years to put the law into operation. To be able to do so, it was necessary to fix the rules for regulation of the importation, storage, possession and transport of the inflammable oil, and to provide the necessary testing apparatus. This became an arduous task. A Government of irresponsible foreigners often on the wing from place to place and having its Head Quarters mostly in High Asia, far far away from ports and commerce, consumed months

and years over them. When, everything provided and fixed, the law was ready for enforcement, the Government discovered that the inflammable test required amendment. Common sense suggests that the passing of the law ought to have been delayed till all the preliminaries had been arranged for. Any administration with self respect would avoid the amendment of a law before it has been put in force. But the "Exodus"-wallahs don't care, so long as there is corn in Egypt. Caravans have no shame.

THE Petroleum Act, 1886, or rather its schedule has been amended to facilitate the determination of the legal flashing point of inflammable oils, in the form suggested and approved by Sir F. Abel. The details as explained by the Hon'ble Mover of the Bill Mr. Hutchins, "will only be really intelligible to experts in physical science." "It would require a lecture in chemistry and a series of practical illustrations with a proper apparatus clearly to demonstrate wherein the old schedule is defective and how the defects are to be remedied." Precluded thus from criticism, we can only hope that the present amendment, while protecting the rest of the public, will not unduly affect the trade.

THE Indian Emigration Act, 1883, is being amended

"(1) to save owners of steam-ships the expense and inconvenience of having the hulls and machinery of their vessels surveyed under the Indian Emigration Act, 1883, when valid and proper certificates as to their sufficiency and good condition have already been obtained under other Acts and are still in force, and

(2) to extend, in the first instance, to British North Borneo, which proposes to procure labour from India through the agency of the Government of the Straits Settlements, the same facilities for procuring such labour as have been conceded to the Straits Settlements and to protected States adjoining those Settlements."

The Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins in moving for leave to introduce the Bill, among other things, said :—

"Now in 1883 and for a few years afterwards I do not suppose that many steam-vessels were offered for the Indian emigration service, and no inconvenience was experienced. But of late, I am glad to say, the use of steamers for this purpose has become quite common, very much to the comfort and advantage of natives of India proceeding to our colonies. This Council will certainly be anxious to encourage the best class of steamers to offer themselves for the carriage of emigrants, and therefore to remove any unnecessary restrictions tending to make such service vexatious or unremunerative. I understand that to open up a ship and her machinery for a complete survey involves a loss of at least a week at Calcutta; and at Madras, our other great emigration port, it is reported to be quite impossible fully to carry out the letter of the law. Owing to the want of docking accommodation, a complete survey of the hull of a vessel is impracticable, and even the internal examination cannot be properly conducted, since steamers which now take emigrants from Madras invariably arrive there with cargo on board. In practice, therefore, at Madras the law, as it now stands, does not appear to be fully obeyed, while at Calcutta the requirement of an altogether fresh survey involves a great deal of delay and needless expense, and has deterred, and is likely to deter, the best and largest steamers from tendering for emigration service."

That is the evil of hasty legislation on insufficient information and knowledge. It applies generally to all our Indian Acts. The facility with which an Act can be amended in India affords an incentive to imperfect and ill-digested laws.

THE evil is not confined to the making of laws. It extends to the un-making too. It is bad enough that new measures should be hurried through without due inquiry. Their repeal is not unoften marked by absence of care, labor and foresight. The evidence is furnished by the Indian Salt Act, 1882, amendment Bill. In moving for leave to introduce it, the Hon'ble Sir David Barbour said :—

"In 1882 the great inland customs line of India was abolished and the duties levied on sugar under the Inland Customs Act of 1875 were remitted. The duty on salt ceased to be collected by means of a customs line, and was levied at the places where the salt was produced or manufactured.

"The provisions of the Inland Customs Act of 1875 consequently became to a great extent obsolete, and that Act was repealed, and only so much of it as appeared to be required was re-enacted in the Indian Salt Act of 1882, which consolidated a number of enactments relating to salt.

"Although the inland customs line was abolished and the levy of duty on sugar and salt crossing that line consequently ceased, a preventive line, of minor importance, was still kept up. This was the Indus preventive line, which lies along the upper portion of the river Indus in British territory, and which is intended to prevent the passage of the lightly taxed Kohat salt into the cis-Indus districts.

"It is impossible to say now whether the existence of this preventive line was overlooked in 1882, or whether it was hoped that it would be found possible to abolish it. However this may be, it has not been found possible to abolish the Indus line, and it has continued to exist up to the present time, although certain powers for the regulation of traffic and certain rights of search which are essential for the effective

maintenance of the line had been taken away by the repeal of the Inland Customs Act of 1875.

"These powers had been exercised for many years before 1882, and they have been exercised since that year, although the legal basis on which they rested had been withdrawn. So long as these powers were exercised with the consent of the persons affected, or at any rate without any opposition on their part, no practical inconvenience arose. But it has now been brought to light by a decision in a Criminal Court that there is no longer a legal basis for the exercise of the powers in question, and that if the persons affected choose to object to their exercise they can no longer be put in force.

"It is therefore proposed to restore, so far as regards the Indus preventive line, such of the powers formerly given by the Inland Customs Act of 1875 as are necessary for the effective maintenance of the line.

"It has been found possible to make the provisions of the present Bill somewhat less stringent than those of the Act of 1875; and as it is hoped that we may be able to shorten the preventive line, and effect a useful reform, by abandoning the lower portion of the line and substituting a preventive line running westward from the Indus to the frontier, the necessary provision for this purpose has been made in the Bill."

How many such irregularities, not to say illegalities, are perpetrated every day on mere assumption of power, the country, in sheer ignorance, submitting!

THE general progress is being felt among the most backward communities. The very Banias of Gujrat are reforming. The Nisa Nagars in meeting assembled have, so far as lay in them, amended the more objectionable and irksome of their institutions of marriage and mourning. These Gujrati Banias are notorious for their infant marriages. They have now raised the minimum age of betrothal for girls to ten years. At least, the first marital ceremony will not take place until that age. Their deaths are followed by a round of feasting, if not rejoicing, though the enthusiasm for gormandizing looks like it. These parties have been clipped down to one dinner to caste-fellows, and that only on the death of old men. In the pitiable case of the death of the young, noisy parties are to be altogether dispensed with. Widows will still be subjected to the disfiguring humiliation of shaving their heads. Lucky, that even the Bania ladies don't grow hair on the face, any more than the men sport tails behind their backs, or else their fond whiskers, moustaches and beards, would have stood a poor chance of respect at the hands of these awful Vandals. These graceless Gujratis have so far relented that the operation is not to be repeated as now. After the first shave, the growth of the hair is not to be interfered with, the poor widow need not tremble at the sight of a razor and might even look a barber in the face. She will also be free to attend caste dinner parties and take part in the ceremonies of the tribe.

At the same time, they have started a fund for the education of their children. In this the lead has been taken by Sett Narendar Purshotamdas. He had not long ago given Rs. 1,000 towards the instruction of their poor. He has now paid another Rs. 2,000 for scholarships in the High School. Nor are the Nisa Nagar wallahs alone in the field of reform. The Disa Porwads of Ahmedabad too are up and trying earnestly to set their house in order, in accordance with the changed circumstances of the day. If they have not yet attacked their customs touching birth, marriage and death, we expect them to hear them take up these questions every day. Meanwhile, they have taken a very important step. They have broken through their marital exclusiveness. They have decided to form alliances with the other Bania tribes. We hope the others, some at least of them, are prepared to receive their advances.

THE Punjab Government has again recorded its dissatisfaction with Mr. Warburton. All the sympathy of a crowded meeting—even the spectacle of 6,000 Hindus, Mahomedans and Christians beating their breasts and crying for their lost Police officer—have not saved him. Order has been passed for the Police Superintendent of Amritsar's transfer. He probably goes to Sialkot. In British administration in India, that is no ordinary punishment for a White-man. It must be remembered that he is not shelved up, but sent down to a comparatively insignificant place. Now that his Government has done with him, he, it is said, takes three months' leave to be free to pursue, in the law courts, to his heart's content, the *Tribune*, the cause of all his dishonor. He is already armed with authority from Government to proceed against the offending journal for defamation. It simply gives him permission, but will not pay his expenses, shewing that it has no grievance against the *Tribune*, but if Mr. Warburton have been personally maligned, it will not stand

in the way of his getting justice. A fund is being raised by his sympathisers and friends which has come up to a thousand. We wonder how many made up this sum. It might be useful to know who bled most in sorrow for this over-zealous Police officer. We hope Mr. Warburton will be better advised and not rashly resign himself to the hands of lawyers. The *Tribune* has enough justification in the two orders of the Punjab Government against Mr. Warburton, and if it is to suffer for the good done, then farewell to the cause of exposure of wrongs and misdeeds in the public interest!

THE inquiry for the mote in others' eye so lustily undertaken and so bravely and briskly pursued, hangs fire. The Syndicate is in a fix—the University under a cloud—of smoke, of its own manufacture. The dons have succeeded in enveloping the subject in the same smoke. There is no knowing anything about it. It is impertinence to ask and high treason to tell. Talk of state secrets! Why, there are no secrets like University—scandals. So far as we have been able to gather, the situation is this. The threatened punishment of the Ripon College has, for the moment, been averted. We shrewdly guess it will never be carried out, or even pronounced. We believe the members of the Syndicate are now half-ashamed of their proceedings. Up to this, there has been no trial—nay, not even a formal impeachment. What, then, shall be said of a Resolution to pronounce the heavy sentence of disfranchisement! If such a Resolution has, as is currently reported and believed; passed, the Syndicate must *disresolve* and swallow and digest it as best it might, or, if it were obstinate, the Senate must, in the interest of the University, suppress it.

So long ago as the 29th July, the proprietor of the Ripon College, startled by the news of the sentence passed, wrote to the University requesting to be furnished with the complaint, the charges, and the report of the Syndicate sub-committee which inquired into the subject, together with the evidence and exhibits recorded. Up to this afternoon, no notice has been taken of this application!

That shows weakness not only in the men but also in their cause.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1890.

### THE LEPROSY QUESTION.

#### ITS REDUCTION TO PRACTICE IN CALCUTTA.

THE *Indian Daily News* is nothing if not practical, and it has tackled the question of Leprosy, which has been in the papers these two years, characteristically. The number of lepers in India has been roundly stated to be a quarter million. That may be an imaginary figure, and we have no means of testing it. Of the Presidency capitals, Madras is said to be the most numerously stricken, with 8,400, Bombay the next worst, with 7,000, and Calcutta the last in the scale of disease, having a leper population of 6,000. The last figure is reduced by a writer in the *Statesman* to 4,228. Even this is no inconsiderable number, for a single town. Nor must we forget that there are others, many others, besides the Presidential towns. Not only capitals like Allahabad, Lahore, Nagpore, Rangoon, but also great cities of scarcely less importance like Lucknow, Agra, Delhi, Cawnpore, Amritsar, to go no farther than Northern India. In Bengal itself, there are Dacca and Patna. Then there are minor towns, district stations, military cantonments, and municipalities in scores. What must be the aggregate of the lepers of all these various centres! Making all necessary deductions, we may well despair of dealing to any purpose, except under the gravest pressure of circumstances, with so enormous a fraction of the general population. Private charity stands appalled before such numbers. Even a great Government which has so much to do in

other respects, must shrink from undertaking the charge of providing for such a vast amount of disease and misery. After all, the scope of such charitable or state interference must be exceedingly limited. It could not eradicate the disease from the country; the utmost that might be hoped for was to check, to some very feeble extent, its spread. The check being so small, the disease must go on spreading, while the provision for it must be continually augmented and fresh accommodation and means of support and treatment must be found for newer inmates of the hospitals and asylums. Leprosy, though most offensive, is probably not necessarily contagious. At least, such is the opinion of a majority of experts and observers. If so, it follows that its rise is due to other causes than contact, the chief being heredity. So far as hereditary taint develops into leprosy, it is not, either in inception or progress, amenable to administration, to say nothing of private interference of associated or individual kindness. But there seem to be other causes more open. At all events, it is of the utmost importance for all mankind to know whether Leprosy, *qua* disease, is combatable. On this point, it is satisfactory that at least there are those who still regard it an open question. They are a small minority, of course. In general, it must be confessed, the attitude of science is one of despair. It is singularly discreditable to the Faculty, that in these days, at the height of investigation and improvement in all departments, when every week brings forth its new discovery, Medicine alone, the most useful of all the sciences, though quite as active as any other, is steadily recognising fresh impossibilities. Every inquirer adds to the list of incurable maladies. So Leprosy has been voted one. And this with an emphasis forbidding question, and with a learned particularity precluding inquiry. The doctors have almost contrived first to confound a simple matter and then to elevate it to the rank of a mystery, like the doctrine of election or grace in theology. In its source, Leprosy is like original sin, and in its progress like the primeval curse: altogether, it is an inalienable burden. They cannot even determine whether the disease is communicable to the sound by commingling with the diseased, without inoculation into the blood. There never was such a confession of defeat. Medical men are not the most modest of the votaries of Science, but here they are reduced to utter helplessness. They virtually retire from the field, routed. After that, they bring themselves very near to the position of ordinary dabbblers. They have voluntarily abandoned their vantage ground of sturdy fighters with Nature, resolved to conquer the ills that flesh is heir to. They are no longer scientific experts not to be questioned by lay commonsense, but amateurs who must calmly submit to be assailed by rival amateurs and made sport of by publicists. Holding their view, they can, with the rest of us all, regard lepers only as objects of charity, like other hopeless miseries, like the cripple, the blind, the deaf and dumb, and so forth. Accordingly, they are for segregation of the sufferers, the more so as, besides the repulsive phenomena of the disease, there is possibly a risk of communication by indiscriminate and negligent commingling of the affected element with the general population. They are for complete separation, by deportation if possible, certainly by removal from towns and busy haunts.

Such an attempt is next to impracticable. The figures are prohibitive. It is impossible to deal with

completeness, with any prospect of success, with such a vast leper population. Private effort is a drop in the ocean, and the Government will be slow to undertake such a responsibility unless goaded by a widespread danger or a most influential, not to say imperative, panic. Under the circumstances, the *Indian Daily News* falls back on the alternative of cure. That is one too often suggested to be too summarily abandoned. We hope it will receive a more steady attention, whatever may be its ultimate fate. Is the problem of therapeutic treatment so desperate? We hope not. We all in this country have heard, from time to time, of occasional cures of bad cases, not by European medicine, nor even by regular Hindu or Mahomedan practice, but by members of the much-abused fraternity of "quacks," or of the much-suspected body of Fakirs and Yogeas. We ourselves remember one instance that happened many years ago, in our own neighbourhood in a suburban town. Two cases have occurred lately in our own ward in town. In fact, they are still under treatment, and may be seen by those who care to inquire. If they have not been thoroughly cured, that is scarcely the fault of the medicine, for the patients are negligent, and there is no control over them, they not being in hospital. They live at home and go about after their bread as usual, eating and doing what they list. One has not the most suitable of occupations, and he cannot afford the best regimen. The treatment, being gratuitous and free in every sense, is not so much respected as it ought to be, and it would have been entirely given up but for the extraordinary results. There is no doubt that the drug has a most decided action, and no unprejudiced observer can resist the conclusion that it is, speaking moderately, a very good medicine for leprosy. There are, we have every reason to believe, other medicines too. Surely, we ought to welcome those who have curative suggestions to offer and to test them thoroughly, without official obstructiveness or medical bias. The doctors unfortunately are the greatest danger in the way. Having failed themselves, they are not likely to look with favour on the prospect of any outsiders being more successful. We wish we could, in this matter, send them all to the right about, but this is impossible. Every precaution, however, should be taken against their undue interference. Mere medical men should not be trusted with the fate of any treatment presented for trial. There should be lawyers and judicial officers and independent men of wellknown general capacity to judge the evidence and protect the experiments. Before the Government is committed to any extensive and expensive projects, or any harsh inquisitorial and vexatious legislation, surely an elaborate investigation ought to take place—a regular department opened. First of all, there ought to be issued a blue-book bringing into focus all the different opinions scattered about, in general and state literature, on the subject of Leprosy, and giving the experiments already made with various specifics, such as Garjan oil—tried many years ago in this Presidency and specially in the Andamans—and the late Dr. Bhau Dajee's drug, tried in Bombay. Notwithstanding the general attitude of the medical Faculty, it is not in human nature to give up the hope of cure. Just now, there are three or four different claims before the Calcutta public. Dr. Chew, late an assistant in the Health department of the Corporation, and Baboo H. C. Dutt, a practical agriculturist who has paid much attention to the botany

of the country, each professes to have a cure. Mr. W. H. DeCosta is experimenting with a drug with promising results. Mr. H. R. Cranenburgh has seen wonderful effects of Count Mattei's system. These gentlemen and their respective advocates and critics have, during these months, kept the public mind in some excitement over their writings in the press. The Editor of the *Indian Daily News* has now taken up the matter in right earnest, with a view to a practical solution. He has discharged quite a catechism at the heads of all and sundry who might in any way whatsoever be concerned. It will bring them to book, either silencing them or making the claimants come forward and substantiate their respective claims, and the others to help in the inquiry. Thus the rambling discussion of claims and counter-claims is brought to a head. He has done more. To prevent all excuse for backing out, he has offered to pay for the trial. In fine,

He has done well and like a gentleman.

If all this does not come to anything, we do not know what to think of. At all events, it will stop the incessant boring with specifics and marvellous cures that has been kept up.

#### THE FOUCHÉ OF BENGAL.

THE Indian papers have been noticing in a sympathetic spirit Mr. Monro's quarrel as head of the London Police with the Home Secretary. Some of them tell old stories of his characteristics and qualifications. Here is one.

Mr. Monro had a keen nose for sins and could discern a *badmash* in the air from afar with the unerring instinct with which the cat smells a rat. One native gave him much trouble. After the man's second capture and conviction, Mr. Monro vowed that he should not be worried again on the same account. At the instance of the Inspector-General of the Police, elaborate precautions were taken by the Government of Bengal and other administrations so that, when after his term of imprisonment the man was again wanted, he might be easily got at. In due course he was released from his second confinement. The penal discipline repeatedly undergone by him had had no effect on him. As soon as he breathed the open air without the prison, he was himself again. He might have waited a few days to mature his next plan of operations, but then he was goaded by Mr. Monro himself. He had heard within the jail of the great General Sahib's efforts in his behalf and he must take up the glove thrown. It was a point of honor with him. So the very night of his freedom he committed a daring theft. The Police knew it was he, but they failed to find him. They thought they had got in his track and followed him from place to place, until they found themselves in another Provincial jurisdiction. They now calculated upon an easy capture. According to the directions previously circulated under high authority, there should be no difficulty. But as it usually happens, the precautions had not been thoroughly enforced, and our fugitive was having all the advantage of the lapse. There was no help for it, but Monro would not stop. His agents kept up the pursuit, with such aid as they got from the local executive. They had every hope of success. The scent trail was unbroken. They identified the traces of the man along the whole line, whether he went straight on far and farther or doubled the same path or revolved round a particular district or took a zigzag course, they made sure of his presence in the neighbourhood and, after a temporary puzzling, they invariably hit upon the true line of march. But though they often came near to him, they never came upon him. They were always late by an hour. As he left, they reached. In such cases, they gave hot pursuit if possible. But they were usually too wind broken to attempt a run. Besides, there was risk of losing the track by a wild race, which might give the fugitive an opportunity for a sudden doubling or a quiet deviation. Be that as it may, the man was not caught and there was no catching him, to all appearance. The man's disguises were various, his resources endless. The pursuit was at its wit's end. It had to be given up. Much valuable time and some money too were lost on it to no purpose. The Inspector-General was not sad simply but mad over his discom-



ture. He lost his appetite. He would not work—he could not sleep. Day and night he only dreamed—the pursuit of his heart. In fact, he had not given up the inquiry, though the actual pursuit had to be recalled when all clue was lost—the scent interrupted—and the man vanished without leaving a trace. At last, the Fates relented. He had asked his friends in other Provinces to help him in his cause. One of them, more zealous than others, came to his rescue, without suspecting how. He was the head of a District in Upper India. He had taken a particular interest in the inquiry, and had pressed his subordinates into it, with promises in case of success. He had met with one Police officer specially to second his efforts. This officer had entered into the matter with zeal. Although new in the service and the District, he was a smart man and had found some promising clue. He was told to pursue it while the magistrate wrote to Bengal hopefully. Mr. Monro thanked his friend and begged him to encourage his Police officer and report as soon as anything turned up. This hope too was after all blasted. Meanwhile, a light flashed across the Inspector-General's brain. He quietly sent one of his favorite detectives to the Upper Provinces to interview his friend's man. The smart officer who had newly joined the N.-W. P. Police and, though a foreigner in the District, had succeeded in discovering a promising clue which he was leisurely pursuing to the neglect of his ordinary duties, was the thief Mr. Monro so badly wanted. That is worthy of Fouché.

#### THE TIPPERAH RAJ—(Concluded.)

SIR,—*Hari* or *Haribol* is the every third word or phrase in the mouth of the favourites at the court. When they mean a show of seriousness it is even more frequent. The queer fact is not inexplicable. His Highness is becoming more and more *Harivakta* with his years. In the eagerness of competition, the holy name *Hari* is disgraced in the mouth of these show-men. If then the Maharaja is possessed by them, it only shows that he is human. Is there a man who under such circumstances would not be favourably disposed to them? But I may here submit before the Maharaja that these favourites, by everything they do to please His Highness, seem to me to reveal their own nature. These astute men with all their profusions of lip-loyalty are, I am afraid, disloyal alike to God, to the Maharaja and to themselves. What they are to the Maharaja subjects and tenantry and his connections in general, I need not determine. But it is sure that the reading of the *Bhakti Chaitanya Charitamrita* has done them no good—they have never studied the book. I entreat the Maharaja to remember the words of Lord Lansdowne to the Maharaja of Cashmere, as well as the fate of the said Maharaja and others unfortunate like him, "Notwithstanding the ample resources of your state, your treasury was empty; corruption and disorder prevail in every department and every office; Your Highness was surrounded by low and unworthy favourites; and the continued misgovernment of your state was becoming every day a more serious source of anxiety." The memory of the resignation obtained from the Maharaja by Mr. Grear is yet green. Your readers will be probably tickled with the news that the favourites at the court of the Maharaja are, by their own account, the greatest men in Bengal, either among the Europeans or among the children of the soil. They say "After the Maharaja resigned all Bengal was found unequal to the exigency; we consulted all the great men including so and so.....reserving to ourselves our own solution. One and all exclaimed, Impossible! impossible! At last it was our diplomacy that restored the state to the Maharaja. We don't intend to give out the secret of it, and don't mind praising ourselves. After the territory was restored we were asked by many great men what reward we got. We replied, 'Why reward? we did our simple duty.'" Hurrah! Bengalees, raise your caps in their honor. But Bengalees are bare-headed. Ay, there's the rub! Never mind, if one day you are not hallooed out of the principality, the other world is still yours.

The Rai Bahadoor after dismissing the favourites may flatter himself with the expectation of a clear sky. But no. He will find himself outdone if the old method of providing them from the Maharaja's *Nij Tababil* is still allowed and they are kept near His Highness. Then their evil counsel will prevail.

Rent is the only source of revenue. So when he comes to the Chakla cutchery, I hope he will closely examine how far the difficult work of settlement has progressed. The two Dewans are in no friendly terms with one another. This will require able but quick solution. I also hope the document, prepared by Mr. Sandys, while he was in office, covering a space of twelve years, as to how much was owing to and from the state—assets and liabilities—will catch the eye of the minister.

I am sorry to hear that the minister for the sake of bettering the finances by a paltry sum, is trying to curtail the expenses of the

princes and the noblemen at the court. This is unwise to be sure. The past history of the identical efforts of some of his predecessors ought to have guided his policy. It is well to be wise by the misfortune of others.

It is to be hoped he will be no party to the practice in native States of the officials ignoring the claims of those that have left against whom they may have a grudge, specially if they have lost favour and are not permitted or are afraid for fear of insult to approach the capital. I know several who are long waiting for a good and stable administration and some sort of management of finances, while others by threat or complaint to British Agency (Baboo Umakant himself) have got their ducs. It would be a shame if loyal waiters are punished.

This time I have, for obvious reasons, refrained from details. But should it seem necessary, I shall revert to the subject armed with details. I beg to conclude the subject with the hope that I shall be taken in the spirit of candour and good will in which I have written these three letters.

SECRET.

Tipperah, August 4, 1890.

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN BENGAL.

Nos. Mis. 1-H-1 18-22, dated Calcutta, the 19th January 1890.  
From—H. J. S. Cotton, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Financial Department.

To—The Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; Secretary to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce; Secretary to the Calcutta Trades' Association; Secretary to the British Indian Association; and Secretary to the Indian Association.

I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has again had his attention drawn to the question of the number of public holidays in the Bengal Province, and to communicate to you the following observations on the subject, with a request that they may be laid before the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or your Association or the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, and that you will be so good as to furnish the Lieutenant-Governor with the opinion of the Chamber or the Association on the suggestions made, as well as with any further remarks on the subject which the Chamber or the Association may wish to offer.

2. It appears to the Lieutenant-Governor to be unnecessary to discuss the early history of the question, but in recent times it is material to note the following points:—

3. In 1860 the Bengal Chamber of Commerce suggested that holidays should be reduced to the days actually required for the ceremonial observances of the Hindu religion. A Committee, consisting of Messrs. J. J. Harvey, W. S. Fitz William, and Baboo Prosonno Kumar Tagore was appointed, and recommended, among other things, that the Doorga Poojah holidays should be 14 days for Hindus and 10 days for all other Government servants. These proposals were accepted by the Local Government, but on the 15th April 1862 they were set aside by the Government of India, and 27 days (including 12 days for the Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs) were declared public holidays. The number of days was raised to 30 by the order of the Government of India dated 29th October 1867, and the general holidays then sanctioned have remained unchanged up to the present time.

4. In 1874 the Chamber of Commerce recommended that the Doorga Poojah holidays should be reduced from 12 days to one week, and this proposal was supported by Sir George Campbell. Much opposition was, however, raised, and the proposal was rejected by the Government of India. Arrangements were, however, made for facilitating business in the Custom House, which it was ordered should remain closed for one week only.

5. In 1875 the Calcutta Trades' Association urged that the Doorga Poojah holidays should be reduced to the days of actual religious observance, and it was then directed that the Custom House should remain closed for five days only. The proposal that the Bank of Bengal should be closed for five days only was then rejected by the Government of India.

6. In 1878 the Chamber of Commerce again addressed Government, requesting "that the Doorga Poojah holidays be reduced and restricted to the four days which they understand are absolutely necessary for the observance of that annual festival, with the proviso that, should the festival terminate on a Friday, the holidays be extended so as to admit of business being resumed on the following Monday."

7. A representative Committee was appointed to consider and report on the question. The majority [Messrs. G. Yule, C. J. Brookes, S. Cochrane and J. D. Maclean,] reported as follows:—

"That only the four days required for strictly religious purposes be close holidays;

"That if the fourth religious day fall on Friday, the offices shall not re-open till the following Monday;

"That the Public Debt Office, the Treasury, the Currency Office, the Money-order Office, the Stamp Office, and all Pay offices be closed on these four days only, but that in other Government offices

the Heads of Departments shall have discretion to give leave to their subordinates for the whole or any part of the twelve days, provided the current work of their office is carried on."

8. The two Hindu Members (Baboos Kristo Das Pal and Durga Churn Law) of the Committee recorded a dissent which concluded as follows :--

"Considering that the arrangements made by Government in 1874, by which the Custom House is kept open during the Doorga Poojah vacation, except for five days, and the jetties work without intermission, the inconvenience to the trade of the city is not serious; that number of holidays in Bengal is less than that in the other provinces; that a general vacation of seven or eight days during Christmas does not in any way affect or inconvenience commerce in Madras and the North-Western Provinces; that the present Doorga Poojah vacation is necessary for the observance of the religious and social ceremonies of the Hindus; that it is a general holiday for all classes of public servants for rest, recreation and travelling; that it affords almost the only opportunity to the lower grades of officers to visit their mofussil homes once a year; that in a sanitary point of view a prolonged rest of 12 to 15 days in a year is of great importance, as it enables the officers of Government to discharge their duties much more satisfactorily than what they could do if no periodical rest was allowed; and that its curtailment would give rise to much hardship and dissatisfaction among the Hindu as well as other servants of Government, and also among the general public whose business engagements are regulated by the practice in the public offices, we are of opinion that no change in the present Doorga Poojah holidays is called for."

9. Mr. Dampier, the President of this Committee, recorded a separate memorandum, in which he stated that the recommendation of the majority of the Committee "amounted to a proposal that all public offices shall be kept open, and that all persons who are engaged in business must attend to business on all but the four close days." But he considered that the mercantile community had made out a case for some reduction in the length of the holidays and suggested that the number of days should be summarily curtailed from 12 to 9 or 8.

10. The papers of the case were transmitted to the Government of India with a letter from this Government, No. 3809, dated 12th September 1879. In that letter the Lieutenant-Governor observed :--

"It may be conceded that the curtailment of the holidays proposed by the majority of the Committee will not interfere with any *bona fide* religious prejudices of the Hindu community. Any shortening of the vacation may prevent social ceremonies, visits home, and the enjoyment of the rest and recreation of a holiday; but when the question of opening the Custom House was discussed in 1874 to 1876, it was clearly decided that five days are all that are necessary for the purely religious observances of Hindus during the Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs, and this decision must be considered applicable to the Hindu clerks in all other offices. It must be accepted also as regards Bengal that on days when Hindu employes are authorised to be absent, offices cannot remain open, and that, whatever rule is laid down for the Bank of Bengal, the Currency and Pay offices at the Presidency must of necessity govern the holidays of all or almost all the other offices in Bengal. The partial opening of offices during the latter portion of the vacation, as suggested in the third proposal of the majority of the Committee, is not really practicable, and their recommendation amounts to this, that all public offices shall be kept open on all but the four days of religious observance."

11. The question as a balance of convenience was then discussed by the Bengal Government, and it was recommended that there should be no alteration in the present holidays.

12. This recommendation was not accepted by the Government of India, and in orders dated 4th October 1879 it was directed that effect should be given to the proposals of the majority of the Committee.

13. On the return of the Government of India to Calcutta, the orders of the 4th October were cancelled. In a letter dated 28th January 1880 it is written :--

"Since his return to the Presidency, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has found reason to doubt whether the Government of India allowed sufficient weight to the inconvenience which will be entailed by the enforcement of this decision upon the Hindu community of Calcutta and some other parts of Bengal, and to the strength of the popular attachment to these annual holidays.

"On the other hand, His Excellency is disposed to think that he may have underrated the extent to which the complaints of the mercantile community may be obviated, or at least mitigated, by careful arrangements in the several public offices to meet their requirements."

14. It is then ordered that "the observance of the Doorga Poojah holidays in the public offices in Calcutta shall continue as heretofore," and the Bengal Government are enjoined to take measures to meet, as far as possible, the convenience of the mercantile community.

15. In 1882 the Chamber of Commerce again urged that the Doorga Poojah holidays should be restricted to the four close days which are alone observed as religious holidays. But both the Government of Bengal and the Government of India refused to re-open the question.

16. During 1886 and 1887 the Chamber of Commerce made several representations on the subject of Custom House holidays and the general routine of Custom House business. Special objection was taken to the continuous closing of the Custom House for periods varying from two to seven days. In 1888 a Committee (Messrs. C. L. P. Macaulay, R. Steel, E. D. Wylie and J. Scobell Armstrong), was appointed to enquire into the whole question, and submitted the following recommendation :--

"It has hitherto been the usage that the Custom House should not be opened on any gazetted holiday for any purpose free of charge, except on certain days in the long holidays of the Doorga Poojahs. This practice appears to us not to be suited to the requirements of the trade of Calcutta. We recommend that for the Custom House, as distinguished from the Preventive Department, Sundays, New Year's Day, Good Friday, the Queen's Birthday and Christmas Day should in future be held to be absolutely close holidays, but that on the week days for which the office is closed in the Doorga Poojahs, and on all ordinary gazetted holidays other than the days mentioned above, the Custom House should be opened free of charge for one hour, viz., from 11 A. M. to 12 noon, all work applied for up to 12 o'clock being carried through, provided that notice is given to the Assistant Collector before closing hours of the day previous, or if this be a holiday, 24 hours in advance, that it is required to have the office so opened. On such opening, vessels would be allowed to enter and clear on the import and export sides, and provisional bill-of-entry for free goods as well as shipping bills for free goods issued, but the treasury would, as in Bombay, remain closed. It is understood that arrangements can be made to carry out this in the Doorga Poojah holidays without obliging Hindu clerks to attend. The above change will further not affect the opening of the Custom House as heretofore on such advertised days as may be fixed on in the Doorga Poojah holidays for the receipt of duty and complete transaction of Custom House business."

17. These proposals were sanctioned by the Local Government.

18. In 1888 and in 1889 the Chamber of Commerce have made further representations to Government, urging that "only those days should be declared public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act which are actually required to be devoted to necessary religious ceremonies." To these letters the Government has replied at length reciting the arguments which were accepted by the Government of India in 1880 and 1882. It has been pointed out "that the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous, though less influential, portion of the community." The Government was unable to comply with the wishes of the Chamber, and on the 11th December 1889 a notification was published in the Gazette, under which the holidays declared under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act will remain the same in 1890 as they have been in previous years.

19. In consequence of the publication of this notification, a deputation from the Chamber, consisting of Sir A. Wilson, Mr. Wylie, Mr. McCaw and Mr. Stuart, waited on the Lieutenant-Governor at Belvedere on the 19th December 1889, and strongly pressed upon His Honour the necessity of reducing the number of holidays under the Act. They laid stress on the alteration which the passing of the Negotiable Instruments Act has introduced into the conditions of the problem since the decision of Government was arrived at in 1879, and they indicated that it might be possible to find a solution of it by restricting the number of holidays gazetted under the Act, but retaining by executive authority the existing number of holidays for all public offices, save the few in Calcutta which are indispensable to the foreign commerce of the port. The question as thus stated deserves very careful consideration.

(To be continued.)

## Law.

### JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGNERS.

On the 25th July at the Bombay High Court, the Full Bench of Judges, composed of the Chief Justice, Sir Charles Sargent, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bayley, the Hon. Mr. Justice Telang and the Hon. Mr. Justice Farran, reassembled at the High Court to deliver their decision upon the plea of jurisdiction raised by the counsel for the defence on behalf of the Italian Donat Angelo Constantino, who had been tried at the last Criminal Sessions on a charge of murder by causing the death of one Maldotti Angelo on board the s. s. Bisagno, on the 8th instant, by stabbing him with a knife.

The Chief Justice, in delivering the decision of the Court, said :

This is a reference made under section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Judge presiding at the recent Criminal Sessions, at which the accused, Donat Angelo Constantino, was indicted on a charge of murder, by having caused the death of another Italian named Maldotti Angelo, on board the s.s. Bisagno, an Italian steamer of the Rubattino line when lying in the Victoria Docks, on the 8th instant. He was found guilty by the jury of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and the Judge who presided reserved the question of whether the Court had jurisdiction to try and sentence a foreigner. As this offence was committed in the Victoria Dock, it is plain that, whether the dock be considered as a part of the main land, which is covered with water, or as a continuation of the port, it was committed within "the island of Bombay, or the limits thereof," over which the ordinary original jurisdiction of the High Court extends. [The Queen *vs.* Essub, Perry "Oriental Cases," 577.] Two objections have, however, been taken to the jurisdiction (1) that the offence was committed upon an Italian ship—(2) That the offence was committed by one of the crew against another, who was not a British subject. The immunity of a foreign merchant vessel from the local jurisdiction came under the consideration of the Judges, necessarily, in the case of the *Franconia*, reported in two Exchequer Division, and a perusal of the judgment delivered shows that, whatever differences of opinion there were, they have been on the question then before the Court, *viz.*, as to the nature of the jurisdiction which a State possesses over what is called the territorial sea extending to the distance of three miles along its coast; there was none whatever as to the jurisdiction which a State possesses over foreign merchant vessels when lying in its ports. I will refer to two or three of those judgments in particular. Sir Robert Phillimore, at page 82 of Law Reports, Exchequer Division, in the case of *Queen vs. Keyn*, says: "A foreign merchant vessel going into the port of a foreign state subjects itself to the ordinary law of the place during the period of her comorancy there; she is as much a *subditus temporaneus* as the individual who visits the interior of the country for the purpose of pleasure or business." Mr. Justice Lindley, at page 93, says: "It is admitted that a foreign merchant ship which enters the ports, harbours, or rivers of England, becomes subject to English law, her so-called territoriality does not in that case exclude the operation of English law." Lord Justice Cockburn, at page 161, says: "On board a foreign ship, on the high seas, the foreigner is liable to the law of the foreign ship only. It is only when a foreign ship comes into the ports or waters of another State that the ship and those on board become subject to the local law. These are the established rules of the law of nations. They have been adopted into our own municipal law, and must be taken to form a part of it." These views I may also mention, which are mainly based on the writings of the most eminent of the earlier authors on international law,

from the time of Vattel, are regarded as well established, and placed beyond all doubt by more modern writers on the subject, such as Wheaton, Forsyth and Hall. The case of *Cunningham* (in Bell's "Criminal Cases," page 72), where a murder was committed on board an American ship when in the Severn, is sufficient to illustrate the statement of Lord Justice Cockburn, that the rule as above enumerated had been adopted in our own municipal laws. The case of *Queen vs. Anderson*, 1 Crown cases and *Regina vs. Allen*, 1, Moody Cr. Cases 194, referred to by the counsel for the accused, have no application to the present question. They relate to the question how far the "high seas" extend, on which it is not disputed a foreign ship retains its nationality, and all persons on board are considered as within the jurisdiction of that nation whose flag is flying on the ship. It was said however that it was not the practice of France and other States to exercise their jurisdiction—see Hall on "International Law," page 199—where the acts relate solely to the internal discipline of the vessel, or even crimes and lesser offences committed by one of the crew against another, when the peace of the port is not affected, distinguished from crimes and offences committed upon or by persons not belonging to the crew or even by members of it upon each other, provided, in the latter case, that the peace of the port is compromised; and this Court was asked to act upon that distinction. This distinction, I may observe, is also referred to by Sir Robert Phillimore in his judgment in the following terms:—"It may be that the foreign State, influenced by considerations of public policy or by treaty of obligations, chooses to forego the exercise of her law over the foreign vessel and crew, or exercises it only when they disturb the peace and good order of the port." In other words, the State consideration distinguishes between the two classes of cases and declines to exercise the jurisdiction, which of right belonged to it in one of those classes. Mr. Forsyth, in his work alluding to this distinction, says it has never been adopted by the English Courts. It was also contended that there is no actual case to be found which is in accordance with such a limitation of the jurisdiction. It was pointed out that in the *Cunningham* case it is affirmatively stated that the murdered man Riley was an American. This is true, although being one of the crew of an American ship, it is probable that Riley was regarded as an American, and that the case was dealt with on that assumption. But assuming that the question is clear of direct authority, and that there may even be good reason for such distinction, this Court cannot in the absence of any Legislative Enactment or Consular Convention, between England and Italy, limiting the exercise of the jurisdiction as contended for, take upon itself to qualify a jurisdiction which, by the very principle on which it rests, is exclusive and absolute. We must, therefore, answer the question referred to us in the affirmative.

Mr. Justice Bayley said: I entirely am of the same opinion and agree with all that has been said by his Lordship the Chief Justice.

## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lal Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Monday the 20th day of August at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate:—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed messuage tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lal Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Muktaram Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lal Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring 9½ cottas more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonee Dass on the North by the

public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydya Nath Ooriya and Nilmonee Dass.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottas 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottas more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lal Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Burral and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will

be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.

## KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund:—

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of Reis and Rayyet, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*, October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1890.

} No. 437

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE LONELY HOME.

THERE'S none to say "good night" to me—  
No friend my little fire to share ;  
The old hoarse clock ticks drearily,  
And makes the silence worse to bear.  
Gone ! all are gone ! the fondest, best,  
And loveliest that I call my own ;  
After brief suffering they're at rest ;  
They—they lived not to wail alone !

Alone, alone—morn, noon, and eve,  
I see the old chairs keep their place ;  
I watch the dirty spider weave  
Where once there shone a household grace.  
The brightness of my home is dull—  
The busy faces all are gone ;  
I gaze—and oh ! my heart is full—  
My aching heart that breaks alone.

I ope the Bible, gray with age—  
The same my hapless grandsire read,  
But tears stain fast and deep that page  
Which keep their names—my loved—my dead  
The wandering stranger by my door—  
The passing tread—the distant tone—  
All human sounds but deepen more  
The feeling I am lone—alone !

My cot with mantling ivy green,  
Its pleasant porch, its sanded floor—  
Ah ! time's dread touch hath changed the scene,  
What was, alas ! is now no more !  
The key hath rusted in the lock,  
So long since I the threshold crossed :  
Why should I see the sun but mock  
The blessed light, my home hath lost ?  
Oh ! would my last, low bed were made ;  
But death forsakes the lone and old !  
Seeks the blythe cheek of youth to fade,  
To crush the gay, the strong, the bold ;  
Yet sometimes through the long dull night,  
When hours find supernatural tone,  
I hear a promise of delight,  
Thou God ! Thou leavest me not alone.

The wintry rain fell fast and deep,  
As slow a coffin passed the road,  
No mourner there was seen to weep—  
No follower to that last abode !  
Yet there a broken heart found peace—  
The peace that but in death it knew ;  
Alas ! that human loves increase  
Our human woes and miseries too !

## THE GREEK SLAVE.

SUGGESTED BY POWER'S STATUE.

THOU art no slave, albeit thy hands are bound.  
I would we were, even as thou art, freed !  
The insolent comment of the gazers round  
Thy heart is poised too far away to heed.  
The shade of sadness, o'er thy patience cast,  
Neither accuses Heaven nor chides at man.  
Thou waitest till this lot be over-past,  
As only those whose hearts are holden, can.  
Thy woman's beauty, robbed of sheltering vest,  
Makes solitude in the rude market place,  
As if a spirit stood there, manifest,  
Vouchsafing to our eyes a perfect grace.  
Thy head is bowed, but not with shame or fear.  
The present lays no iron hand on thee ;  
The Past, the Eternal Future, stand too near.  
Motionless, fettered, naked, thou art free,  
Clothed on with chastity ; and waiting there,  
The thing that God appointeth thou wilt bear,  
Holy and lovely, as a lily stands  
Bearing fresh dew from His baptizing hands.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

IT is reported from Bahraich on the 9th instant that

"The river Gogra is in high flood. Its waters have extended to about seven miles from the main current. Many human corpses and hundreds of cattle were seen going down the current. The 'oldest inhabitant' (he is aged 80 years) says that he has never seen the river in such a state of flood."

THE Celestial Emperor has approved of the Sikkim treaty signed at Calcutta by the Viceroy and the Amban Sheng Tai. The ratification is on its way to England. Mr. Acheson, of H. I. M. Customs, takes the document to Shanghai and Mr. A. H. Harris to England.

HERE is indeed a very quiet statement of a highly stirring incident :—

"Japanese Parliament.—The first general election for the new Parliament in Japan has taken place, and passed off quietly with one exception, in the Kagawa prefecture, where Mr. Ito Ichiro, the successful candidate for the Fifth District, was assassinated."

That is the progress of parliamentary government with a vengeance, literally.

THE "Phenomenal Female" of Paris is dead. She bore the name of Victoria Tautin and was 19 years of age. She was not a giantess in height but her girth was enormous. It took eight strong men to lift her out of her chair. She was for a time on exhibition. But it did not pay, the cost of her transit mostly eating up the realizations. She therefore gave up public life and retired to obscurity with her parents. Lately, she had an attack of erysipelas and died. She was carried to her grave on the shoulders of ten most robust undertakers.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

THE European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association is widening the scope of its activity. It has memorialised the Viceroy in a long document for the abolition of the Income Tax as "not only causing serious injustice and great irritation while securing an altogether incommensurate return, but also undermining the popularity of the Government."

THE Viceregal party, consisting of His Excellency, Lord Kerry, Captain Herboard and Dr. Fenn, left Simla on the 8th and by rapid march and ride reached Narkanda in about six hours. The latest news is that they have arrived safely at Saharan.

THE Maharaja of Cooch Behar has been to Darjeeling, is now at Calcutta and goes to Simla.

NEW Regulations for the open competition for the Indian Civil Service have been published differing in important respects from those hitherto in force :—

"The examination will commence on August 1, 1892, instead of the beginning of June. The candidates must be over twenty-one and under twenty-three years of age on April 1, 1892. The old limits were seventeen and nineteen on the previous January 1. An order for admission to the examination will be sent to each candidate on July 18, two months later than hitherto. It is evidently intended to make the examination far stiffer than before. The subjects are more numerous, and the maximum marks obtainable are 12,700 in place of 7,100. Candidates will no longer be at liberty to select a particular period in English History in which to be examined, and the following notes in the old prospectus are not in the new. A considerable portion of the marks for English History and Literature will be allotted to the work selected by the candidate. In awarding marks for this, regard will be had partly to the extent and importance of the period or books selected, but chiefly to the thoroughness with which they have been studied. The examination in mathematics will range from arithmetic, algebra, and elementary geometry, up to the elements of the differential and integral calculus, including the lower portions of applied mathematics. The standard of marking in Sanskrit and Arabic will be determined with reference to a high degree of proficiency, such as may be expected to be reached by a native of good education. Instead of two years' probation in England, and periodical examinations, the new prospectus reads thus :—Selected candidates before proceeding to India will be on probation for one year, at the end of which time they will be examined, with a view of testing their progress. The marks in the final examination will be subject to deductions as in the open competition. Persons desirous to be admitted as candidates must apply on forms which may be obtained from 'The Secretary, Civil Service Commission, London, S. W.,' at any time after December 1, 1891. The forms must be returned so as to be received at the office of the Civil Service Commissioners on or before May 31, 1892. Evidence of health and character must bear date not earlier than May 1, 1892. Seniority in the Service will be determined by the candidate's position in the list resulting from the combined marks of the Open and Final examinations. Hitherto the Final Examination alone has fixed the seniority. An allowance of £100 (instead of £300) will be given to all candidates who pass their probation at one of the universities or colleges approved by the Secretary of State. Candidates selected under these regulations in 1892 will, in view of the alteration in the limits of age, have seniority over the candidates selected under the previous regulations in 1891."

ON the second reading of the Census Bills for England, Scotland, and Ireland in the House of Commons on July 21, Mr. Goschen said that the Government were disposed to look upon a quinquennial census with favour. The England and Wales Bill passed through Committee, an amendment by Baron Dimsdale to include religion in the returns being lost by 288 against 69. The census day is fixed for Sunday, April 5, 1891.

IN answer to Mr. Birrell, Sir J. Grost told the House of Commons on July 18 :—

"The duties of the Political A.-D.-C. to the Secretary of State are—to attend on Native Princes visiting this country; to represent the Secretary of State when Natives are presented at Court; to exercise a general supervision over the welfare of Natives, students and others, sent to this country by the Government of India, or recommended to the good offices of the Secretary of State; to make recommendations to the Secretary of State as to the disposal of the cases of destitute Natives who apply for relief to the India Office. His salary is £500, with £300 for contingencies, and is paid from the revenue of India. The Secretary of State does not contemplate the abolition of the office. The Political A.-D.-C. is, like other members of the establishment of the India Office, under the control of the Secretary of State."

In fact, the post of Political A.-D.-C. is a politic and pretty sinecure, all the better for being charged on the Indian taxpayer.

J. E. BUDD, late District Registrar of Fyzabad, has been committed to the N.-W. P. High Court, for accepting illegal gratifications. He is out on bail of Rs. 6,000.

MR. RICE, the Deputy Commissioner of Minbu, is under arrest. The charge against him is, as put by the *Statesman*, that "a considerable sum of money which was realized as fine by a Burman deputy magistrate from some dacoit-harboured villages, was not to be found entered in the books of the district treasury." The friends of the unfortunate gentleman had better come to his help at once. In the first place, it is the fate of Rice and Curry to run the race of life enormously handicapped, they having, besides carrying the burden of their own laches, to undertake those of others'. This is, of course, peculiarly the case with Rice and Curry served on the floor on plantain leaf or in pewter or brass or cheap earthen ware. But Table Rice and Curry on table can not altogether escape the curse of race. Be that as it may, there has been so much looting in Burma, ever since the fall of Mandalay by Gramfed mutton and Fat turkey, that, now that a fuss has been raised over a petty defalcation or suspicion of it, poor Rice and Curry may well be seized as handy victims upon whom to vindicate the character of administration and give stern warning to—minor depredators and uninfluential misdoers.

IN future, the 4th Regiment of Bengal Infantry will be designated "the 4th (Prince Albert Victor's) Regiment of Bengal Infantry." Could not the two names be amalgamated under a shorter title?

THE Receipts and Expenditure on account of the Burma Coast lights during the financial year ending 31st March 1890, were respectively Rs. 2,14,154-6-6 and Rs. 1,89,096-0-0. Under the twelve items published, the expenditure is always in rupees without any fractions thereof in anna and pie.

SURGEON-Major A. Crombie, having obtained two months and eighteen days' leave from the 30th July, Surgeon-Major J. F. P. McConnell acts as Surgeon Superintendent, Presidency General Hospitals, Calcutta, Surgeon-Major A. Tomes, from Midnapore, doing the duties of Civil Surgeon, 24-Pergunnahs. Deputy Surgeon-General A. H. Hilson, too, goes on six weeks' leave from the 10th August, and Brigade-Surgeon R. C. Chandra, Professor, Medical College, Calcutta, officiates as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, in addition to his own duties. Last time, when Dr. Hilson was away from his post, Dr. Coates did his duties in addition to his own as Principal of the Medical College. But this time the Principal is kept out and the Professor elected, by way of some reparation, we believe, for loss of the Principalship to which Dr. Chandra believed himself entitled on account of his present senior position in the service.

THE Postmaster General of the Punjab, Mr. J. Dillon, going on leave for two months and twenty-three days from the 19th August, the Presidency Postmaster of Calcutta, Mr. E. Hutton, goes to the Punjab, his Deputy Mr. G. E. Walker acting as full Presidency Postmaster.

THE Archaeological Surveyor, Punjab Circle, Mr. Chas. J. Rodgers, is now engaged on a catalogue of the coins in the Lahore Museum. After completion of that work, he comes down to Calcutta to report on those in the Indian Museum. His engagement with the Punjab Government ceases on the 30th September, the post having been abolished.

THE Dowager Maharanee of Bettiah, aunt of the present Maharaja of Benares, died on the 12th inst. at that sacred city.

THE Governor-General in Council has extended the rules dated the 24th June 1887 under Act IV of 1884 to the whole of British India, but those relating to the transport of explosives shall not apply to any port as defined in the Indian Ports Act, X of 1889, for which special rules made by the Local Government are for the time being in force, in so far as they are expressly superseded by, or are inconsistent with, such special rules.

AT Madras, on Tuesday, a young married man of 25, George Edward Watson, Chief Reporter of the *Madras Mail*, and formerly Reporter of the *Bombay Gazette*, shot himself to death with a revolver, in a fit of temporary insanity, according to the conventional finding of the Coroner's jury.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Czar of all the Russias is not dead to the modern sentiment against wholesale extermination of races. The eyes of the civilized world were directed to the threatened Ukase against the Jews. His Imperial Majesty thought better of it and the mandate has not been promulgated. The Lord Mayor of London who had notified a meeting to protest against the measure has consequently issued a fresh notice deferring its consideration.

A SAD accident has occurred in the Russian Navy. Reuter telegraphs that during the trial of the new line of battle ship *Sinope* at Odessa on the Black Sea, a boiler exploded on board, killing Prince Chilkoff and twelve sailors.

THE Czarewitch will see the world—Eastern. He sets out in September; visits Constantinople and Palestine, takes in Egypt, turns *Eothen*, sailing over to India, and then strays farther East unto the farthest, to China and Japan, returning in spring through Siberia from Vladivostock.

TELEGRAPHIC news has reached Madrid of the massacre of 128 Spanish soldiers by natives in the Caroline Islands.

DURING the week, the Irish Irreconcilables contributed a "scene" and a "sensation" to Parliamentary proceedings. It was all the more a surprise in that it was not on an Irish night—on which people might be prepared for Patrickian if not patrician exhibitions or ebullitions—nor, apparently, on any distinctly Irish matter. The hero was the redoubtable Dr. Tanner. On Tuesday evening the House of Commons was sitting in Committee of the whole House on the Estimates. In the course of the discussion, the Doctor burst forth against Her Majesty's Secretary for Home Affairs, proclaiming Mr. Matthews the meanest and basest skunk who had ever held office. That is not simply unparliamentary invective but also language calculated to create a breach of the peace. It was doubtless followed by great uproar in old St. Stephen's chapel. The Chairman rose to order, and called on the fiery orator to retract. Thereupon, Dr. Tanner withdrew the unfortunate expression, and apologised. And then the matter, indeed, the uproar subsided, and the representatives of the free and independent citizens of the United Kingdom resumed the even tenour of their way and proceeded on their congenial inquiry into the ways and means of the state. Dr. Tanner was not fined for calling Her Majesty's Principal Minister for Home "the meanest and basest skunk who had ever held office."

THE House of Commons having at last, after much debating and protracted sittings, voted the Supply, and the Indian Budget being presented, Parliament will be prorogued next Monday. As explained by Sir John Gorst, the finances of India are in a flourishing condition, due to the rise in silver, the increase of revenue and reduction in expenditure. The surplus for 1889-90, was £2,677,000; that for the current year is given at £1,870,000. But for the rise in exchange, this latter increase would have been half a million below the estimate. £1,500,000 of the Salt duty have been diverted to the Famine Fund, whatever that may mean. No reduction in the Salt duty must, in any case, be expected, for the further surplus might just as well be devoted to the same Sinking Fund—or its ghost, for the Fund has long since vanished under the manipulation of the financial wizards of Government.

SIR EDWARD BRADFORD's inauguration as head of the London Police has been marked by a sad accident. While riding in the Park, on the morning of the 13th, his horse shied and he fell clean off the animal.

He was picked up senseless. He has since recovered consciousness but is still suffering from the shock of the fall.

What a pity that the Empire City of the Old World cannot get the benefit of a whole man for the head of its Police! We trust it is no sign of degeneracy that London must repeatedly put up with infirmity, in some particular or another.

If the Metropolitan Constabulary is sorely discontented and not satisfactorily commanded or governed, the National Army is not a whit more to be envied. The spirit of defiance and mischief is in the air.

THE mutiny of the Grenadiers has been followed by that of the Army Service Corps at Chatham. There was complaint of extra Sunday work. On the 8th, the men refused to attend parade, and barricaded themselves in their quarters. They, however, ultimately submitted. Twenty of them have been sentenced to a month's imprisonment. Two non-commissioned officers have been discharged and another arrested, and the men are now confined to the barracks. There have been many desertions.

These are all circumstances most painful to all loyal citizens of the British Empire. To us whose chance of political education depends on the prosperity of Britain, they are profoundly depressing. What a spectacle is this for dear England to present. Her whole available army was never more numerous than a Continental *Corps d'arme*. But then it was composed of picked men. That tradition has received a death-blow, and with it will pass away all the prestige of it.

THE British who in the East are wont to rail at the ceremoniousness of Orientals, are not a little wedded to ceremony themselves. They could not leave a speck of rock in the so-called German Ocean—German Oceans are diminutive like German principalities—without the customary demonstrations. In the present case, they were of the most miserable—in every respect, and we think we notice some disappointment in consequence. Reuter reports that on the 9th Governor Barkly delivered over Heligoland to the German representative, who bears a truly Gothic name, which we will not try to write down for the torture of compositors and "readers" and readers in general. Both British and German flags were hoisted together for the nonce, preparatory to the former being taken down "for good." Both the British and German war vessels present saluted the twain. We imagine the Union Jack could scarcely conquer its self-consciousness and probably refused to be unfurled for the worse than ephemeral—mere momentary—*lamasha*. How could the proud rag confront its Continental brother—how look in the face the assembled spectators of both nations! It certainly could not float with dignity or air in comfort its different hues, after having received its *conge*. Soon it was bundled up and bundled out of town and harbour. With it went the members of the British Government and all the insignia and traces of British sovereignty, almost thankful for the cloud of smoke in which they were permitted to retire from their watch tower in the North Sea.

Again! again! again!  
And the firing then went slack,  
Till a feeble British cheer  
To their cheering sent we back;—  
Our guns along the deep slowly boom:—  
Then ceased—and all is gloom,  
As of sorrow and the tomb.

Such is the sad story of the final retirement.

There was no sound of revelry by night or day. "Not a drum was heard." Even that *sine qua non* of British dealings—the dinner, seems to have been dispensed with. The British party in their melancholy mission had lost all appetite, we fear. The Goths had not the grace to dismiss them with a feed. *Sic transit mundi*—from Heligoland.

THE sorrow of one nation is the joy of another. After the Germans dismissed the former masters of the island under their complimentary sulphurous canopy, they proceeded to make the most of their advantage. They converted the occasion to a jubilee, culminating on the arrival of their sovereign.

The Emperor William bade adieu to England on the 8th and sailed direct for his new territory of Heligoland, reaching it on the 10th. His reception was most enthusiastic. His Majesty was entertained by his people at a luncheon. He eulogised the Queen of England to whom,



he said, the cession was due and who desired the friendship of Germany. The same evening the Emperor sailed for Wilhelmshaven.

THE employers and the employed at Cardiff having come to terms, the strike is ended.

THE American Silver Act has been brought into operation. The Washington Treasury, on the 13th, purchased 3,10,000 ounces of silver. The offers amounted to one million. The rate is kept a secret, but it is believed to be 113, or slightly above the London rate.

THEY have come upon an extensive coal-field in Silesia.

MR. Cecil Rhodes, the new Prime Minister of British South Africa, is one of the *novi homines* of the world's plutocracy, though a thorough gentleman for a' that. Educated at Oxford, he left the University direct for South Africa and went up to the newly discovered Diamond Fields. Thus he took the veritable tide which leads on to fortune. As he was one of the earliest, so he became the most successful of the diggers. A man of great ability as well as enterprise and energy, he has been one of the leading figures in South Africa. For the better development of the resources of the Colony, he started the British South Africa Company which has latterly, by his exertions and influence, obtained a charter. He was brought to general notice throughout the world by his princely donation of £10,000 to Mr. Parnell for the Home Rule Fund. Since then, he is known throughout the world as the Diamond King of South Africa, the compeer of the Gold King of Australia, and the Silver King, the Railway King and the Oil King of America.

FLOODS continue. The latest and the heaviest reported is on the Bolan section of the North-Western Railway. The loss of life is great and damage enormous. Six miles of railway have been washed away and the military road obliterated in places. The rush of water was at the rate of twenty miles an hour.

LANDSLIPS have not ceased at Simla. A serious one has just occurred on the Tonga road about seven miles from Simla. The road was blocked entirely for fourteen hours. Tongas can now pass through but no bullock train service is possible. The mails are late by several hours.

THE Government of India is not prepared to proceed with the Leper Bill. It is not satisfied as to the contagious character of the disease and awaits further and definite information.

MR. Warburton has commenced the attack on the *Tribune*. He proceeds not only against the editor and printer, but drags in also the proprietor. Still the Punjab Police man is generous after his kind. He has spared the distributor, the compositor, the proof reader, the inkman, the flyboy, the vendors of the paper on which and the ink with which the journal was printed, and others who had in any way assisted at the production and distribution of the issues complained of. Such issues are nine in number. He does not complain of the nine articles in their entirety but has selected thirteen extracts from them to base his information upon. Four issues are specially named as conveying imputations upon the character and conduct of his deceased mother, which would harm her reputation if living and were intended to be hurtful to his and his children's feelings. The old story! Summonses have been ordered and they are returnable on the 5th September next. The *Tribune* wrote plainly in the public interest, it knew not Warburton personally, still less did it know the Warburtons, and if it mentioned any of them it did so on information, and there must have been cause for such mention. All this may be assumed without special acquaintanceship with the merits of the case. At the worst, the journal lapsed into indiscretion, considering the state of the law. Under the circumstances, any unfavourable ending of the case against it, is sure to secure it public sympathy and to nullify the effect of the sentence, making the journal more famous.

THE Calcutta municipality voted Rs. 10,000 from borrowed capital to the widow of their deceased servant Mr. Fenwick of the Water Works Department. The Howrah municipality is equally liberal with its funds. It has sanctioned Rs. 1,800 for a bonus to the widow of its Secretary A. Mitchell. The Howrah People's Association, we find, protests against the outlay and has resolved to apply to the District Magistrate to suspend the proceedings of the Commissioners under the municipal Act.

THE Hon'ble Syed Ameer Hossein, C.I.E., has usually been after his friend the Hon'ble Amir Ali, C. I. E. They are, however, in so many respects alike as to be popularly taken for birds of a feather. Both are descendants of the Prophet, both Hon'ble, and both companions of the same Order. The first succeeded the second as a Magistrate in the Calcutta Police Court, as Legislator in the Supreme Council of the Empire, as Secretary of the National Mahomedan Association, and lastly as a Member of the permanent Committee for the supervision of Mahomedan Marriage Registrars and Qazis. This persistent dogging of the new Mahomedan Judge is too much of a good thing even from the best friend. It looks ominous. With all our regard for Hossein we are not Shiahs enough to wish such a succession to Ali, natural and appropriate though it be—within a measurable space of time. We are sure, Hossein himself would not, on such terms, succeed Ali on the bench of the High Court. Nor is it necessary to alarm a worthy man. The Government may make our friend a Judge of a District Court.

FROM upcountry comes a not uninteresting story of how a Mahomedan gentleman having gone to law has gone to the wall, before the hearing of his suit proper. There was a difference between a brace of Rahims. Shah Ahmedullah, the Subordinate Judge, Allahabad, had before him a peculiar case the other day. Kazi Abdul Rahim sued Rahim Khan in the second Munsif's court, Allahabad, for a piece of land which he valued at Rs. 5. The Munsif going on leave, the application came before the Subordinate Judge. Against this, Rahim Khan, the principal defendant, urged that the land was worth more than Rs. 250. So the court ordered a local enquiry. Thereupon, the first Rahim, stating his suspicions of the Sub, applied to the District Judge, for transfer of the case to the second Munsif. Mr. Elliot, the Judge, rejected the application. The brave Rahim the Kazi, relying probably on his judicial blood and family traditions, proceeded to take the bull by the horn. Applying to the Sub-Judge himself, he presented to that judicial officer two alternatives, either to transfer the case to the second Munsif's court or to permit him to withdraw from the suit with liberty to institute a fresh one. The petition was considered irregular and was not complied with. Another and a more desperate one was tried, in which, by way of clinching the argument, it was broadly alleged that the Khan Rahim & Co. were very acute persons willing and able to purchase decisions. This was the last straw that broke the poor Sub-Judge's back. He treated the application as contempt of court, and sentenced the plaintiff Rahim to a fine of Rs. 200, or in default of payment, one month's imprisonment.

We dare say the lesson will not be quickly forgotten. It will make the applicant at least more careful, if not absolutely less litigious. But was the second petition on which order was passed in accordance with law?

THE true Reforming Spirit of the day is located in the South. Some of our contemporaries down there are more dreadfully excited over the case of Hari Mohan Maiti. The *Southern Star* of Tanjore has gone into hysterics and broken out in alliterative indignation. After relating the case, our contemporary says:—

"The circumstances narrated above point to calumnious cannibalism and base barbarism which our countrymen, especially in the North, are privileged to commit and yet go unpunished for the commission by them of what may be called the most disgracefully heinous offence."

"If Hari Mohan's alleged cruelty to, and lustful assassination of, his child-wife were not the proto-type of the only too frequent results of the savage custom of child-marriage, it would not probably have attracted so much public attention and would not possess so much social and national importance as it now has, and his case would be consigned to the 'limbo of oblivion' like a thousand-and-one individual tragedies, that now and then blot the public prints, and are passed off with a wonted stricture or two."

Thus standing convicted of not cannibalism and barbarism only but calumnious anthropophagism and base barbarism, and the habi-

tual indulgence in the savage custom of child-marriage, we of the North have nothing for it but to throw ourselves on the mercy of our betters. As they have allowed us to fatten in our crimes so long, our brethren of the South, Christian as well as Heathen, may possibly permit us a little longer.

Notwithstanding that our contemporary's terms of condemnation are more eloquent than graceful, the writer shows gleams of felicity of phrase. "Lustful assassination of child-wife" is very good.

Our Southern friends are glad that they are not as the Northern barbarians. There is no assumption of mock-modesty but downright jubilation:—

"We are not a little gratified to announce that no such custom exists among the higher classes of our Presidency, and, even among our lower castes, it is a pride to see that the extremely commendable custom of girls marrying only after puberty, and its consummation taking place simultaneously with, or subsequent to it obtains."

But the joy is momentary, and things are not what they seem. We read:—

"But even among some of the higher classes of our Sudras we are grieved to see that high class ignorance and barbarity are being imitated, not unfrequently, openly bringing about thereby the union of a mature husband and an immature wife. To speak more plainly, the Sudras indulge in child-marriages, and among Brahmins, there exist the worthless and the dangerous customs of celebrating mock-puberty ceremonials and nuptials of child-wives, in most cases with a view to save the trouble and the expense of having them performed separately and in due course."

So, after all, the Land of Light does not lie due South. Nor is the Millennium begun already in Madras. The writer comforts himself with the reflection:—

"It is, however, a matter for gratification, that such cases are getting very few and far between day after day; and advancing education bids fair to extirpate them completely at no distant date."

The very truth—but by no means confined to the South, holding good for Benighted Bengal and Enlightened Madras,—for Upper India as for Bombay, for Sind as for the Central Provinces, for British India as Native India. The fact is common to the Empire.

For all that, our contemporary is able to say, we are afraid with justice,—

"But the circumstances in Northern India seem to stand in horrid contrast, and there prevails in those parts the nefarious custom of allowing the child-wife to live with her husband even before puberty. The number of cases of such wife-murders may be very small; but the number of attempts to outrage child-wives is probably too numerous, causing thereby tormenting pain and agony to, if not the death of, many a Foolmoney Dassi. We have no hesitation, therefore, in condemning such a custom in the strongest possible terms, and characterising it as brutal, diabolical and barbarous."

We bow to the chastisement. Although the remarks of contemporaries like the *Indian Daily News* in the North and the *Southern Star* and others in the South naturally rile us as members of Hindu society in Bengal, the castigation is not undeserved. It was our own fault that we did not sooner set our house in order, and such writers do a great service to the country and most to ourselves.

To minds brought up in the love and practice of truth, the reading of our Indian newspapers is frequently far from pleasant or instructive, so systematic is truth neglected or, at the best, travestied. The offence is given most in dealing with persons. Flattery prevails to an alarming extent. Big wigs and notabilities of sorts—men risen and men rising—officials, high and low, even to little men dressed in brief authority—powerful men and mischievous men—men of wealth and men of seeming wealth—all are indiscriminately treated to ladlefuls of butter. The article is usually of the "Bazaar" stuff. Nothing comes amiss to a Free Press in Asia. Not only are the veriest lackeys lathered and lubricated into demigods, but the very door posts and railings of Opulence or Influence are attentively pasted with unsightly placards to make them pass for things of beauty and a momentary joy at least. The dead, in particular, are the prey of the Press. Under its peculiar treatment, they are mangled and their faces oftentimes so thoroughly defaced as to be hardly recognizable. All this with the best of intentions, mind you!—that is, if flattery can ever be good,—provided puffing be a proper art, provided it be permissible towards even the dead. In fine, there is little sense of responsibility in those who have access to our public journals, or in their conductors either.

Two of our morning contemporaries have thought fit to accord in their columns a special notice to the appointment of one Baboo Annodaprasad Biswas, of Kharda, (a village in the Barrackpore municipality), as rural

Sub-Registrar of Khatra in the district of Bankoora. The one remarks "This is slow work. It has taken more than ten years to our knowledge to achieve this much, or this little." The other "congratulates the Baboo on his appointment."

It is, however, when treating of the dead that the writers are at their happiest. Then their chord of human nature is struck most violently and they gush most plentifully. Then no end of soft-sawder is brought into service.

THERE is mourning in Anglo-Bihar. Its Demosthenes is dead!—or more properly Erskine. Elegies and epitaphs are appearing on all sides. The *khaz* Bihar contribution is the boldest of them all. After premising the deceased gentleman's claims on Bihar, to wit, that he "was a friend to most of our leading society members," it lays down the lesson of his life at starting. "Perhaps there has never been a career which has shown more thoroughly than that of the deceased gentleman how much unusual brain power and indomitable pluck can accomplish." The same vein of enthusiasm of appreciation marks the whole. Thus—"As a criminal lawyer he was *facile princeps*; as an orator his delivery and eloquence were of the very highest order." We are told of "his indomitable will and his wondrous powers of oratory." We are reminded of his "wonderous peroration" in case after case—a work of supererogation, seeing that those oratorical efforts "will not easily be forgotten by those who were privileged to listen." Thus merits are improved and augmented all round in the lips of sorrowing friendship. In the abandon of grief, there is even etymological reduplication. We refer not simply to the recurrence again and again of "wondrous, indomitable," &c. There is doubling of the same words. The lost one's school-days are not only, in true newspaper dialect, his noviciate, but, if possible, more—his "noviciateship."

WE have lost a true lawyer—specially strong in the Regulations—and, what is more, an honest man. Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry, who died on Thursday, was an old but not an antiquated pleader. Thoroughly upright, and frank almost to imprudence, he was an ardent patriot. He had been ailing for sometime and absented himself from Court since the last Poojas. On receipt of the news, the High Court mourned the event. Two of the Benches—presided over respectively by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Norris—gave expression to the sentiment. The new Senior Government Pleader and Mr. Twidale replied on behalf of the Pleaders. We spare our readers the effusions of Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee. The best speech delivered on the occasion was by Mr. Justice Norris. He paid deserving compliment to the worth of the departed. Addressing Mr. Twidale, he said:—

"We have learnt with very deep regret of the loss which your branch of the profession has sustained in the death of its *de facto* leader. Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhury had practised in this Court and in the Court which preceded it, with advantage to his client and with honor and reputation to himself for a very long series of years. He was a distinguished lawyer, an able advocate, a generous opponent, and a man of high integrity and honesty and uprightness of purpose. His mind was of a more powerful order than the minds of some of those whom it was his duty to address, and this, coupled with the fact that he spoke with great rapidity rendered it at times a matter of difficulty to follow readily many of his numerous arguments, and this occasionally produced a little irritation. But this was something merely superficial; and at the bottom of his heart he was most anxious that nothing should occur to interfere with the friendly relations which ought to exist between the Bench and the Bar. Personally I have received great consideration at his hands, and though it was not my privilege to know him in the intimate way in which I know the members of that branch of the profession to which I belong, I feel in common with you, though not to the same extent, the loss of a friend. I trust his memory will remain fresh and fragrant, and that those of you who are young and just entering upon the battle of life will consider his example well worthy of imitation."

THE Health Officer has quieted the storm that he had raised—but not by his own wand. The quieting wand was supplied by the Advocate-General. He was of opinion that Dr. Simpson had egregiously erred in law in stopping the mehter service of a particular premises and the Commissioners were right in their view of the law that that service could on no account be suspended or refused. At the same time, the Doctor—responsible as he is for the health of the town, and all the more commendable for being enthusiastic in the cause—had not been guilty of improper or insulting language in his Note on the conduct of the Complaints Committee. Nor could he be properly charged with a spirit of defiance of authority for declining to retract

the remarks he had been called on to withdraw, seeing that such retractation might be taken for admission of a contumacy which he denied. That refusal put the Commissioners in a fix. They evidently were not prepared for the attitude taken up by the Health-Officer and hesitated to take any extreme step. In this dilemma, they asked the Advocate-General for advice and he found a way out of the difficulty honorable to both sides. Dr. Simpson withdrew his remarks and the Commissioners were satisfied. The town is indebted to Sir Charles Paul for being such an adroit peace-maker. It is no small calamity to a great city to have its municipal corporation at feud with the Health Department.

A CASE of death of a native woman—not girl—by negligence and neglect, for which Hari Mohun Maiti is undergoing imprisonment, is maturing in the Coroner's Court. That supplied materials for agitation against child marriage. This is likely to rake up indignation against the practice known among us as *Ganjajatra*—carrying the dying to the river bank to die. We don't care; neither is a defensible custom. A Gowalin named Chamatkar, a widow, residing at Con-naghur, lapsed into *liaison* with the younger brother of her husband named Mohesh Chunder Ghose who has a wife. They all lived under the same roof for one year. But the course of secret, any more than true, love never did run smooth. The widow became *eniente*, and to prevent a scandal, she was housed with the woman of one Gopee-nath. There she fell ill—how or why there is no evidence yet—and was removed to the Gangabasi-ghat to die a holy death. She, however, did not die immediately, and is said to have given birth to a still born child. Death having delayed to put an end to her troubles, she was next removed to the Eden Hospital, in this city, where she died. Here is the evidence of Mohesh:—

"He said that the deceased was living under his protection for about a year and-a-half. She was living at Gopee's house. He made arrangements with Gopee to keep her in his house, because he (witness) had a wife and could not take her to his house and keep her there. On the 3rd or 4th of Srabun, she was violently purged, and was being convulsed, and then she began to gasp. She became unconscious. He sent for Uzdoo, but he did not come. He then went to call another doctor, Siboo, but he could not meet him. Finding her in a bad condition, all the people advised him to remove her to the ghât, which he did. Siboo doctor attended on her at the ghât, and on the second day he advised him to remove her to the house, but his friend Ram Baboo advised him to remove her to the Medical College Hospital. He never threatened him (Ram Baboo) with violence if he did not remove her to the hospital. He then brought her to the hospital. She was three days at the ghât."

By the bye, we hope the European reader will not jump to the conclusion that these unsavoury Ghoses are kinsmen or any relations whatever of the Ghoses of the High Court, on the bench or the bar.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1890.

### CARDINAL NEWMAN.

*Siste, viator! heroem calcas!* Even so we would admonish the good reader on the leading news of the week by telegraph: we need scarcely say we refer to the death of Cardinal Newman. The projected tour of the Czarewitch through the Eastern World, from Roum to Far Cathay unto the Island-Empire of the Pacific—the return home from Britain of the Great Kaiser of Central Europe—are of feeble interest in comparison; even the strikes and the mutinies in England, the Behring Sea dispute and the commencement of operations under the Silver Act are matters of minor importance. In fine, the movements and proceedings of Princes and Ministers of State are nothing before the, in every sense, eventual rest of the humble minister to minds diseased and Prince of the Church. The restless traveller on the road of the world, engrossed each in his special pursuit, must pause to join in the funeral honours accorded by appreciative humanity to the departed hero. A hero he was beyond question, in all true senses. No fighter with carnal weapons against mortal incarnations by any means, but a true fighter for all that

with sublimer instruments in the Crusade against Darkness and the Powers of Evil. No military man, to be sure, but a knight of the Church militant, attacking with the words of scripture and the annals and traditions of Primitive and Mediæval Christianity, and, above all, darting the penetrating rays of an enlightened and holy consciousness.

With John Henry Newman, not only a great soul goes out but the light of not one but many generations—the master-mind of the age is buried. He was as old as the Modern Era from the height of the Great French Revolution. He was the Avatar of the Nineteenth Century—its embodiment in flesh and blood. Born in 1801, he was the twin brother of our cycle. Morally he was the father of the Age. The personal link between the Eighteenth Century and the Twentieth Century in embryo, he functioned as the destroyer of the Spirit of the former Period—the iconoclast of its gods. Consciously or unconsciously, yet certainly, he was the most formidable foe of the influences amid which he was born and brought up. He was not always the same; his lucid intelligence was early tickled by the easy rationalism of the day, his susceptibility quickly caught the prevailing malaria, but he struggled with brave sincerity and freed himself: his mind was, however, too subtle not to be disturbed by its own activity or wounded by its own keenness; anon he was assailed, doubts of another kind perplexed him, and again he had to work out his own redemption. But in one thing he was steady and thorough throughout—his teaching was always opposed to the teaching—his life was a standing protest against the life—of the Eighteenth Century.

He was not exactly first in the field. The pioneer teacher was Coleridge, and he found such gifted disciples as Sterling, the Hares, Maurice, and last not least Carlyle. But Newman was the most eminent theologian of them all as well as the greatest reasoner, and he precipitated what was vague and nebulous, crystallizing it, giving it substance and form and shape. The *Critique* of Kant was the first effective answer to that formidable Rationalism which, although first fathered upon the French and since attributed to Germany, really arose in Great Britain. But the philosophy of the British schools and their developments at the hands of the French Encyclopædists were only scotched but far from consumed. German Transcendentalism first swamped them, and Coleridge was not only the Prometheus who stole—yes stole—the new blue light and carried it to his mother country but was also the Prophet of the new message finally for the whole world and the present century. For he imparted of his own oil to the torch he had filched and kindled it to greater vitality than ever, and in course of time lamps from it crossed over to the Continent, till the light was recognised and welcomed back in the land of its origin. Thus the new Philosophy of Reverence discredited the Philosophy of Doubt and Despair. Thus the doctrine of the Supernatural advanced conquering into the hitherto unquestioned empire of a narrow Naturalism. Coleridge not only popularised the mighty Mysticism and utilised it into the domain of Art and *Belles Letters*, but also introduced it into the domain of Theology. Thus he revived the drooping spirits of churchmen and brought hope to the Church. He made it possible for his followers to rekindle the Faith into a splendour unknown since the days of the early Fathers. Whitlock and Wesley had done likewise, if not the same. Their influence had been extraordinary; their conversion of souls, making

every allowance for theatricality and hysterics, was a good deal real. Their practice gave the best answer to Gibbon's famous sarcasm about the proselytising of the Northern Europeans by platoons and battalions. For at each preaching they re-baptised in spirit by villages and districts. For the first time after ages, the gospel became a living power for the regeneration of the inner man. But the cost of their success was enormous—to loyal Anglicans forbidding. The leaders of English Methodism rescued the Faith at the expense of the Church. Not so Coleridge and the Coleridgians. They tenderly loved the Establishment, if not as a Divine arrangement at least as a national institution—above all a historic relic. They were no mercenary ministers of a vain Worship who must *volens volens* bolster up the cause of a rotten Temple. They were the fond children of a venerable and venerated Mother. So they preached up the Church with all their heart and all their might. But a Church is nothing—it is, recondite dogmas apart, but an organization of labour, a community and a communion—even a creed is nothing without faith—without fervour. This the Coleridgean Organ was able to contribute. The apostles of Methodism, again, only moved the masses. As the old Puritan was despised of the Cavaliers and the wits, even though the greatest Poet and most learned polemic of the age was its spokesman, so the new Evangelicalism is discredited of the accomplished and the learned, even though supported by some of the greatest writers and most eloquent divines and any number of successful preachers. The cultivated classes regard the triumphs of Revivalism as either a trick or a disease, and altogether a worthless affair. The contempt, indeed, is admitted as a fact, and vigorous minds like John Foster have set themselves to trace the causes of the phenomenon. Accordingly, Evangelicalism was a one-sided victory, and on the whole a doubtful progress. For while it embraced the people—often the very dregs of the people—it failed with the higher classes. The men of intellect and culture steadily fell off from the Faith, as the gossier part of society returned to it with seeming zeal. Evangelicalism might be a blessing, but it was plainly not the whole blessing. The desideratum was supplied by the new interpretation of theology. Coleridgism—to give a necessarily complex product a handy name—appealed to the cultivated intelligence, and appealed to it, as the event proved, successfully, indeed, with astonishing success. Of course, it tended to Esotericism. At any rate, it not only supported the Establishment but saved the Creed. The effect of this triumph travelled far and wide beyond the limits of Christendom. Religion itself was saved—religion in its most general sense, independent of particular forms of worship or methods of maintaining and propagating dogmas.

After the earlier pioneers, Newman was the greatest representative of the new spirit. He developed the doctrine and carried the movement to its farthest possibilities, until he is believed by many to have led back the human soul captive to primitive darkness and reimposed on it worse than Mediæval fetters. By chains of the most subtle reasoning delivered in pellucid and winning language, he has re-established a substantial belief in the most extravagant of old women's fables. He has routed the Spinozas and Humes, the Bayles and Voltaires. Hume confounded the world when he asserted the impossibility of miracles on the ground of their in-

volving violations of the order and laws of Nature. The audacious Newman is not content to show the great Scot to be no better than the typical North Briton, wrong and dull witted. He not only establishes the possibility, or even the enormous probability, but the imminent likelihood of our any day, in the course of each individual experience, being confronted by a miracle which there might be no gainsaying. According to him, the age of miracles is not past. That itself is a feat of which any intellect might be proud. Nor is it a vain trick of reasoning. Mark the effect! Scepticism has been terribly chastised—bullied, cuffed, kicked, throttled—to the heart's content of the reverent. Newman has not crushed and will not crush Scepticism, but he has certainly divided the empire, with the lion's share for Faith. Indeed, he has demolished one scepticism to raise another. In destroying the pretensions of the Logic of Materialism, he has actually discredited Reason itself as an organ for the discovery of truth. He is the greatest Apostle of Humility to the Cultivated Classes.

#### THE HOLIDAYS.

HAVING sanctioned the mischief, the Government of India is willing to make the withdrawal of the Doorga Pooja holidays as unirksome to its Hindu employes as is possible under the circumstance. Hence the following notification dated Simla, the 24th July 1890 :—

"The Governor-General in Council hereby notifies that on the following days during 1890, which are not declared by the Government of Bengal to be 'public holidays' under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the offices directly subordinate to the Government of India at Calcutta, with the exception of

- (1) The Office of Issue of the Paper Currency Department,
  - (2) The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General,
- shall be closed :—

##### I.—MUHAMMADAN HOLIDAYS.

*Idus-Zuha*, which falls on the 28th July or, if the moon be not visible on the 18th July, on the 29th July.

*Muharram*, the last two days of which fall on the 26th and 27th August or, if the moon be visible on the 16th August, on the 25th and 26th August.

*Fâtih-e-Dudadahum*, which falls on the 27th October or, if the moon be not visible on the 15th October, on the 28th October.

##### II.—HINDU HOLIDAYS.

*Durga Puja*, the 18th, 24th, and 25th October.

*Lakhi Puja*, the 29th October.

##### III.—GENERAL HOLIDAY.

The day preceding Christmas Day, the 24th December."

If the Long Vacation is to be permanently abolished and brought down to only four days, there are good reasons against the operation in the current year. The holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act maintaining in full the Doorga Pooja vacation were announced in December last, and such an authority so opposed to the vacation as the Bank of Bengal, "the best judge," according to the Bengal Government, "of the requirements of the commercial public," was not for curtailing it in the present year, lest it interfere with business already transacted on the December notification. Besides, there ought to be sufficient notice, at least of a year, to all Hindus of the departure by Government from the old accustomed course. The question has a wider aspect than the holiday reformers would give it. It affects the whole Province, not merely the Hindu employes under Government. Sir Stuart Bayley is made to say—"The Lieutenant-Governor has the strongest sympathy with the very general desire of the Hindu community that no obstacle should be placed by Government in the way of its Hindu employes meeting together at their homes, at the season of the Doorga Poojah holidays, for the celebration of religious, social, and domestic ceremonies. It is far from His Honor's desire to encourage any policy which would deprive Hindu employes as a body of the satisfaction of enjoying their great annual festival in the future as they have done in the past. There is nothing, however, in the proposals now made which, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, is likely to lead to any such unfortunate result. It is true that a few clerks employed in a few offices may be subjected to some inconvenience by being required to attend office on days on which they now get a holiday. But the inconvenience is one which they must bear in the public interest. They will enjoy some compensating advantages." We have yet to learn that the Doorga Pooja holidays are not in the public interest. Sir Stuart Bayley unconsciously



perpetrates the wrong which he thinks ought not to be done. He lays the axe to the root of the great festival and thinks he preserves it. An open oppressor of his subjects could not have adopted a worse method for the suppression of the holidays. The key to the whole Government argument seems to be the advice of some of the heads of Departments to their Hindu subordinates to perform their religious ceremonies—marriages and shrads for instance—on Sundays, that the office may not suffer from their absence in week days for the said purposes. It is a mistake to suppose that the hardship will be confined to Hindus. The Dootja Pooja holiday is no longer a Hindu holiday. It is a vacation for all Her Majesty's subjects in Bengal and is a part of their existence. We hope Government will not stick to the second notification because it has been issued, and think the second thought is the best. In matters like these, no thought of whatever degree can be the last or best.

### THE ALLAHABAD CONGRESS.\*

Last year we thought it due to obscure merit to bring to prominent notice one of the minor notabilities in the great Congress agitation—we allude to Gangaprasad Varma, the volunteer Congress Publisher. Many doubtless smiled at our making so much of a mere printer, regarding it as of a piece with our habitual extravagance. If we have sinned, we have sinned after our Rishi ancestors who were never weary of dwelling on the essential and invaluable service given to Rama, the earliest Aryan invader of the South, in his expedition to Ceylon. Nor is the service of the printer contemptible service in any sense. Publication is the very nourishment of popular movements. It is life itself to the Congress. What is the vitality of a nebulous mass, not to say so disorganised rabble of miscellaneous, chiefly nondescript, elements but the publication of its proceedings or of its members?

Mr. Varma has added another to the long list of his Congress publications. If the Congress is worth anything, its proceedings are not only worth reporting but historiographing. If the Congress found in Varma its Publisher, Varma has found for it its Historiographer. Here, at least, before us is the record of the doings of the great patriotic Kumbh mela of Allahabad. They were important enough for recital, and they have been very well recited in the brochure. We say this not because the bulk of the account appeared in our columns. But "B" has a knack at sketching persons, and at his happiest is remarkably smart.

We are not afraid of giving examples from the booklet at random. Thus we have at p. 5 :—

"The Congress has not only outlived the calumny of its traducers, both official and non-official, it has also outgrown, we are once again in a position to assert, its originally contemplated dimensions. About 1,300 delegates were present. The number of delegates generally was more than double; the number of Mahomedan delegates had trebled itself this year. Is it merely for serio-comic performances that these 1,300 delegates came—some of them from the farthest corners of India, from Peshawar and Travancore? Can the rankest opponents of the Congress deny that this annual assemblage of the best and the most enlightened in the land—the galaxy of Indian geniuses—represents one of the best, if not the best, phase of the British rule in India? To assume that those who have been the recipients of the greatest good at the hands of the British Government, should come all the way and meet annually openly to preach sedition against the very Government, which has been the making of them, tantamounts to this: that the seed of English education sown by Macaulay, Trevelyan and others has fallen upon barren ground, and that a century-and-a-half of British rule could not make a better impression upon the people. This is the standpoint of our opponents, and it involves a condemnation both of English education and English rule. But we of the Congress take our stand upon a different and, as we believe, a higher platform. We are deeply grateful for the past blessings and past advantages; we now claim for more. We no longer regard the British Government as an alien Government, but look upon it as a national Government. English is our *lingua franca*: of English institutions we have become deeply enamoured; and, as we have been trained up on lines peculiarly British, we cannot do aught but ask for the privileges of British citizenship. Now, which view is more creditable to the British nation? To argue that a grateful nation like the Indians, whose obliging and grateful nature has passed into the regions of History and Philosophy and who are easily contented to a proverb, who have deified their smallest benefactors, which fact, according to Sir Alfred Lyall (*Vide his Asiatic Studies*), explains for the thirty-three crores of Indian gods and goddesses—to argue that such a race is dissatisfied

\* *Congress Sketches: A Review of the Speeches and the Speakers at the Fourth Indian National Congress, held at Allahabad.* By "B." (Price 8 annas per copy exclusive of Postage) Lucknow: G. P. Varma and Brothers Press, 1889.

with British rule, is cursing it with bell, book and candle! It is not true that we see no good in British rule; on the contrary, we see much, and naturally wish for more. We feel and wish that our interests be indissolubly bound up with those of the English. Our argument is that there is still room for improvement, and our confident faith is that our prayers for reform, not revolution, will not be refused. If it were true that the secret ambition of the Congress was the overthrow of the British Government, no Europeans would be found taking part in it, there would be no Hume, Adam, Norton, Howard, Kennedy, Hearsay, Atkins; there would be no Christian converts, Kalicharan Bannerjee, Ram Chandra Bose, David Mohun, Peter Paul Pillay; no man enjoying high position and honor, Sir T. Madhava Rao, K.C.S.I., W. C. Bonnerjee, the Hon'ble K. T. Telang, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Govinda Ranade, the Hon'ble S. Subramaniya Iyer, the Hon'ble P. Mehta, the Hon'ble Pandit Ajodhya Nath; no landholder having a permanent interest in the country, as the Maharaja of Durbhanga, Sheikh Raza Hossein Khan, Raja Rampal Singh, Sirdar Dayal Singh, Raja Tejnarain Singh, and many others of this class whose names must never see the light of day but who are nevertheless supporting the Congress with men (yes with men!) and money; bankers like Lala Ram Charan; and, last but not the least, the Bengalees whose worst enemies have not denied them the possession of a keen intellect, and who have little to gain and almost everything to lose, by subversion of the British Government."

Behold! here comes the great Shivaprasad!

"It may not be generally known, but it is a fact that the Raja was one of the earliest depositors of the delegate's fee. He not only paid his Rs. 10, but paid another ten rupees for any 'indigent delegate. Prolonged conversation went on with him and that sturdy taluqdar patriot—the citizen Singh, Raja Rampal. But nothing practical came out of it. Less than a month ago, this very man was the central figure of a movement to damn the Congress. What made him to change sides in the *interim*? Was it the *fiasco* in which the Lucknow demonstration ended?—or was it the exchange of angry and even obscene words between him and Sir Syed? Be his motives whatever they may, there he was in our midst—as a staunch Congresswalla. True, none counted him for much. His adhesion was regarded by all as an accession of weakness rather than of strength—in short, he was rated at his true worth. There was not one redeeming feature in the antecedents of this mealy-mouthed patriot. A consistent supporter of everything for which there could be found an official standing up, a notorious turn-coat, a profound calculator, a born time-server of the *bania* class, how could any man pin his faith upon him? And he by his subsequent conduct more than justified our misgivings. For some reasons not known, he did not turn up on the inaugural day, the 26th. On the 27th also he was looked for in vain at the opening time. It was sometime after noon, business had commenced, the Hon'ble K. T. Telang had already riveted the attention of the audience by the flood of eloquence that he was pouring forth, and a perfect silence reigned throughout the vast hall, when a gate-keeper brought a notice to Raja Rampal who went out. In another moment lo and behold! the very Raja Siva Prasad, supported by Raja Rampal Singh, was seen entering the hall. This was the signal for a few suppressed hisses. Raja Rampal conducted him to a seat by him near the Reporter's Lodge. He then sat down and began to attack Raja Rampal with repeated questions to the evident annoyance of the latter. Next rose Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, whose wordy torrent filled the whole audience, not excepting the unimpressible titular Raja, with a vague excitement more akin to animal spirits than intellectual satisfaction. Some other speakers followed him, when arose Raja Siva Prasad and solicited permission to speak a few words. He ascended the platform amidst hisses and groans which Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, assisted by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee and others, managed to stop with great difficulty. But when the audacious Siva Prasad went on, perfectly heedless of, and indifferent to, all these, as if he was used to this kind of treatment, and brought forward his proposal for the suppression of the very Congress, all at once the pent-up feelings of the 6,000 persons sitting beneath the pandal burst out with a fury. For a time, all order was lost, and it seemed as if quiet could not again be restored. It was a moment of sore trial both to Raja Siva Prasad and to those upon whom he tried to palm off his view and thus win a diplomatic victory. Not only the delegates but even the visitors, who were strictly forbidden to signify their assent to, or dissent from, any proposal, for a time forgot themselves and became awfully excited. Many were prepared to hurl their shoes at him, but wiser counsels prevailed. The silver ringing voice of Bonnerjee availed not, the thundering admonition of Surendra and the Hon'ble Pandit Ayodhya Nath's stentorian warning fared hardly better, Hume's cry for 'order' was drowned in the universal din, when the repeated sound of the gong brought the people to their senses. For a few moments the pandal was a scene of utter confusion and disorder."

Again :—

"Hush! he is speaking. Now I am more than ever convinced that it is certainly not Raja Siva Prasad that is speaking, whoever else it may be. He has a louder, a steeper voice, a less faltering accent. See he is coming. Let us try if we can recognise the perspiring figure, reddened by this physical and moral struggle. He takes his seat piteously asking for the reporter of the *Pioneer*. Bah! before me stands, still oscillating like the pendulum of a clock, the self-same Raja Siva Prasad—yes, the very person who thirty years ago was selected for his voice to read out the Royal Proclamation of 1858 in Benares. How signally and miserably his voice failed him to-day! Such is the stifling and paralysing impotency of a vicious intrigue! He would not for the fear of his very life go without an escort of notable Congresswallas. Mr. Bhimji and Captain Banon conducted him to a safe distance in his conveyance, or which is the same, the old Maharaja of Benares's conveyance."

Those who wish to study the personal peculiarities and characters of the most eminent living Indians, cannot do better than buy a copy each of this *Congress Sketches*.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN BENGAL.

[Concluded from page 381.]

20. The Negotiable Instruments Act XXVI of 1881 became law subsequent to the discussions of 1879 and 1880. Under section 25 of that Act, when the day on which a Promissory Note or bill of exchange is at maturity is a public holiday, the instrument shall be deemed to be due on the next preceding business day. The expression "public holiday" includes Sundays, New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Good Friday, and any other day declared by the Local Government by notification in the official Gazette to be a public holiday. Under this section the 30 authorised public holidays in Bengal are now published, and the gravamen of the Chamber is, firstly, that public business is to a large extent paralysed during these holidays by the closing of the Exchange Banks, which will not undertake the responsibility of transacting business during days upon which negotiable instruments will not mature; and, secondly, that the trade of the port is materially affected by the closure of the Shipping Office and the inability to obtain port clearance during these days. It is pointed out that in the interval from 30th September to 10th October 1889, which were declared public holidays under the Act on account of the Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs in 1889, the shipping arrivals in the port of Calcutta showed a gross tonnage of 73,210, and a registered tonnage of 48,179; that the departures showed 63,962 gross and 45,538 registered tonnage; that 29 steamers and 2 ships arrived in port, and that 19 steamers and 13 ships left the port. The East Indian Railway brought into the market 25,084 tons of goods, and the Eastern Bengal State Railway 4,52,514 maunds, of which 3,63,875 were jute. The fact that all bills maturing in the interval fell due on Saturday, September 28th, is brought to notice as a most serious inconvenience and burden on the trade of the port. In the discussion that took place in 1879 much stress was laid by the native members of the Committee on the fact that the then existing facilities were sufficient. They urged that, though the Banks were closed, exchange operations might be and were carried on, and, that as a matter of fact, the Banks did take cheques from purchasers of bills during the vacation; and that remittances by telegram or otherwise were not necessarily suspended. The Chamber urge that this is not now the case, and that the Banks have felt it unsafe to do any business at all on holidays gazetted under the Negotiable Instruments Act since that Act came into operation, and consequently that the inconvenience to commerce has become intensified.

21. Of the force of these representations there can be no doubt; and it is equally clear that it is the duty of the Government to mitigate the grievance if it is possible to do so without imposing greater hardship on others. The question to be examined is whether this can be done by reducing the number of public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, and at the same time increasing the number given in Government offices by the executive order of Government. Mahomedan holidays are now granted by the executive order of Government in the following way:—"It is notified for general information that," on specified dates, "all public offices and Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the offices of Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt Rowanah and Opium Sale Departments of the Board of Revenue, shall be closed." The effect of these orders is to give a general holiday in Government offices with the exception of those specified. To those excepted offices special instructions are issued that "though it is not expedient to close them on the days in question, it is hoped that it will be possible to arrange to relieve of their duties on those days any Mahomedan ministerial officers who may apply for leave." The holidays are granted generally, but the trade of the port is not allowed to suffer. It is an arrangement which His Honour believes has been found to give satisfaction to all concerned. What the Lieutenant-Governor would now propose for consideration is that all those days of the Doorga Poojahs, which are not actually required to be devoted to necessary Hindu religious ceremonies, should be notified as holidays in the same way as Mahomedan holidays are now notified, and that only those days which are devoted to religious ceremonies should be notified as public holidays under the Act.

22. An objection which may be brought against this proposal is

that on Poojah days, which are not notified under the Act as public holidays, every bank and mercantile office in the city will be kept open. This is the argument which was felt to have so much weight in the discussions of 1879-80. But the objection is less strong than it seems to be. The Banks would be in no worse position—indeed in a better one in regard to enforced closing—than they were in before the Act was passed; whatever force attached to the argument used by the native members of the Committee as to their being able to afford sufficient facilities to commerce without absolutely closing their doors, would acquire additional strength under the present proposal; while in regard to mercantile offices, the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to doubt whether there will be any very material change. All the merchants in Calcutta now require so many of their clerks as are necessary to carry on business to attend during the holidays; business is not allowed to stop, notwithstanding the closure of the Exchange Banks and Shipping Office; and the Lieutenant-Governor is assured on competent authority that the reduction of the number of holidays under the Act is not likely to appreciably affect the actual attendance of clerks. The merchants of Calcutta have always been ready to give holidays during the days actually devoted to religious ceremonial observance, and all employees in merchants' offices now know very well that a condition of their service is that on other days they are expected to attend office when work has to be done.

23. Sir Stuart Bayley has no doubt that the mercantile community will continue to show every reasonable consideration to their Hindu clerks in regard to attendance. It is to their interest to do so: the work of their offices depends on mutual agreement on both sides. After all, attendance in office is a matter of contract arrangement between employer and servant, and it is impossible to justify any interference on the part of Government, which would insist on mercantile offices remaining without clerks for twelve days at a time. Of course no such interference is really contemplated, but the papers on the subject give some colour for supposing that the claim has sometimes been made. If it is formally abandoned, the objection under discussion must also be given up.

24. On the other hand, I am to point out that a notification in the proposed form will enable Government to give a general holiday in its own offices, excepting those only which are required to remain partially, or it may be wholly, open to meet the exigencies of commerce. All that is expected from Government is to afford reasonable facilities for carrying on business. This is done in the case of Mahomedan holidays, and ought to be done in the case of Hindu social festivals. The number of Government offices affected is inconsiderable, and the amount of hardship which would be inflicted on the Hindu employees concerned would not be great. The Lieutenant-Governor would, however, strictly enjoin in regard to these excepted offices that the Hindu employees should be allowed their holidays, whenever possible, and that, if it be found impossible to grant them, other concessions in the way of leave at other times should be given.

25. A point which had great weight in influencing the decision in 1879 was that advanced by Mr. Dampier and others that the opening of certain offices at the Presidency would necessarily govern the practice of all or nearly all the other offices in Bengal. It is now argued that this position is no longer tenable as shown by the fact that certain Mahomedan holidays are granted by executive order, and as a matter of fact, universally enjoyed in all parts of Bengal, except in certain offices at the Presidency. The opening of these particular offices does not in any way govern the practice elsewhere. It appears to follow that certain Hindu holidays, if notified in the same way as Mahomedan holidays, will be accepted in the same way as Mahomedan holidays are now accepted, and it is urged there is an opportunity of settlement on this basis. The provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act enable the Government to make a clear distinction between public holidays notified under the Act and holidays notified by executive order; and it seems to His Honour that advantage may be taken of this distinction, which did not exist when the question was formerly under discussion, to sanction arrangements which, while recognizing the claims of the Hindu community, will also satisfy the interests of trade and commerce.

26. It is undoubtedly the case that the attitude of the Chamber becomes a stronger one every year. The proportion of steamers which comes into the port constantly increases, and the requirements of trade are more urgent now than they were ten years ago. The holiday arrangements are proportionately more irksome and impose greater comparative restrictions than they did then. The claims of commercial progress are recognized in other parts of India. It was pointed out by Baboo Kristo Das Pal and Durga Charan Law in 1879 that "the number of holidays in Bengal is less than that in other provinces." But whatever may have been the case in 1879, the exact reverse is the fact in 1889. The number of holidays for 1889 notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act in Madras (including New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day, which are public holidays under the Act) was 18; in Bombay the number was 21; in Bengal the number was 29. A *prima facie* case is therefore made out for reduction in the number of public

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—As winter advances and the weather becomes more and more inclement and trying the earliest evidences of ill-health must be immediately checked and removed, or a slight illness may result in a serious malady. Relaxed and sore throat, quinsy, influenza, chronic cough, bronchitis, and most other pulmonary affections will be relieved by rubbing this cooling Ointment into the skin as nearly as practicable to the seat of mischief. This treatment, simple yet effective, is admirably adapted for the removal of these diseases during infancy and youth. Old asthmatic invalids will derive marvellous relief from the use of Holloway's remedies, which have wonderfully relieved many such sufferers, and re-established health after every other means had signally failed.

holidays notified under the Act. If the number of Doorga Poojah and Lakhi Poojah holidays gazetted under the Act were reduced from 12 to 5, there would still remain 22 public holidays in Bengal, which is a larger number than either at Bombay or Madras, and is, the Lieutenant-Governor understands, a larger number than is allowed in any other country in the civilized world.

27. The Chamber of Commerce have proposed that the total number of public holidays notified under the Act should be reduced to 12 days only as specified in their recommendation, and they have declared that these 12 days "shall be the holidays recognized by the Chamber under shipping orders and charter parties as holidays according to the custom of the port." But the Lieutenant-Governor is not aware of any reason why Government should accept so great a change as this. The Chamber are at liberty to declare what charter party holidays they please; but they cannot expect that the Government should regulate the public holidays throughout the province according to the custom of the Calcutta port. It appears that in Madras the public holidays under the Act are identical with the charter party holidays declared by the Chamber of Commerce. In Bombay, however, the local Chamber of Commerce have fixed the number of their charter party holidays at 14, while the Bombay Government has notified the number of public holidays to be 21. Similarly in Bengal there can be no objection to the Chamber fixing the number of holidays according to the custom of the port at 12, while the number of public holidays may be 22, or any other number notified by Government under the Act. Moreover, it has been stated that a reduction in the number of continuous Doorga Poojah public holidays will sufficiently meet the contention of the Chamber, which is not so much against the total number of holidays in the year as against the obstruction to business occasioned by the occurrence of 12 public holidays in succession. Although objection has been taken to the continuous character of the Christmas holidays which, now when Sundays are included, usually amount to five days in succession, it has not been pressed home with the same persistence as the objection to the Doorga Poojah holidays, which are at present also continuous and are more than twice as long in duration. It is only in regard to the Doorga Poojahs, therefore, that the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed at present to consent to any reduction in the number of public holidays under the Act. The other public holidays might remain unchanged for the present. It is desired by the Chamber that if any change is made it should

take effect from the year 1890, and the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to take action as he may be advised in this respect.

28. I am to sum up this letter as follows :—

It is proposed to notify holidays in Bengal under two separate notifications: first, in regard to public holidays notified as such under the Negotiable Instruments Act; and, secondly, in regard to holidays which are notified as such by the closure of public offices. These two separate notifications would be in the form given, and apply to the days specified in the draft notifications annexed.

In addition to any remarks on the general question which may be offered, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to be favoured with an opinion on the following points :—

- (1)---Whether the effect of the publication of these notifications will be to make a clear distinction between public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act and those notified by executive order only, in so far that the Exchange Banks will remain closed on the "public holidays" only, and not on the other days.
- (2)---Whether the effect of the publication of these notifications will wholly or partially meet the growing requirements of trade and commerce.
- (3)---Whether the effect of the publication of these notifications will be to inflict serious hardship on a considerable section of the community by depriving them of holidays which they now enjoy.
- (4)---Whether the proposals now made are accepted by the Chamber or your Association as a reasonable present compromise between interests which admittedly conflict with one another.

29. The third question, as to the effect on the general community of notifying the non-compulsory days of the Doorga Poojah as holidays by executive action instead of under the Negotiable Instruments Act, is the most important, and that to which your attention is specially invited. The Lieutenant-Governor would in no case make a change without the previous sanction of the Government of India, and he desires to lay the question before His Excellency in Council with the fullest light that previous enquiry can throw upon it.

30. In conclusion, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to obtain an answer to this letter at the Chamber's (Association's) early convenience.

## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lall Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Wednesday the 3rd day of September next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate :—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed messuage tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Mukhtaram Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring 9½ cottahs more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonee Dass on the North by the public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydia Nath Ooriya and Nilmonee ssDa.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottahs 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottahs more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Burrall and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.

## KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund :—

Pheroza Shah M. Mehta, Esq., Bombay	Rs. 100
Babu Krishna Behary Sen, Calcutta...	" 10
Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, Calcutta ...	" 2
A Zoroastrian, Calcutta ...	" 5
Babu Ram Gopal Sanyal, Calcutta ...	" 2
Kahiraj Abinash Chunder Kaivratna, Calcutta ...	" 2
Framji Mancherji, Esq., Calcutta ...	" 251
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A Bengali Friend, Calcutta ...	" 5
Babu Gopal Chunder Mukerji, Editor <i>Sunghad Probhakar</i> , Calcutta ...	" 5
Babu Radha Nath Sen, Calcutta ...	" 2
Dinshaw Edulji Wacha, Esq., Bombay	" 25
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The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 19th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 16th instant.

The Rivers having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Cachar.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1890.

No. 438

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### SUNSET.

SWEET star of summers' eventide !  
O'er yonder sea of light,  
Where many a cloudlet crimson dyed  
Is cradled on the night.

And back from many a purple isle  
The darkness rolleth for awhile,  
As sunset o'er that billowy sea  
Unveils her heart of hearts to thee ;

I watched thy coming, long ago,  
When but a pensive child,  
Where Vincent's dark blue mountains glow  
By Huron wide and wild,

And softly, lovingly as now,  
The night dew kissed my throbbing brow ;  
I felt with bird and breeze and bower  
The witchery of the sunset hour.

Oh, far off home of boyhood's dreams !  
Dear land remembered long !  
The magic of thy mountain streams,  
The valleys filled with song ;

Through blighted hope, through pain and tears,  
Through wandering and through burdened years  
Denied, unsought, and tempest driven,  
Ye tell of rest and home in Heaven.

To-night !—and such a night as this—  
His touch on yonder skies,  
Where clouds are bathed in Eden bliss,  
And stars in splendor rise ;

I bless Him, in the bonds He's cleft ;  
The wealth of hope, of joy that's left ;  
The shield and shelter ever nigh ;  
The peace that cometh by and by.

I turn from these, Thy works, to Thee,  
A refuge of our race !  
If earthly scenes be fair to see,  
What is Thy dwelling place ?

The glowing sunset's crimson light ;  
The splendor of the starry night ;  
The rainbow, arched from zone to zone,  
Are shadows only of thy throne.

Thou stoapest with a tender heart  
To every little thing ;  
A refuge and a rock Thou art,  
A father and a king !

Did not life's darkness dim our sight ;  
Its sorrows hide Thine own sweet light,  
How much of goodness could we see ?  
How much of love that tells of Thee ?

### OUTWARD BOUND.

I dwell far inland, but I feel  
The ocean breeze around me blow,  
I hear the dashing of a keel  
Through billows white as drifted snow.  
I see the sunshine through the spray,  
For one I love has sailed to-day !

O restless waters, lightly bear  
So dear a burden on your breast !  
Float cheerily in the soft, spring air,  
O starry pennon of the West !  
Let only halcyon breezes play  
With heaving wave and tide to-day.

Bloom, heather, on the Scottish moors,  
Wake, violets, in dear English dells,  
The heart that seeks your storied shores  
With all a poet's fervour swells ;  
High hopes illumine with rainbow ray  
The broad, bright ocean path to-day.

And if at times a thought of me  
Shall, swift and still, the wanderer meet,  
O sunbeam, starbeam ! faithfully  
That thought in many hues repeat,  
My heart must follow on its way  
The fair ship outward bound to-day.

FRANCES L. MACE.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment* are remedies which should invariably be taken by travellers in search of health, pleasure or business. Many deleterious influences are constantly at work in foreign climes, tending to deteriorate the health ; these and the altered conditions of life will entail on those who travel the necessity of carefully attending to early symptoms of disease, and they will find the use of these remedies to be highly necessary, the action of the Pills being purifying and strengthening and of great service in cases of fever, ague, and all inflammatory diseases, whilst the Ointment is a sovereign cure in cases of piles, bad legs, bad breasts, wounds and ulcers. Holloway's remedies do not deteriorate by change of climate.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

WE have much pleasure in opening our prose columns this week with the following impressive lesson in practical morality, culled from our miscellaneous reading :—

"A worthy old colored woman, in the city of New York, was one day walking along the street quietly smoking her pipe. A jovial sailor, rendered a little mischievous by liquor, came sawing down, and when opposite the old woman, saucily pushed her aside, and with a pass of his hand knocked the pipe out of her mouth. He then halted to hear her fret at his trick, and enjoy a laugh at her expense. But what was his astonishment when she meekly picked up the pieces of her broken pipe, without the least resentment in her manner; and giving him a dignified look of mingled sorrow, kindness and pity, said, 'God forgive you, my son, as I do!' It touched a tender chord in the heart of the rude tar. He felt ashamed, condemned and repentant. The tear started in his eye; he must make reparation. He heartily confessed his error; and thrusting both hands into his full pockets of change, forced the contents upon her, exclaiming, 'God bless you, kind mother, I'll never do so again!'"

NO end to Parsee liberality! The latest act in this direction is that of the good Awabai Pai, wife of Mr. Cawasjee, Bazonjee Curranee, who has given Rs. 10,000 towards a fire-temple, in course of construction on the Giraum Road, for the services of the Bhegaria section of the Parsee community. Rs. 8,000 has been laid out in buying a house for the priests, which has been provided with a well at Rs. 1,000 and the remaining Rs. 1,000 has been invested for the regular performance of some religious rites.

THE *Englishman's* Fund for the Balacava Heroes, up to date, amounts to Rs. 6,325-4. A Canadian, J. Williams, resident over 38 years in Victoria, writes to the *Melbourne Age*, in connection with the subject, thus :—

"I have always regarded a peaceful settlement of disputes between nations, where practicable, by arbitration and international law as far preferable to warfare and bloodshed. But, Sir, when I read the accounts of the state of destitution in which the few remaining heroes of the Light Brigade are so pitilessly allowed to suffer, I freely confess that for very shame of our nation's ingratitude and heartlessness big tears streamed down my cheeks. We, who daily sing, in those powerful strains of Tennyson, the praises of these men, yet treat them thus. What good comes from grand poetic lines after this? How empty is all this boastful appreciation of bravery and devotion to duty and country, when it goes no further than professions in song. When a nation fails to truly appreciate its heroes in any department of public service, it may soon be found helpless and honourless. Let us in this remote part show a truer appreciation for these brave men in helpless old age, and by liberal contributions try to awaken our countrymen in Great Britain to a better sense of their duty. Without sentiment, without feeling, without love of country and proper appreciation of its benefactors, and without heart and gratitude, is to be on a level with the mere brute creation. Forsooth the faithfulness, true devotion and attachment of a Newfoundland dog puts such character to shame. Enclosed is 20s. as a contribution."

M. LOUIS LEOPOLD OLIVER, a young aeronaut, has just died from inhalations of gas, which entered through a conduit leading from the centre of his own car. He came down at Noisy-le-Sec, twenty minutes after his ascent, and died the same day, from gradual sinking. Those of our light hearted countrymen who have been emboldened to dabble themselves in ballooning by the ease with which young Spencer went up to the clouds and came down "in unfractured integrity of limb," had better ponder on that.

A EUROPEAN nobleman, Count Louis Siciliano di Rende, brother of Cardinal Rende, formerly Nuncio at Paris, has died of hydrophobia, but under peculiar circumstances. There had been no bite—no known inoculation of the poison. A month or so before his death, the Count's dog was detected to be suffering. After the summary way of that part of the globe, he at once killed his poor pet. Notwithstanding the prompt precaution he took, retribution overtook him. He was troubled with a vague anxiety and then downright alarm. First he shunned men, then shrank from water. He had lost sleep and lost appetite, and now he could not drink—not even wine which carried associations of the purer liquid. Soon he manifested all the worst signs of hydrophobia, and at last died a cruel death—worse than his dog's.

ON the 11th July, Mr. Bradlaugh asked :—

"I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for India whether the Secretary of State is aware that the administration of civil justice in India costs Rs. 2,14,27,000, of which all but the small sum of Rs. 140,000 is obtained by taxation of the litigants, and that Bengal litigants are

taxed Rs. 140,000 more than the total cost of civil justice in the province: whether complaints have reached him that the litigants of Bengal who pay more than the whole cost are unable to get their cases tried, and zemindars, whom the Government sell up when they do not pay by sunset the appointed amount, cannot obtain the necessary facilities for the recovery of their rents, and that the munsiffs are terribly overworked, and try cases in ill-ventilated butts, and there is sickness among them in consequence: And, whether the Secretary of State will lay upon the table the correspondence on this subject since 1870 between the High Court of Calcutta and the Government of India upon the requirements of the Bengal judicial service, the Government of Bengal and the Government of India, and the Government of India and the Secretary of State."

The Under-Secretary of State replied :—

"My answer to the first paragraph of the question is that the administration of civil justice in India costs, approximately, Rs. 2,14,27,000, and is defrayed by fees paid by litigants. In Bengal there is a surplus. In Madras the receipts and charges balance each other; and in the rest of India there is a loss. The total deficit exceeds 12½ lakhs. My answer to the second paragraph of the question is in the negative. In regard to the third paragraph, if the hon. member will put himself in communication with me, the Secretary of State will consider whether any papers can be usefully laid upon the table."

BABOO Oodit Narain Singh, styling himself Rajah of Handwah, Bhagalpore, having, through the Commissioner of the Division, "most humbly and respectfully" "offered Rs. 26,000 towards the completion of the water-works at Bhagalpore and Rs. 10,000 towards a Leper Asylum in this town," the Lieutenant-Governor has recorded his "high appreciation of his (the Baboo's) public spirit and liberality." The Baboo may now look forward to Government recognition of his autographic, and possibly also autochthonic, Rajaship.

MR. Smith takes leave for one month and seventeen days from the 1st September, Mr. Westmacott, as on a former occasion, acting as the Presidency Commissioner in addition to his own duties as Commissioner of Excise.

THE retirement of Mr. W. O'Reilly promotes, from the 8th July last, Moulvi Abdul Jubber to the first grade of the Subordinate Executive Service, and enables Government to make several confirmations, and temporary promotions and appointments in the remaining six grades.

THE *London Gazette* of the 22nd July 1890, notifies the promotion of Surgeon-Major Rajendra Chandra Chandra, of the Bengal Medical Establishment, as Brigade-Surgeon. That appointment, we understood, goes by seniority, where each second stands heir to the first. The distinction, however, comes to the Baboo subsequent to the completion of his regular term of service, and after juniors—Britishers, of course, true blue—have already been promoted over him. It is a parting compliment to a superannuated officer, who stays on the Establishment on sufferance. Still it is some thing to have a Baboo Brigade Surgeon even on such terms.

GOVERNMENT has at last awakened to the necessity of another Judge for the Calcutta Court of Small Causes. No permanent Judge is appointed yet, but Baboo Jadu Nath Roy, who had been off and on acting as the last Judge for the higher Judges on leave, is temporarily Gazetted an Additional Judge, with effect from the 13th instant.

WE are at last in luck's way. The natives are getting a hearing. It is no longer a sign of *ton* not to know that such things be. This may be seen in the changed conduct of the papers. In the last *Indian Planter's Gazette*, full two thirds of the Calcutta editorial notes are devoted to describing and criticising the movements of our countrymen. It was not till the writer had written nearly two columns in this behalf that he awoke to what he had been at and was troubled with an uneasy conscience for having gone too far and risked loss of caste for philonativism—we mean no imputation—and proceeded to make his apology. But even after the explanation, he went on at the same rate.

The explanation itself requires explanation; at any rate, the confession with which it concludes may cause heart-burning in certain quarters. It is in these terms :—

"We are all dull and damp, and the arrival of the Maharaja of Cooh Behar amongst us for a few days has not done much to enliven us, in fact I doubt whether many persons are aware that His Highness has arrived."

And has it come to this?

THE Light Brigade Relief Fund wanted £4,000 and they have got it, and more. The cry, however, is for more still, for the applications are more numerous than were at first anticipated.

MANY years ago, Thomas H. Blythe, an Englishman by birth, went to California in quest of fortune and, as one of the pioneers, found it. From time to time, he revisited England, and, in one of these revisits, made the acquaintance of a young woman who bore him a daughter named Florence. Blythe supported and educated her and in various other ways, though not of wedlock born, acknowledged her as his child by word of mouth and in writing. As final recognition, the millionaire willed away his whole fortune, amounting to \$4,000,000, to Florence. The will, as a matter of course, was contested. On the testator's death, a whole host of claimants sprung from the ground as it were, all averring lawful propinquity by blood or relationship. Of such were not only Alice Edith Dickerson, the alleged widow of Blythe, and the Williams of Liverpool who called themselves the heirs; but also a family of Gypsies named Blythe; the Savage families in Ireland and Scotland; and Mr. Carlton Blythe of London. The San Francisco Court has, however, awarded the dollars to Florence Blythe, Judge Coffey holding that, although illegitimate, Florence had, according to the State law, been fully and sufficiently accepted as heir.

#### ERRATA.

OUR leading article of last week on Cardinal Newman was, we regret to see, disfigured by a few errors of the press or slips of the pen. They were not of a kind to prove an impediment to the learned, but as they might possibly puzzle some, we had better notice them. Two of them occur in a single sentence (p. 391, col. 1) in which *for Puritan read Puritanism and for Evangelicism read Evangelicalism*. In the previous col. *for Whitlock read Whitfield*. As for the opening Latin we have quoted it aright and are not accountable for anything beyond.

As we are on the subject of Errors, we may as well say that in a previous issue, of 9th instant, in the article "The Fouché of Bengal" the accent was omitted from the name in the heading.

### NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Queen has pardoned the repentant Dhulip, provided he abandons all claim to Lahore or any part of the Punjab. It is a condition that recognizes the right but prohibits its exercise. The whole treatment of the poor prince has been unfair and weak.

THE Anglo-Portuguese Convention has been signed. It concedes all British claims in Nyassaland, extending the British sphere to the westward of Nyassa, and securing to Great Britain a broad belt of country connecting the territory north and south of the Zambesi. It recognizes the immense Portuguese Hinterland in Western Africa and a large extension of Mozambique territory. The navigation of the Zambesi is left free for future settlement. For this satisfactory ending, the British Consul at Mozambique, Mr. Johnston, has been made a Commander of the Bath, and the Acting Consul at Nyassaland, Mr. Buchanan, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

THERE is strike among the officers of the mercantile marine at Melbourne. It is assuming graver proportions. The employers at a large meeting have Resolved to support the ship owners. The contagion has spread to Sydney and Brisbane. Many steamers are stopped.

THE Washington Treasury on the 20th purchased 466,000 ounces of silver at an average price of 119½. Large shipments of the metal are being made from New York to Brazil. The Silver party press for another monetary conference of the European Powers.

THERE was an explosion in one of the sheds at the Government Powder Mills at Waltham yesterday morning. Only two deaths are telegraphed.

ON account of cholera, 4,700 pilgrims are in quarantine at El Tor. Forty-eight of them have since died.

A RIOT is reported between Orangemen and Catholics at Stewartstown in Ireland, resulting in the smashing of windows of 30 Catholic houses and the wrecking of a school.

THE Minister of War having cashiered the officers concerned in the late revolution, there were apprehensions of a fresh revolt at Buenos Ayres, and troops were under arms.

THE discontent in the Army Service Corps ending in insubordination at Chatham has been traced to the jealousy existing between the two Companies forming the Corps. The malcontents have been sent away singly and the Sergeant reduced to the rank of Corporal.

GENERAL Gordon, Bengal Staff Corps, succeeds General Lockhart as Assistant Military Secretary at the Horse Guards.

THERE is excessive nay, prohibitive, rise in the price of American wheat and corn. Exports are suspended. So much the better for other producers.

THE Emperor William is now on a visit to the Czar. He landed at Revel on the 17th and proceeded to Narva, where he and the Czar witness several days' manoeuvres. General Caprivi keeps his Emperor company.

IT is said the Emperor William visits the Emperor Francis Joseph in September. Speculations are rife as to the object and result of the meeting of the two Emperors.

HOLLAND'S Mill at Manchester has been burned down, causing a loss of £1,20,000.

THERE is a failure of potatoe crop in Ireland. The Irish Secretary, however, does not apprehend a famine.

SIR Edward Bradford has recovered and rejoined his duties. The wonderful English! Their wounded and maimed are more efficient than the whole men in full integrity of other peoples.

AFTER the Parnell Commission, the Government seem to have tired of their affection for the *Times*. In reply to Sir Wilfrid Lawson's question on the 29th July, whether notwithstanding promise of pardon, a dacoit leader had after an unsatisfactory trial been sentenced to death, Sir John Gorst raised a laugh saying—

"The statements of the *Times*' correspondent at Rangoon do not generally commend themselves for accuracy to the Secretary of State."

The India Office had telegraphed for information.

THE Guardians and Wards Act, VIII of 1890, has been made applicable to the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore. The Governor-General in Council furthermore allows the courts the liberty to construe the provisions of the Act with such alterations, not affecting the substance, as may be necessary or proper to adapt them to the matter before the courts. This is virtually investing the interpreting courts with legislative functions. Considering how our courts generally go beyond the law and how fantastically they distort simple provisions, such investiture is likely to produce more evil than good.

THE Code of Criminal Procedure is already applicable to the cantonment of Secunderabad since the year of its enactment in 1882. The cantonment is now declared, for the purposes of the Act, to be a province, and the Resident at Hyderabad the Local Government of that province and the highest court of criminal appeal or revision. The noticeable part of the announcement is that the Governor-General in Council is also pleased to direct that all powers which may from time to time have been exercised by the Resident as a Local Government or as the highest court of criminal appeal or revision, shall be deemed to have been exercised according to law. Does the Code give the Governor-General in Council power to legalize past transgressions?

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces is the only one of the late Viceroy's Lieutenants who is honourably discharging



to the full his engagements with respect to the organization for supplying female medical relief to the women of India. They all bowed Lady Dufferin out of the land with profuse promises of unabated fidelity to the cause and zeal in its furtherance, but no sooner was she away than many of them became cold, and just kept up appearances by spasmodic efforts from time to time. Some no doubt have done better, but Sir Auckland Colvin has been the best. He is true as steel. He does not leave a stone unturned to serve the charity. Unfortunately, he is placed at a disadvantage. His jurisdiction is not famous for the wealth of the charitable classes. With scarcely more than one ruling Chief, the N. W. Provinces have not many princely landlords. The new appanage of Oudh just enables the ruler to save the credit of the whole country from the Carnarossa to the borders of the Delhi district and from the frontiers of Tibet to Rajputana and Central India. He has shown a genuine interest in the success of the movement. Wherever he goes on his official rounds, whomsoever he has met, he has always advocated it. He has not only attended meetings of committees and subscribers, but also made time to prepare and deliver long and eloquent addresses. Without abusing his authority, he has done everything to further the cause.

Sir Auckland Colvin lately went to Benares, on the 23rd July. As a consequence, doubtless of that visit, while the Lieutenant-Governor was still in the station, a public meeting was held there. The Maharaja of Benares having been present, was voted to the chair. At this meeting, about Rs. 23,000 was subscribed for the Lady Dufferin Fund, which with His Highness' Rs. 25,000, brings up the amount to Rs. 48,000. This is less than a quarter of the requisition of two lakhs. Raja Sambhu Narain Singh subscribed Rs. 6,000 and offered Rs. 50,000 more provided the hospital was named after his father, Raja Sir Deo Narain Singh: but on this condition it was rejected.

THERE is no pleasing everybody, as poor Mr. Malabari has repeatedly found to his cost. If he "appeals to the country" going round preaching his reform, he is a fussy man. If he asks Government to circulate his views for the opinion of officials and non-officials, he wants to "curry favour" of course. If he goes to England and there quietly addresses himself to those whom he finds disposed to hear and to help, he is simply the naughty fellow we wisemen always took him for, who in keeping with his character is now passing over the reformers and philanthropists who would have none of his hole and corner conferences but insisted upon regular public meetings and "orations." Such, indeed, is now the outcry against the poor man. He is regarded as the Veiled Prophet of Khorasan *redivivus* among the descendants of the old refugees from Iran.

He hates the light because his deeds are dark!

An inveterate courtier and a man of mystery, he is intriguing in the midst of free England and concocting Cabals for reformation in the East. Meanwhile, he has been labouring in the way that seemed to him best. He has already made some distinct progress. His English Committee have formulated the following programme of reforms which he and his friends think ripe for being taken up in right earnest, namely:—

(1) To amend the Indian Penal Code, by repealing the exception to Section 375, and thus making 12, instead of 10, the age of consent.

(2) To amend the Code of Civil Procedure, by enacting that a suit shall not lie for the restitution of conjugal rights or for the recovery of a wife.

(3) To amend the Marriage Law, by enacting that persons married during infancy shall have the opportunity, when they come to years of discretion, of themselves ratifying the contract. It might be enacted that where a girl is married under 12, the marriage may, at any time before consummation, and after she attains the age of 12 (or 14) be made void by a formal declaration on her part before a magistrate. This declaration should be capable of being made whether the husband is alive or dead at the time, so that the infant widow might, if so disposed, emancipate herself from the status of widowhood.

(4) To pass a law, enabling parents in India to defer the marriage of their children to any age they like, and recognizing as a public offence or contempt of Court any *overt* act on the part of neighbours or castemen against such parents.

(5) To amend the Re-Marriage Act of 1856 as to the civil and property rights of a widow who re-marries, as the Government of India offered to do in 1886; to enable her at least to enjoy such rights as her husband has conferred on her by will.

(6) To make the Re-Marriage ceremony simple and inexpensive, say by two or three declarations before the Registrar, or to extend the benefit of the Brahmo Marriage Act to such Hindus as are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the marriage ceremonies provided by their own law.

(7) To take more active steps than hitherto for making known to the people Sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code as to the procuring and disposing of minors as temple devotees and dancing girls, and for rigorously enforcing these sections.

(8) To help voluntary associations working for social reform on the principle of self-help, by conferring on them such powers and privileges as may enable them to carry out their programme, by lending them sympathy and moral support, and generally by recognizing honest efforts on the part of individual reformers.

(9) To afford special facilities and inducements to girls to remain at school after 10; and to widows to study medicine, sanitation, the art of teaching, and so on, providing them with suitable employment so far as is possible."

That is a considerable beginning, no matter if some parts of the programme be found impracticable, indeed all the better for the spice of impracticability. Impracticability is a zest of life—an element of its romance. It is the very fuel for the Reform boiler.

At Trichinopoly, a poor widow of the labouring class gave birth to a daughter, nursed it for several months and, unable to do so any longer, sold it to a dancing girl. The transfer was made by a regular deed of conveyance, duly signed, sealed and delivered. It was last taken to the Sub-Registrar of Warriur who completed the deed by his seal and signature. Is this Sub who registers deeds of darkness without compunction openly in a British Province, a retired old Kazi?

THE poor plucked of the last intermediate examination of the Allahabad University have *pukrowed* the Vice-Chancellor to take pity on their "pitiable" condition. In their petition *ad misericordiam* they present a harrowing picture. Their plea for mercy they offer in explanation of their failure is the—Influenza. They *pose* as martyrs, claiming for themselves a "rare and heroic devotion to duty"—victims of a fortuitous combination of circumstances.

"Not only did they suffer in body and mind, but many lost their near and dear relatives. There are some who managed somehow to attend with medicine phials in their pockets, but not being able to stand the strain to the last, they broke down."

Unfortunately, the *Pioneer*, so fruitful of resources when its own clientele is concerned, has nothing better to offer these petitioners than the advice—for which, by the way, no ghost of a leading journal was required—not to waste their time in drawing up petitions, but to get rid of their colds, if they have not done so already, and read for the next examination.

ACCORDING to the *Deccan Herald*, the Cantonment Magistrate of Poona, after investigating a charge of theft—of some socks from a laundry—against a child of not more than five years of age, found it guilty and sentenced it to a whipping of as many stripes as its age. Then the heart of the punctilious Avatar of Justice failed him. He saw the danger of executing the sentence. Five strokes might be capital punishment for the tender thing at the bar. He would not, could not, be hard on the child, and he took care that his order was carried out with a light rattan. This Indian Magistrate has well deserved a course of whipping himself—and not with a light cane but a regular cat—for his ignorance of the initial direction of the Indian Penal Code. For, nothing is an offence which is done by a child under seven years of age. Harsh and mischievous as is the Code, it is better than many of those charged with the execution of its numerous provisions. It is certainly not the madness that the trial in question assumed it to be. We wonder what creed this Cantonment Magistrate professes. He may be a Christian after a sort. He certainly never felt the force of Jesus' admonition and avowal, Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven! After all, neither law nor Scripture is needed to teach the obvious truth that children, more truly than kings, can do no wrong.

THE Municipal Commissioners are divided as to who should now represent them in the Port Trust. There were several applicants—mostly undesirable. The Commissioners went to vote last week. Many of the candidates were eliminated, and the result was a tie between a Mahomedan translator and a Hindu merchant, himself a millionaire into the bargain. The tie was not unloosened and the matter stands over for next Thursday. We can only remark that he who touts most for votes is not necessarily the best person to be returned, and hope the Commissioners will have the good sense to prevent a scandal. Cannot Sir Henry Harrison come to the rescue? The gentlemen on the riverside ought to be saved.

As the friends of our townman Kassim Ariff Saheb must be very anxious about his welfare, we are glad to say, that a telegram has been received from Bombay from which we gather that he and his family are all safe. The reports about the breaking out of cholera on board the *S. S. Deccan* and at Camran appear to have been exaggerated. No intimation has, however, been yet received in Calcutta of the arrival of the *Deccan* at Jeddah. The latest information is that as the *Huff* was over, and the pilgrims on board the *Deccan* were not allowed to get out of quarantine at Camran owing to illness, the *Deccan* has been permitted to proceed to Jeddah, without the pilgrims, for the purpose of landing her cargo, after which she will return to Camran, take up the pilgrim passengers, and bring them back to Bombay.

THANA Gya has been divided into Gya Town and Gya Mofussil thanas. Why not Suburban instead of Mofussil? When will these hideous words cease to disfigure our official papers? It was time enough for the British in India to be thoroughly English in their speech and writing.

A VEGETABLE chameleon—a kaleidoscope of the botanical kingdom—is announced. It is said that a flower has been found in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec which changes colours during the day. In the morning it is white; at noon, red; and at night, blue. The tree is about the size of a guava tree, and emits a perfume only when the sun is at its zenith. The romance of both hemispheres is centred in—the richest possibilities of the globe are credited to—that land. The habitat is appropriate. The waves of the Eastern and Western main lave its shores and dance deliriously in delight as though they would meet and mingle their waters in mutual embrace, over its head. All the poetry is in jeopardy and all the physical characteristics and of course their peculiar fruit, from the intrusion of the scientific Vandals in the service of insatiable Commerce.

THE young Maharaja of Morbhanj is in Calcutta in charge of Mr. Kiddell and is the guest of the Maharani of Cooch Behar at Woodlands, where he stays during his whole sojourn. We hope this does not mean a revival of the match which had been in contemplation.

THE *Indian Daily News*, under the head of "A Departed Worthy," published on the 15th, the following letter:—

"Sir,—To-day I am again present before your readers to relate the sad death of Rai Deno Nath Ghose, Bahadoor, who was one of the great politicians of India. He was getting pension from the Government, but his head was so sharp even at this age that the chief politicians asked his advice to do their work. From a long time he was suffering from diabetes, but his disease increased from the death of his eldest son, the late Baboo Charoo Chunder Ghose, who died by taking a quantity of opium a few months ago. About a week or two ago the late Rai Deno Nath Ghose, Bahadoor, was attacked with carbuncle, which ended his life yesterday morning. But it is a matter of deep regret that when he was at the point of death, when his throat snarled, no one was there, so he was unable to see any one at the time of his death. Death cares for none: the great and the low, the honored and the simple, the rich and the poor, and the virtuous and the vicious are the same in his eyes. None can avoid his horrible grasp. A crowd of reputed persons was in the habit of visiting the deceased gentleman, among whom were Sir Maharajah Jotindro Mohun Tagore, Bahadoor, K.C.S.I., Rajah Doorga Churn Law, C.I.E., Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chunder Nyayaratna, and others. The late Rai Deno Nath Ghose, Bahadoor, lived at Shambazar for a long time: he was gentle, submissive, and a virtuous person. He was the patron of the poor and the needy. As regards me I knew him well as I am his neighbour, and I can verily say that I have never found fault with him. Now, I think that the public will sympathise with his loss, and pray to God that his descendants may live in peace.—Yours, &c.,

AMULLYA CHURN NUNDY,  
Secretary to the Shambazar Albert  
Library, and a Member of the  
Georgian Association, Bible  
Society."

A FAIR flower of the Bengal Civil Service has just been nipped in the bud. We record with pain the death of Mr. M. E. Bradford. The circumstances of his last days make the event specially distressing—to our Oriental mind at any rate. A member of the ruling class, and a gentleman of connections, as of personal popularity, such are the strange conditions of life in the European camp, rather than community or society, in India, that directly he was prostrated by sickness than he had to betake to the pauper's refuge in a public charity. We think his removal from Rampore Haut, where he was in charge of the sub-division, was a great mistake. Without any pretensions to be a medical expert, one can see the risk of sending a patient suffering from malarial poison from a dry salubrious district like Beerbhoom to the hospital atmosphere of a damp city on the skirts of the Sunderbuns and right on the Salt Water Lake—now the repository of all the refuse and dirt of a great population. Here, in the wilderness of the metropolis, the young man was deposited in the General Hospital, far from home and country, away from kinsmen or relations or friends, nursed by mere mercenaries. It was well that before death closed the scene, he had for days been unconscious.

What can atone (oh, ever-injur'd shade!)

Thy fate unpitied, and thy rites unpaid?

No friend's complaint, no kind domestic tear

Pleas'd thy pale ghost or grac'd thy mournful bier:

By foreign hands thy dying eyes were closed,

By foreign hands thy decent limbs composed,

By foreign hands thy humble grave adorned,

By strangers honoured, and by strangers mourned!

Mr. Bradford was one of the best specimens of British young manhood. Passionately fond of hunting and sports, he was no gross John Bull, but a man of education and feeling. He was in fact a thorough gentleman in the best sense and no mere man of the world. He conquered wherever he went. He was beloved of all classes, Europeans and natives. He was one of our most promising officers in the Bengal Service, having already given unquestionable proofs of ability—not simply of intellectual grasp but also of executive tact and energy—and withal he knew how to approach the hearts of those he had to deal with. The death of such a public servant is a loss to the state. He was so different from the typical Young Official, flippant, insolent and even rowdy, without the slightest consideration for native claims, that we cannot help mourning for him.

This death ought to be a warning against the reckless *shikaring* into which even unseasoned Europeans are too prone to plunge in the East. Son of General Bradford, then of the India Office now at the head of the London Police, who came in charge of our last royal visitor, young Mr. Bradford was invited to join the Prince's party, and bore His Royal Highness company in all his hunts, thus with the Prince himself catching the poison of the jungle. The Prince has luckily escaped—poor Bradford succumbed.

To the good father of the deceased we offer our most respectful sympathies. His is a most trying bereavement. The death of a grown up son in the flower of life is always a cruel calamity. And he has lost such a son!

WE have received a communication touching a statement in our article on University Scandals on the second instant, namely, that the inquiry arose on the complaint of a candidate who stood third in the B. L. Examination this year. The young gentleman contradicts that statement, denying any share in the matter.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1890.

### HINDUS AND MAHOMEDANS.

THE BEERBHOOM BARBARITY.

THERE are no signs of a growing *rapprochement* between Hindus and Mahomedans. On the contrary, the appearances are all the other way. The deadliest feelings of animosity between the followers of the rival religions prevail as strongly as ever, nay,

more than ever, and the slightest incident is enough to kindle them into a flame. English education and enlightenment and British influence in general seem to have done far too little in bridging the gulf between the two races. Truth to say, they have acted in an opposite direction. After all, that education and that influence have so far influenced but the merest fringe of the population, and the masses at large remain as little humanised by its effects as before. And such as they are, they are disturbing forces in society as in the household, making for war rather than peace. In regard to this as to other Indian social phenomena, the widest divergencies are observable. There are small coteries of enlightened Mahomedans and Hindus who, whatever their private peculiarities, are undistinguishable in their public conduct as brothers from brothers. While, as regards the people in general, the case is quite the contrary. The bitterest personal antipathies are entertained towards each other and expressed in outward demeanour. Not even the ordinary demands of personal and public courtesy are regarded, and it is impossible for Mahomedans and Hindus to come together without some overt or covert expressions of feeling of an unpleasant kind.

We talk of an Indian nationality evolved by English influences. No doubt, on the face of things, and in some measure, such a consummation is fostered by those influences. English education with the Press, the Railway, the Telegraph, and, above all, a common Government and Law seem all essaying towards this end, and the Indian Congress does no small service in affording by its annual assemblages a visible evidence of the growing progress. But what a rude shock is given to all such peaceful dreams by the periodical explosions of religious antipathy between rival communities which threaten to defy all gentler influences. In spite of the best efforts of Government officers, and presumably of the better sort of people, these explosions have already acquired a chronic character, and one almost despairs of seeing an end put to them. The following facts of a case, in which a number of Mahomedans of the Beerbhoom district were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, are extraordinary in all conscience. We take the report from the proceedings before the High Court which would not grant a rule to shew cause why the conviction and sentence should not be set aside:—

"The following extraordinary case came up, it being a conviction of five Mahomedans by the Joint-Magistrate of Bubbhun for the offence of wounding the religious susceptibilities of some Hindu fellow-villagers. The grounds of appeal were that the facts as disclosed in the evidence constituted no offence; that there was no intention of wounding the religious feelings of any one; and that the whole affair was carried out for the purpose of exorcising an evil spirit from the neighbourhood. The facts were these: There was a village goddess, or rather her symbol, consisting of a piece of stone placed beneath a mohwa tree at the edge of a tank outside the inhabited area of the village of Kakotola. The tree and stone were undoubtedly objects held sacred by the Hindus, and so were the tank and a banian tree which stood on the opposite side of it. The annual worship of the goddess was carried on, and puja was also offered to her. Near this place of the goddess were some waste lands, a sort of superstitious awe deterring people from cultivating them. One Hindu, however, took up some of this land, but he and his children died shortly after, the villagers attributing the misfortune to the anger of the goddess. A Mahomedan then took it up and cultivated it, but soon gave it up, asserting that an apparition with matted hair had been often seen in his house. In November last the accused took up the lands, but dreaded the anger of the goddess, whom they looked upon as an evil spirit. On the 20th of June last, at midday, a Hindu cowherd observed the accused and a number of other Mahomedans coming from the direction of their village with a cow led by a rope. The animal was taken round the tank, and then to the waste land, where it was slaughtered. The flesh of the cow was taken to the shrine of the goddess; the stone was smeared with its blood, and some flesh put on it. Some of the bones were stuck up in the hollows of the tree, and a leg was also hung on a branch. Preparations were then made for a feast. The beef was cooked under the banian tree and eaten, and the feast lasted till evening. A Hindu villager witnessed all

these doings, but being Hindu he averted his face when the cow was being slaughtered and skinned; but a Mahomedan witness saw the whole affair. He deposed that blood was smeared on the stone by one of the accused, with the remark that the goddess did not get oil and vermillion, and that the blood would supply the want. Another one of the accused made the remark, when enquiries were being made about the occurrence, 'We have put blood on the stone; now let us test your goddess; let her break my neck.' The accused all denied the facts, and alleged that the case had been concocted from beginning to end. The Magistrate, however, found that it had been fully proved that the sacred stone of the Hindus had been defiled with beef and blood at the hands of the accused (who all of them thus became members of an unlawful assembly) with the criminal object of defiling it. The Magistrate also found that in this case the offence was not the outcome of any religious antipathy or intolerance, but the result of mere superstition. The intention was not so much to outrage the religious feelings of the Hindus, as to drive a malicious spirit away from the place. The accused were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, varying from two months to five weeks.

On the above facts their Lordships (Messrs. Justices Prinsep and Hill) refused to interfere, remarking that the accused very well deserved what they had got, as they must have known that what they were doing was an outrage on the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus."

The incidents of the case are of an extremely outrageous character and point to the existence of a religious intolerance deep in the hearts of its perpetrators. But these were presumably illiterate men, and this may afford some consolation. In a recent case of a more grievous kind, even this element of comfort is not to be found. We refer to the Durbhunga cow-killing riot.

The actors there are all men of wealth and position, and the guilt is represented to lie at the door of the Hindus rather than the Mahomedans. And all the worse for them if it is a sequel of the Durbhunga Temple case. In any case, they must have been intolerably provoked. Perhaps they had been culpably neglected, too, by those whose business it was to do justice between class and class and maintain the general peace.

## THE HINDUS AND THE MAHOMEDANS.

### THE SEQUEL OF THE DURBHUNGA TEMPLE CASE.

THE Mahomedan *Eed uz Zuha*, popularly known as the Festival of *Buckreed*, fell this year on the 28th July. On that occasion, it is customary for the Mahomedans to sacrifice an animal—it may be a *buckra*—a goat or lamb—or it may be a camel, if the party can afford the waste. It may even be the sacred animal of the Hindus, to whom the very thought of such a proceeding is most revolting—who cannot hear of such a fate for the object of their veneration without sin. As the Mahomedans after sacrifice distribute the meat for eating, the killing of a goat is a poor business—a family affair—which cannot call forth the enthusiasm of the neighbourhood. The camel is the Bedouin's fare; it may be a delicacy to the Arab, but the Indian stomach cannot stand it. Hence the camel sacrifice in this country involves a needless waste and invites a diarrhoea among the faithful: Hence the genuine preference for the remaining alternative, besides the factitious pleasure of eating the Hindus's god—a preference shown by Mahomedans, specially of the lower classes, whenever they can venture on the outrage on their fellow-subjects of the other sect. As a rule, the Hindus are not molested in their religious susceptibilities. The chief reason is that Hindus and Mussulmans get on well and regard, or at least regarded till lately, themselves together as forming one society. Such was the spirit of mutual forbearance that respectable Mussulmans have mostly forgotten their taste of beef. The Moslem populace though prizing it as the only meat practically open, from its cheapness, to the poor, are restricted to the butcher's shop for their supply. In general, they dare not outrage the sect

of the majority—the sect of wealth and learning—by slaughtering the animal in their midst—a proceeding which, in their belief, would not only pollute the whole place but also *volens volens*, notwithstanding their nonparticipation, compromise them in their after-life.

It is only when ill blood prevails between the sects that this slaughter is resorted to, as the surest way of insulting and punishing the Hindus. Even so it was in the present instance.

Ever since a Hindu temple—an object of general Hindu veneration—at Durbhunga was demolished by the late Vice-Chairman of the municipality, a Mahomedan, with a lot of Mahomedan servants and workmen, under magisterial orders, the *entente cordiale* has been broken. The special official inquiry, instead of allaying the irritation, aggravated it to the highest pitch. In this state of feeling, one Hossaini, whose position may be inferred from his name, gave out his intention to sacrifice the sacred animal on the Buck-reed. The news flew like wild fire and threw the whole Hindudom into violent agitation. When on the evening of the 28th July it was ascertained that an animal was in readiness at Hossaini's house for the purpose, fury suddenly seized the Hindus and they rose *en masse* to save their god and their souls. The quarter was besieged by hundreds and thousands of yelling men, many armed with sticks and brickbats. The terrified Mahomedans hastened to the Magistrate at his residence and brought him to the scene. He could with difficulty restore quiet. We will now let the District Magistrate, Mr. C. J. S. Faulder, c. s., tell the story as he gave it on oath before the Special Magistrate appointed to investigate:—

"On Monday last, the 28th ultimo, at nearly 10-45 P.M., some Mahomedans came to my house, and told me they wanted to kill a cow, and the Hindus were preventing them. I told them to go to the thannah. Half an hour or so later, some Hindus came to me at my house, and objected to this being done in their *mahulla* (quarter) in the street. I said I would go, and I ordered my carriage. Dhanookdhari (whom I point out) came to tell me. I drove to Kutkibazar, which runs in front of Baboo Brij Behari Lall's (the present Municipal Vice-Chairman) house. When I got there, I found the whole neighbourhood crowded out, and people shouting and gesticulating in a very excited manner. A lot of Hindus came round me, and gesticulated and shouted and pointed to a lane leading to the west. Their manner was turbulent and excited. The Mahomedans came to me and asked me to help against the opposition of the Hindus, and several Mahomedans were brought to me, and I saw their heads and faces cut, bruised and bleeding. I then went down the *gullee* (lane). I found crowds of Hindus shouting in a defiant and threatening manner towards what proved to be the house of the complainant (Hossaini). I thought their attitude so provoking as to cause a breach of the peace. I caused two or three to be arrested. As I was going along, I saw Hindus brandishing *latees* and hurling stones in defiance towards Hossaini's (the complainant) house. I arrested one man, as he was actually brandishing his *latee* towards the house from behind. I think I can identify him. When I got close to Hossaini's house, I saw Dhanookdhari Misser, who was taking a prominent part in gesticulating at the house in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace. I took him under arrest. I saw that if the sacrifice took place, there would be a serious riot; so I told the Mahomedans they must give it up. They said they would do whatever I told them. I saw very few police present. I thought it better to go away and bring up more. I returned down the *gullee* (lane) to the main street. I still saw bands of men brandishing *latees* defiantly, and bricks being thrown about. When I got to the main road, the Hindus crowded round me in a threatening and insolent way. From time to time I seized men who were most obtrusive, and amongst others I arrested him (pointed out Nundkishore Lall), who was making himself particularly obnoxious and shouting in a menacing way. I then drove to the thannah. When I got there, I found the police had gone to the place of occurrence by the direct road. I had gone round to avoid the crowd. I drove back to the place of occurrence by the direct road, about half a mile only from the thannah. When I came back to the *gullee*, I found a large force of police and a number of *chowkidars* had taken possession of the *gullee*. On the main road I still saw crowds of Hindus shouting and gesticulating, and as I came, I saw a number of men with *latees* run away through Brij Behari Lall's (the Municipal Vice-Chairman) premises, throwing back bricks as they went. My attention was directed to a lane which runs west of this Baboo's house, and I went round and I saw a band of men with *latees* running down the lane, and before they got out of sight, they turned and threw several bricks back at me. I then returned to the main road and *gullee*. There was not much going on on account of the *chowkidars*. The crowd followed me down the *gullee*, still behaving in the same obtrusive and menacing

manner. When I got to Hossaini's (the complainant) house, I thought it best to remove the cause of disturbance. I arranged for the cow to be sent to my house. I then returned to the street. The Hindus were all the time crowding round me and shouting in a loud, defiant, angry manner. On my way back down the *gullee* to the street—I do not remember whether it was the first time or the second—one man, a Hindon, whom I think I can identify, made himself particularly obnoxious, walking backwards before me the whole way, and half settling down at every step and stopping me, and said (as far as I could understand) that he would cut his throat if the cow was not released: he kept on putting his hand across his throat. At last I had him arrested. Whilst I was going down the *gullee*, I don't remember which time, the first or second, another man whom I can identify, a Hindon, ran at a Mahomedan who was asking for help, and knocked him down at my feet. I had him arrested. I returned to the street, and went away. At both visits I arrested those men whom I saw to be most obtrusive—altogether ten or twelve persons. During the whole time, Mahomedans were brought up to me from time to time covered with blood. Out of the accused I pick out and identify—(1) Nandkishore, (2) Dhanookdhari, (3) Muni Teli: this man, I think, was saying he would cut his throat: (4) Gyanchand—I remember arresting him. Afterwards out of the eight or twelve persons whom I arrested, I found the police had let off all but three. I should think there were at least 2,000 persons in the crowd. I recognise a *Marwari* (pointed him out), but I don't know if I recognise seeing him in the riot, or elsewhere. I did not see the Mahomedans do any acts of violence. I saw no *latees* in their hands, and their attitude was one of protest. They were in a large minority."

So far as we can judge from this distance, and without special information, Mr. Faulder is responsible for allowing matters to come to a head. But the root of all we suspect was in the Bengal office.

#### MR. MALABARI'S GUJRAT AND THE GUJRATIS.\*

THIS is no new work, but a wellknown and well appreciated performance, and it is sufficient for us to announce its present appearance. We cordially congratulate the author on his success: it is indeed matter for national gratulation that a thoroughly native production should be so successful. No literary work in English by a native of India has acquired half the measure of popularity of *Gujrat and the Gujratis*. Certainly, none has attained to the dignity of a third edition. It is now a standard work—if a small collection of unpretentious sketches, however clever, of persons and things in an Indian Province, may be allowed such a proud name. The author himself gives the following modest account of the Natural History of his book—of its evolution from the original germ into substantial separate being, and of its several incarnations into the present personality:—

#### "STRUGGLES OF A CHEAP NEWSPAPER."

It was a cheap weekly, hitherto owned by two partners, consins, one who had given it money, the other brains. Two more partners were added, my friend N. bringing money, and I supposed as supplying brains. The work was fairly divided—the first proprietor, D., a small clerk, undertook business management. N. was to help D., and also to make himself useful to us—my friend P. and myself—in the literary business. For a week or two all went on smoothly; but we soon felt the necessity of discussing our position. N. was a man of temper, and among other things 'compositors' did not take kindly to him. I received frequent complaints as to his harshness; but knowing he had brought us the sinews of war I could do nothing more than appeal to his good sense. On Saturday night Mr. N. was given a 'proof' to read. He corrected it; but instead of entering corrections on the margins, poked his pen into the body of the 'composed matter.' The compositor, of course, could not follow such corrections, and the paper was delayed next morning. On Sunday, when we four proprietors met, I gently asked Mr. N. to be good enough to enter corrections, in future, on the margins of the proof sheet. N. glared at me for what he took to be an insult, and replied that he had paid 1,000 rupees to be his own master—that he would do just what he liked, and would not be bullied by people who had not contributed a pie. This sneer was passed over by me; but the co-editor winced under it, and replied hotly to N.'s insinuation. What threatened to be a bad quarrel was, however, soon made up; and we all adjourned to an adjoining hotel to discuss the future of the paper and a substantial breakfast provided for the occasion, I forget by whom.

#### EDITORIAL VAGARIES.

But by-and-bye we two editors could not quite agree between ourselves. I was for treatment of social questions chiefly; my friend P. affected politics. We settled this difference by confining each to his own *forte*. Our ignorance, even in this, was as boundless as was our arrogance. But was it not glorious to criticise and ridicule the highest men in the country? What a privilege for too-early-emancipated school-boys! Nothing could be easier than my share of the literary work: I turned into prose, every week, two of my versified social essays, of which I had a large supply at home. Did poet ever sacrifice his substance as I did, in those days, in the public interests? My sweet sonorous hexameters surrendered bodily to the manipulations of the dirty P. D. I No martyr could do more. My friend P. wrote political

\* *Gujrat and the Gujratis: Pictures of Men and Manners taken from Life*. Third Edition. By Behranji M. Malabari. Bombay. Printed at the Fort Printing Press, 1889.



essays. He was decidedly better-read than I. Certainly he took pains with his essays; but how could a young man of less than twenty overtake topics which baffle the grasp of practised veterans? One day, writing, I believe, of the battle of Plevna, P. asked me what was meant by 'the Porte.' I explained 'the Porte' might be the Sultan of Turkey's principal wife. P. thought it was only the European title of the Khedive of Egypt. We often thought and wrote in that curious way.

#### EDITORIAL AMENITIES.

This could not last; and one evening P. suggested, in council, that our capitalist partners should get a few reference-books for the editor's table. Mr. N. refused to pay for our 'extravagance.' I submitted, as chairman, that we were neither of us extravagant, and that Mr. N. was wrong. Hereupon he brought definite charges against us. P. replied to the accusations and N. retorted, winding up rather suddenly with a demand for his money. P. was dum-founded, but he soon found courage to ask N. if he meant really to be so 'perfidious.' N. replied, with equal ferocity, 'Return my money this minute.' 'Very well,' coolly said P., taking up N.'s new turban and throwing it out of the window, desiring its owner to leave instantly, on pain of being sent after the turban by the same means of exit. But N. did nothing of the sort. He took P. by the throat, and demanded the satisfaction of throwing out his turban. 'It is my right, give me my right,' he shrieked, 'and then I'll leave.' Here they closed. They tugged and lodged, tore each other's hair and clothes, and mauled each other very prettily. It was with the utmost difficulty that the young Tartars could be separated. And the two—once intimate friends and college chums—have never since been on speaking terms. That evening, in the presence of servants and neighbours, who had come up on hearing of the *fracas*, the chairman shed tears of anguish, in his editorial and presidential chair, at all his hopes of fame and fortune having vanished so suddenly. One could put up with light inconvenience, such as of working as compositor, reader, printer, distributor, manager, editor and so forth, all offices rolled into one. But this exposure—oh it was too too cruel!

But crushing as the disappointment was, it enabled me to cast about for some equally powerful distraction. I had long cherished the hope of visiting Gujarāt and Kātywār with some definite business views, and having, at this juncture, received an offer from a friend, I accepted it thankfully.

#### A POOR PROGRAMME.

This personal explanation has been given, reader, to warn you against expecting too much from my book. Now that you know me, I know you will not be too exacting. If you are curious to revel in the luxury of deep and learned research, I must frankly refer you to *Oriental Memoirs*; to Forbes, Briggs, Ferishta, and such others, with whom my acquaintance is slightest of slight, barely sufficient to make me know my place. If you want to refresh, and at the same time to enlighten your mind, you had better turn to the picturesque details of the gifted *padre* Heber. Should you wish to have correct statistics and authenticated accounts of this Presidency, I could safely recommend you to pore over Mr. J. M. Campbell's *Bombay Gazetteers*. In these prodigious results of editorial labour you will find a forest of facts and figures which you can traverse leisurely, till you become another Dr. Hunter, a prince of particulars, a very king of quotations. But if you care to have a fresh account of, perhaps, the least known but most interesting parts of Her Majesty's Indian Empire, of the inner life of an important people, their habits, customs, manners, the moral and social forces at work among them, then you are welcome to those pages, such as they are. You will have to be content with rough, hasty sketches, but generally taken on the spot—sketches from real life. I could not promise you much of system and order—because, you see, this is not an Official Report. A number of these sketches appeared, at the time, in the *Bombay Review*, and are all the better for having received a few touches here and there from the accomplished editor. Not a few of them were, indeed, undertaken at the suggestion of that veteran journalist. These sketches, and a few more contributed to other papers, are here put into shape, intermixed with extracts from letters to friends and the contents of a rough diary—all strung together on a rather slender narrative thread.

I do not mind confessing, reader, that this is a poor sort of programme. But it is, perhaps, as well it is so. I may also prepare you for a little exaggerated expression, wherever the writer is 'intense.' But you will not find cause to question my *bona fides*. In spite of occasional levity, degenerating at times almost into what may appear to be flippancy, I do assure you that no writer meant to be more serious. If you follow my sketchings in the spirit and the letter, if you read between the lines, you will not find them all mere caricatures.

The first edition of the Gujarāt and the Gujarātis was brought out under serious disadvantages. The MS. had to be sent off to London unrevised, and revision of proofs was out of the question. An attempt has been made in the present volume to correct misprints, supply omissions, and to check the tendency of some of the observations to appear too sweeping. The glare of paint which disfigured one or two of the 'pictures' has made room for sober tints. But though the form has been in some instances modified, the matter is substantially the same. For what defects still remain the critic would do well not to condemn the workman for the rawness of his materials.

Five new chapters have been added to this volume to suit different tastes. These chapters could be easily elaborated for a larger volume. The rough illustrations might serve as 'aid' to readers who have never been to India. These are the best that could be obtained on the spot, not, however, without many trials by friends in the profession. The experiments so far did not justify a more serious effort."

The latter part of the last paragraph, we confess, puzzles us. Partly from the poverty of the English language and partly from the custom of figurative employment of it, the word *illustration*, like others of the Pictorial Art, has become equivocal, and acquired more than one sense, being now used for writing and now for drawing—at one time for letter-press description and at another for visible represen-

tation—picture in fact. Remembering the second title of the book—*Pictures of Men and Manners taken from Life*—we naturally took our author's "rough illustrations" for pennings instead of pencillings. And there is nothing in the context—at least in the first sentence—hostile to that sense. But the next sentence arrested us, specially the mention of "friends in the profession," which evidently refers to the artistic profession, until we settle in the end in absolute gloom and confusion. Had there been any visible signs in the direction, the matter were different; it were all right. But where are the illustrations, "rough" or elaborate? There is not a sketch or drawing of any kind, good, bad or indifferent—not a scrap or scrawl. Has Mr. Malabari too imbibed the lesson of shabby-pious Hinduism, which knows how to convert a burden into an instrument of highest advantage, as by making of their blind old cow a present to the Brahman? Are the illustrated copies reserved for our betters—the genuine critics and truly elegant and eloquent writers on the press? There is no promise of pictorial scenes in the programme of the title-page, nor a list of illustrations in the table of contents, in our copy. But that fact may be explained by opposite hypotheses. At any rate, it were cruel to think the spirit of high refinement and chivalrous honour, of liberality and benevolence which characterise its pages, capable of stooping to such pettiness. There were certainly a few "illustrations" in the previous edition, quite answering to the character given them by the author himself. Suspecting a derangement of epitaphs, we refer to the former issue and find ourselves confirmed.

Mr. Malabari is one of our best English writers, and this book, though a comparatively juvenile performance, is worthy of his reputation. His command of English has amazed those who speak and write that language as their mother-tongue. But Mr. Malabari is something more than a maker of choice sentences. He is a man of genius. The book abounds in the finest humour and teems with strokes of the most delicate wit. That story of native journalism extracted above is not unworthy of Grenville Murray or Edmund About. It is a most interesting and even valuable work, which no native of India should be without. To those foreigners who desire to know what our native Indian life is like, to which they can have no access, and which they cannot possibly understand without intelligent Indian help, it is simply invaluable.

#### MONGHYR.

Jamalore, 15th August 1890.

Monghyr was full of pomp and bustle for the last two days, the 12th and 13th owing to the advent of the Lieutenant-Governor. There were fireworks, illuminations (even the river was ablaze with lighted *chirags* floating down the current). A grand dinner and a ball concluded the festivities on the occasion.

Ramprosad's ghat where his Honor's yacht anchored was beautifully decorated, having triangular and quadrangular temporary arches with lamps on. The sumptuous dinner was given by the Rajah of Gidhore in a splendid style. There was a sprinkling of spectators from all sides, comprising of Rajahs, Reises, Europeans, Bengalis and Beharis.

A detachment of the Jamalpore Volunteer corps was not wanting to shew their loyalty. They in a body accompanied by a Band went to Monghyr to form a guard of honor. I understand Sir Stuart Bayley and suite were out driving in and out of the town. They paid a visit to the Hot Spring (the famous Seeta-coond) and the well known *Poerabaree* house owned by the late Prosono Coomar Tagore, the Zillah school and Dear's Hospital.

The tide of reduction on the E. I. Railway is sweeping away some of the eminent executive European officers of the Co. Rumour has it, that the Government 55 years' rule will be enforced on the employés of the Co. irrespective of color and creed. Of course it is an admitted fact that a rule is a rule, but the question is, what is to be left for those unfortunates who will come under the operation of the same rule, beyond a small pittance in the Provident Fund, after having spent the better portion of their lives in serving the Co. with assiduity and zeal right through? In the Government service, pension is allowable, whereas in the Railway and other private services no provision is made for the employés to fall back upon in their old age.

The native residents of this station are really sorry to part with Dr. Kadar Nath Mitter, L. M. S., who, I understand, has already received his Departmental orders for a transfer as medical officer in charge of the Ghaziabad District with an increase of pay. During the period of his service at this station, he proved an efficient physician and surgeon as well and won the good opinion of the people. The climate of the place now may be said to be pretty fair.

# SIR RICHARD GARTH ON THE REFORM OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Reis and Rayyet*.

SIR—In his recent communication to *India*, Sir Richard Garth distinctly declares that he has been an openly professed friend of the Congress movement and that he is not aware of any other constitutional means which the educated portion of the Indian people "could have adopted for the purpose of bringing the grievances under which they had so long laboured, to the notice of the British public." The late learned Chief Justice of Bengal also bears personal testimony to the thoroughly loyal spirit of the movement. Congressionists are deeply grateful to him for this valuable certificate of character given to them and for his avowed friendship to their cause. It is, however, to be deeply regretted that in his examination of the Congress scheme for the improvement of the Provincial and Viceregal Councils, which forms the basis of Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill, he should have ignored altogether one of the principal safeguards for the representation of minorities which are among the central features of the Madras scheme that received the approval of the Fifth National Congress. It provides double safeguards for the representation of minorities, firstly, on the electoral colleges and secondly, on the legislative councils. The scheme insists on the representation of minorities by means of a statutory provision fixing the exact proportion of the members of the European, Eurasian, Mahomedan, and Parsee and other communities so as to ensure at least a minimum representation of their interests on the electoral colleges. Sir Richard Garth has, I am glad to say, very properly noticed this safeguard. But it is impossible to agree with him where he observes "Thus the Councils will be filled with Hindu members to the exclusion of all the other great sections and interests in the community." I have very carefully gone through Sir R. Garth's communication but I fail to see how he arrived at this conclusion with the resolution of the last Congress before him in connection with the representation of minorities on the Councils. Its fifth clause declares in the most unequivocal terms that "*when Parsees, Christians, Mahomedans or Hindus are in a minority, the total number of Parsees, Christians, Hindus, or Mahomedans, as the case may be, elected to the provincial legislatures shall not, so far as may be possible, bear a less proportion to the total number of members elected thereto, than the total number of Parsees, Christians, Hindus or Mahomedans, as the case may be, in such electoral jurisdiction, bear to its total population.*" Mr. Norton, who proposed the resolution in a very able and incisive speech, remarked "But recollecting as we do the practical conditions under which we live, recollecting the differences of caste, of custom and of creed that prevail in India, it is absolutely essential that any scheme which is to receive the sympathy of the people of England should bear upon its face clear proof that it takes into cognizance and protects the interests of minorities. Now, gentlemen, in that respect there cannot be any well-founded criticism of the measure which I have had the honour to move, because legislative protection of minorities is expressly therein provided and not left to the varying discretion or the varying passions of the human breast. Our scheme sets forth explicitly that electoral college, when it elects, shall necessarily, no option being left in this matter, elect a certain minimum percentage of Christians, Mahomedans, Parsees or Hindus to their respective legislative councils. So that at any rate the members of council, when elected, will represent, in the ratio of the populations to which they belong, their various interests." It does not lie within the province of this communication to discuss whether in the present educational condition of the Indian society the test of population is the right one to be applied throughout the country. But I think I have conclusively shown that, whatever the demerits of the Madras scheme, Sir Richard Garth's objection that it would fill the councils with Hindus exclusively rests on no foundation whatever and I am extremely sorry that some of your English contemporaries have made the most of it and written exultingly about his disapproval of Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill, in complete ignorance of the real nature of the proposal adopted last year in Bombay. Sir Richard Garth also forgets to note that Government will always be in a position to redress any inequalities in the representation of minorities and that persons, like Messrs. Dadabhoi Nowrojee, Budruddin, Mehta, Nulkar, Javerilal, and Ranade, will command the confidence and respect of all classes of people irrespective of their divergent creeds or customs.

I see clear symptoms of a reaction in this presidency and also in Bengal against the scheme proposed last year. But I have nowhere discovered any serious attempt to work out fully any other scheme. The proposals accepted by the previous Congresses are, in my opinion, provokingly vague and open to serious objections in some important respects. I have several times put the following questions to the champions of what is generally known as the original Bombay scheme but have never received satisfactory answers to most of them:—(1) What efficient safeguards does it suggest or provide for the protection of minorities, as are to be found in the Madras scheme? (2) Are all Municipal bodies to be given the power of electing members on the Legislative Councils and if not, on what principles are some of them to be debarred from the enjoyment of that privilege? (3) If Chambers of Commerce are to be allowed the same privilege, on what grounds can other influential commercial or

public bodies be denied that right? (4) How can government be induced to confer a similar privilege upon native or other public associations whose constitution depends mainly upon the willingness or otherwise, on the ability or non-ability of people to pay the requisite yearly subscription? (5) Is the privilege which it is proposed to confer upon Universities to be confined to fellows only or extended also to graduates and to the educated professional classes in the mofussil? (6) How are the commercial, municipal, University and other public bodies to exercise their franchise of election, directly or through the medium of an electoral college? (7) How are sowkars, shettias, zemindars, inamdars, sirdars and pensioned officers, quite capable of exercising the franchise but who are not members of any municipal, commercial, or public body or association, or the landed and agricultural interests, to make their voice effectually heard? (8) Chambers of Commerce and Universities are already represented, unlike other public bodies, in the presidency city municipalities and is it just to other large and important interests that they should be allowed to exercise a disturbing influence upon the composition of the enlarged Councils through their municipal representatives, especially if they are to enjoy the privilege of a separate and distinct representation for themselves? (9) In the election of members, is the principle of territorial representation to be applied? If so, in what proportion are they to be allotted to the provinces of Gujarat, Sindh, the Konkan, the Deccan, and Canara? If not, how can a body of voters in Sindh, for example, be expected to vote intelligently in favour of rival candidates in Canara or Gujarat? I at once admit that in the existing social and political condition of this country, it is nearly an impossible feat to construct a thoroughly logical and unexceptionable scheme for the improvement of our Councils, as is postulated in the above questions. I am, therefore, ready to admit further that the principle of reasonable compromise ought to be the basis of our political demands. But I am not prepared to hold that in arriving at such a compromise, the difficulties I have referred to can be put aside with a light heart or without bestowing patient consideration on the subject with a view to meet them as far as possible. The Madras scheme disposes of most of the questions I have urged and besides secures a measure of popular representation which is in its essence free from government interference. But what I object to most in it is the illogical and cumbrous method for the election of members on the Viceregal Council through the intervention of electoral colleges. This defect, however, can be easily remedied by modifying the scheme in the light of the amendment proposed by Prof. Tilak but which was, in my judgment, unwisely rejected by the Fifth Congress. Another fatal objection to the scheme is that with such property and educational qualifications, as have been laid down, the composition of the electoral bodies in question can not be determined beforehand with a view to assure ourselves how far such bodies can be safely trusted to discharge their functions in a reliable and satisfactory manner. At least with the statistical information at my disposal, I have been unable to answer the question as to how far the electorates under the rival schemes would coincide with or differ from each other. Nor have my friends whom I have consulted been able to enlighten me on the subject. The idea of electoral colleges is usually associated with republican forms of government and this feature of the Madras scheme is likely to alarm people ignorant of the real nature of the demands of the Congress which only asks for a partial recognition of the elective principle and not for a representative form of government in its usually accepted sense in Europe or America. This is perhaps not a very serious objection. There are other minor objections which it is not necessary to discuss here in this already lengthy communication.

I see some influential native journals expressing their conviction that provided the principle of election is granted, the mode of election is of secondary importance. I confess I can not accept this view. I think India is bound to have her Councils improved and enlarged on a partially elective basis within the course of the next five or ten years. But thoughtful students of history will agree with me in my view that if the elective councils are not to be allowed to degenerate into sham councils like the existing ones, a scheme has yet to be formulated which shall neither be too wide or extravagant in its scope, nor too narrow and indefinite so as to create countless inequalities and needless irritation by the creation of invidious distinctions and by ignoring influential interests. From my examination of the two rival schemes referred to above, it will be seen that I disapprove of both as they stand. The advocates of the Bombay scheme throw the entire responsibility of working it out upon Government. This is, in my opinion, hardly just and if they wish to make their voice heard, it is necessary that they should formulate their proposals in such wise as will convince others that it will smoothly work to the satisfaction of all interests. I have also indicated on what lines both the schemes can be remodelled and I earnestly hope that this year's Congress will once more address itself to this all important subject and accept a reasonable compromise which will meet, as far as possible, the views of all the friendly critics of the Congress programme like Sir Richard Garth and Sir William Hunter.

The 15th July 1890.

N. V. GOKHALE,  
Bombay High Court Pleader.

## NOTICE.

The undermentioned lots of surplus lands, the property of the Commissioners of Calcutta, will be put up for sale by public auction, at the Municipal Office, on Tuesday, the 2nd September 1890, at 12 o'clock.

Lot No.	Names of Streets.	Area more or less.			
		B.	C.	Ch.	S. ft.
WARD NO. 1.					
1	East of No. 17 Gopal Chunder Newg's Lane	...	2	9	3*
2	East of No. 5 Gopal Chunder Newg's Lane	...	2	5	2
3	West of No. 7 Gopal Chunder Newg's Lane	...	...	9	43
4	South of No. 22 Doorga Churn Mookerjee's Street	...	2	10	34
5	South of No. 69-5 Baug Bazar Street	...	9	4	9
WARD NO. 3.					
6	South of No. 79-3 Cornwallis Street	...	4	15	6
7	South of No. 55-2 Grey Street	...	...	5	0
7A	East of No. 55-2 Grey Street	...	4	2	27*
8	North of No. 55-2 Grey Street	...	5	9	29
9	Portion of Nos. 56-1 and 55-2 Grey Street	...	5	8	22
10	Portion of No. 55-2 Grey Street	...	5	7	38
11	Portion of Nos. 56-1 and 55-2 Grey Street...	...	6	0	20
12	East of No. 56-22 Grey Street	...	1	6	38
13	East of No. 56-25 Grey Street	...	...	8	32
14	West of No. 2 Shristeedhur Dutt's Lane	...	...	10	43
15	In front of No. 56-10 Grey Street	...	...	1	7
16	Ditto 56-9 ditto	...	...	2	30
17	Ditto 56-8 ditto	...	...	1	3
18	Portion of No. 79-2 Cornwallis Street	...	5	2	0
19	Ditto ditto	...	5	0	4
20	Ditto ditto	...	4	10	14
21	Ditto ditto	...	4	8	0
22	Ditto ditto	...	4	7	4*
23	East of No. 55-1 Grey Street	...	2	12	35
24	Ditto ditto	...	3	1	22
25	North of No. 55-1 Grey Street	...	...	5	0
26	Ditto No. 55 ditto	...	...	7	0
WARD NO. 6.					
27	South of No. 35 Chasadhobapara Street	...	1	11	7
28	Ditto No. 34 ditto	...	2	8	24
29	Ditto No. 33 ditto	...	...	3	31
WARD NO. 9.					
30	In front of No. 15 Chooterpara Lane	...	...	8	30
31	North of No. 16 Punchanuntollah Lane	...	...	2	30
32	North of No. 17 Chooterpara Lane	...	...	5	9
WARD NO. 10.					
33	In front of No. 3 Warisbagan Lane	...	...	13	0
WARD NO. 13.					
34	Portion of Old Dhurumtollah Market tenanted land originally lot No. 20	...	10	15	38

\* Portion occupied by a building.

## CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. The Commissioners' limit will be kept in a closed cover, and the highest bidder above this limit is to be the purchaser; if any dispute arise as to the last or highest bidding for the lot, the same shall be put up again and resold.

2. A deposit of 25 per cent. on the amount of the purchase-money is to be made by the purchaser immediately upon the lot being knocked down, and in default thereof, the premises to be immediately put up and resold at the risk of the first purchaser.

3. The title to the property will be a conveyance from the Commissioners.

4. The residue of the purchase-money shall be paid within 15 days of the date of sale; and in case of default in payment of such residue, the purchaser shall forfeit his deposit, which shall be received and taken as and by way of liquidated damages. The sale to such purchaser shall be wholly at an end, and the Commissioners shall be at liberty to resell the same without any reference to such first purchaser but at his risk.

5. The Commissioners will, if required, furnish a deed of conveyance, such conveyance being prepared by the solicitors of the Corporation at the expense of the purchaser, who will likewise have to bear the cost of the stamp duty and registration, and of any attested copies of deeds or covenants to produce those that may be required.

6. The Commissioners will enter into no other covenant than that they have done no act to encumber.

7. The plan of the several lots may be inspected at the Municipal Office from the undersigned.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
The 30th July 1890.

## KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund:—

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A Zoroastrian, Calcutta	" 5
Babu Ram Gopal Sanyal, Calcutta	" 2
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Further subscriptions may be sent to the *Indian Mirror* Office, 74, Dhurumtola Street, Calcutta, and will be duly acknowledged as received.

## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lall Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Wednesday the 3rd day of September next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate:—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed messuage tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Muktarum Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring 9½ cottahs more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonnee Dass on the North by the public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydia Nath Ooriya and Nilmonnee ssDa.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottahs 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajinohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajinohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottahs more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Burral and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.





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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1890.

No. 439

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### SAVED.

*From the Sheltering Arms.*

The wind is spent and the gale is past,  
And the morning sun shines forth at last ;  
It shines on a strip of yellow sand,  
And a good ship sinking in sight of land.

Over her deck and her battered side  
Lazily washes the ebbing tide ;  
Out of the struggle and deadly strife  
Lo ! nothing saved but a baby life.

A wee frail thing is the one poor waif,  
A wee frail thing to be sound and safe ;  
But all forgotten its brief alarms,  
It gaily crows the strongest war.

A sailor looks at the little form—  
" 'Tis a tiny craft to have stemmed the storm !"  
He sighs a bit as he bends him low,  
And his thoughts fly back to the long ago.

Just such a babe on his young wife's breast,  
With clinging fingers his own caressed ;  
Just such another—but where is he ?  
Wrecked on the voyage of life, maybe.

Is this but spared that in years to come  
It may drift away from its heavenly home ?  
The baby laughs as his boy once did ;  
Ah ! will it be so ? Nay, God forbid !

The sailor's hand has a gentle touch  
For the sake of the lad he loved so much ;  
And soft from his lips are the words that fall ;  
" God bless the children—God keep them all !"

### BALLAD OF THE WHEEL.

Through the winding lanes where willows lean,  
And the stately elms their shadows throw,  
Past the woodland bowers of sunlit green,  
Where the dusky brave, with bended bow,  
In the hallowed time of the long ago,  
Would soft, like a stealthy panther, steal,  
We fling dark care to the winds that blow,  
And spin away on the whirling wheel.

By the highways broad, where, fair, is seen  
The bloom of the alder, white as snow,  
Down hillsides steep on the road between  
The vineyards wide with their vines a-row,

Nigh meads where the murmuring brooklets flow,  
And rushes tall in the breezes reel,  
We fling dark care to the winds that blow,  
And spin away on the whirling wheel.

On days when spring is a verdant queen  
And bright-eyed buttercups gleam and glow  
'Mid hours when the forest's emerald sheen  
Is scorched by suns that the tropics know,  
In autumn tide, ere the winter's woe,  
Whether bells of morn or eve outpeal,  
We fling dark care to the winds that blow,  
And spin away on the whirling wheel.

### ENVOY.

Come, riders all, be ye swift or slow,  
And join in the praise of the steed of steel !—  
We fling dark care to the winds that blow,  
And spin away on the whirling wheel.

CLINTON SCOLLARD.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

JACQUES has outfasted Succi. The Italian fasted 40 days on water, but the Frenchman lived for 42 days on his own mysterious powder, which did not exceed in weight  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. He lost in weight 28 lbs 3oz or 6lbs less than Succi.

THE electrical execution of Kemmler at Auburn on the 7th August, has given rise to a host of opinions. The newspapers of New York do not condemn it all round. The *Sun* and the *World* are against a repetition. On the other hand, the *New York Times*, the *Herald* and the *Tribune* consider the process improvable, and even now no worse than hanging. The *Medical Record*, whose editor was witness to the death, takes it to be the first step towards the abolition of the capital punishment. Other doctors and electricians too have spoken. They are divided in opinion, except in one particular, namely, that death was absolutely painless, there being instantaneous cessation of consciousness. That surely is the most important point. Some experts—the modern tendency is to submit to experts unreservedly—say that life was extinct with the first shock, and the struggles that shocked the observers were only mechanical movements. The Agamemnon of the E(e)ls.—Mr. Edison—is disposed to think that the current was wrongly applied ; that the route which lay through a bone contact should have been made through the hands, then the electricity would have followed the blood to the heart. The humanity of this instantaneous painless death, supposing it was so, is doubtful, when you take into account the time for preparing the victim for the fatal current. As for the enthusiastic *Medical Record*, we do not see the editor report that Kemmler, as he passed out of the world, imported to him his sensations.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

Put on the electric rack, he did not exclaim, Oh.....the bliss of dying !  
 The world recedes ; it disappears !  
 Heaven opens on my eyes ! my ears  
 With sounds seraphic ring :  
 Lend, lend your wings ! I mount ! I fly :  
 O grave ! where is thy victory ?  
 O death ! where is thy sting ?

THE Home Secretary has released, in consideration of his poor health, Mr. Ernest Parke, editor and proprietor of the *North London Press*, who was sentenced to a year's imprisonment for libel against Lord Euston. He had been twenty-five weeks in jail.

AT the Manchester Assizes, the Tichborne Claimant sued the printers and proprietors of *Illustrated Bits* for libel. It had commented on the plaintiff's candidature for Stoke. The defence pleaded justification and truth, except that the plaintiff was described as a convicted felon instead of a misdemeanant. In cross-examination, the plaintiff, while admitting his conviction for perjury in 1872, insisted on his innocence saying the jury that convicted him was packed. The verdict, however, went for the defendants, the foreman adding that there had been no libel. In India, the result would probably have been different. Here, it is an offence to call a spade a spade.

THE Chief Justice of Madras is reported to have remarked in an Appeal case that

"in all such appeals Vakils other than those who had been engaged before the lower Court, were engaged, the result being that the Vakils appearing before the Appeal Court were in total ignorance of what really transpired before the lower Court, and consequently wasted much time in arguing on irrelevant preliminary questions. The practice followed in England in respect to this was that the same lawyers who had pleaded the case before the Lower Courts were also engaged for the case when it came on for hearing before the higher tribunals. If the English procedure were adopted much valuable time would be saved. He also observed that very often when the final disposal of a case was anticipated Vakils and Barristers kept changing places. This changing of Counsel without any apparent reason was to be deprecated and should be stopped."

THE case against Woomesh Chunder Ghose for causing the death of Chamatkaree by a rash and negligent act, being complete, he has been committed to the sessions. The medical evidence as recorded in the Police Court runs thus :—

"Dr. W. R. Edwardes, Resident Surgeon of the Eden Hospital, said he saw the deceased woman on the 27th July last, about an hour after her admission. She was then unconscious, suffering from fever. Her body was exhaling a most offensive odour, and was much swollen with fluid. There were also some abrasions on the surface. She was under his treatment for four days, and also of Dr. Joubert. She died on the 31st July, never recovering consciousness. In his opinion, taking the woman to the ghaut, letting her be confined there, leaving her in the open air after her confinement, without proper attendance, was most decidedly a very dangerous act, even in the case of a healthy woman. The woman died of blood-poisoning, complicated with Bright's disease. Blood-poisoning was induced by the woman not having proper attention after her confinement. From the facts of the case, which he had heard, neglect caused the blood-poisoning, and accelerated to Bright's disease."

THE same Hospital supplies another similar case. The death of a maid servant, a widow named Rajlukhi aged 22, of Parsee Bagan, is ascribed to an illegal operation performed on her. She was taken to the Hospital on the 4th seriously ill of fever and died there on the 22nd. But there is no evidence of the illegal operation.

EARLY in September, Lala Gobind Dass, B.A., a native of Bhera in the Shapore district, proceeds to England from the Punjab as this year's holder of the Government Scholarship of £200 a year for three years. He has chosen the University of Cambridge, and leaves Lahore early next month.

THE 1st of August 1890 will be a memorable day—though not to all a red letter day—on the East coast of Africa. On that day, the Sultan of Zanzibar proclaimed the abolition of slave traffic. It is not a small event. Besides its effect on the fortunes of the African races, it will crush a large commerce and ruin many Arab and Somali merchants. These men could not believe their senses when they heard the news or read the Edict. When there was no longer any room for doubt,

they thought the world was coming to an end. On their recovery from this stunning blow, they put their wits together and repaired for complaint to the Sultan. His Highness had come very nearly to the same conclusion. The world had gone to the dogs and the end could not be long delayed. Meanwhile, there was no help for it but submission, with a good face if possible, or bad if not. The dogs are irresistible, and they are of a Newfoundland breed, at home on sea as on land. Resignation was the duty of the faithful. The Arabs came back crest-fallen. The discontent spread and the town was in alarm. There was no real fear of a revolution, however. Ten men-of-war were in harbour for guarantee against that.

THE great living Italian authority on Bright's disease is Professor Semmola. He attributes the disease, unless it is hereditary, to food rich in nitrogen and too much of it. His recipe is—Avoid gravy soups, juicy meats, egg whites, and rise from the table with an appetite.

WE read—

"Strawberries have the reputation of ameliorating and even curing gout and rheumatism. The great chemist, J. B. Dumas, was particularly fond of this fruit, and regarded it as an agreeable medicine. Berzelius, the Swedish chemist, also considered it an antidote to maladies of a gouty nature. As certain compounds of lithium have the like property, M. Mornet has recently analysed the strawberry, but even spectrum analysis has failed to detect the presence of lithium, except in certain cases, and in these a mere trace was observable. At the same time, and especially in the larger varieties, he discovered a considerable proportion of phosphates."

This is but one out of numberless instances of waste of time and faculties after a gross theory of medicine. The relation between drug and disease, or health for that matter, is a most subtle one which it is vain to seek. Chemical analysis is mere child's play before this mystery of mysteries of Nature. The Chemistry of the Future may possibly grasp it. But as yet there is no chance. The imagination of the seer may dream the truth, but your rude laboratory will toil in vain.

THE following was lately going the round of the press :—

"It will be learned with some astonishment that Mormonism is flourishing under the British flag while being persecuted out of existence on its native soil of America. A Mormon convention has just closed its sittings in New Zealand. It was officially reported to the convention that there are 3,000 Mormons in that colony, and that 500 converts were made during the past year."

Not in the least. There will be no astonishment to those who know the latent leaning to Joe Smithery in the English heart. It was the Exodus of the Faithful from Wales and Britain that swelled the numbers of the disciples of the new Prophet of Polygamy. And New Zealand is Great Britain over again in the Pacific Ocean.

A CHEQUE in favor of one Suleiman on the New Oriental Bank, Bombay, was stolen in transit through the post. It never reached the real party, but payment on it was, unknown to Suleiman, obtained, apparently on forged endorsement. Suleiman sued the Bank in the Small Cause Court for the amount of the cheque. The Chief Judge decreed the suit, saying the drawees were not discharged by the payment in due course. On appeal, the High Court confirmed the order. That seemed to be the end of it. And verily for a poor cheque of a few hundred Rupees this was enough litigation. And, indeed, what more remained to do? Surely, this *bagatelle* could not possibly be taken up to the Privy Council? Be that as it may, there was scope for well paid for ingenuity even in this country. There are lawyers and lawyers, solicitors and attorneys, Vishnu and Siva, Kartik and Gonesh, Ormuzd and Ahriman. There are those who cannot believe in finality in a litigation in British courts, unless in the finality of the financing. The Bombay bank did not for the nonce grudge Suleiman the amount of the cheque even though they had once paid for it. They fretted under the evil precedent, prejudicial to all banking. So, reluctant to accept their defeat they were prepared to go to more expense if there was a way of getting out of it. Of course there was. Try a review. And so they tried a review on the ground that the plaintiff had already elected to treat the instrument as a Bill and could not elect afterwards to treat it as a promissory note. The High Court now reversed the former order, holding that there was an election by the plaintiff and the instrument having been treated as a cheque, the drawees were discharged. The cheque had been honored as soon as presented and there was no default in payment.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Sikkim Treaty has been ratified. The *Englishman* reveals the secret hitherto observed that thereby China gives up her claims to jurisdiction beyond the frontier of Tibet. Sikkim is relieved of one grade of overlord to be left entirely at the mercy of foreigners. Does China give up Nepal too?

ON the 28th, a heavy storm passed over the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland. The River Neva rose, overflowed its banks, and partially inundated St. Petersburg.

THERE is strike among the coal-miners in Belgium. The strikers number 17,000 men. They demand revision of rules and universal suffrage.

THE Australian strike gathers strength. The miners at Newcastle, New South Wales, have struck work. The gas stokers in Melbourne have followed suit. The police in Sydney and Melbourne has been reinforced and special constables sworn in.

CHOLERA has invaded England. Last week in London, there were twelve deaths from cholera and choleraic diarrhœa.

THE potato blight is spreading in Ireland. According to the Land Commission, it has overtaken all the counties.

HOMELESS and repentant, Poor Dhulip has availed himself of the Queen's pardon and has arrived at Folkestone. We suppose he and his family have given up all claims to the sovereignty of the old Kingdom of Lahore, in consideration of a good round sum, in hand—that being the condition of the return to favour urged by the Ministry.

WHAT yet remained of the British heroes who fell at Waterloo have been collected and deposited in the cemetery at Evere, near Brussels, and a monument erected over them. On the 26th, the Duke of Cambridge unveiled the memorial amid torrents of rain—type of the showers required to wash the sin of "the red rain" shed on the spot seventy five years back!

A VIENNA telegram of the 26th speaks of the total destruction of the place from which the name of the famous wine Tokay is derived. Seven thousand inhabitants are said to be without home and food.

COUNT Villanova and eight others set out on Monday to ascend Mont Blanc. But before they could reach the summit, the whole party perished. Particulars are not reported.

THE Emperor William bade farewell to the Czar on the 23rd. The day before, General Von Caprivi and M. De Giers held a quiet confab—which may lead to international disquiet and trouble.

THE poor Jews! There is little hope of mercy for the Elect race at the hands of Orthodox Russia. The Christian—after a sort—Czar is still at them. He has not abandoned the idea of their segregation. The *Daily News'* Odessa correspondent states that an Anti-Semitic Edict will be published in October with a supplement excusing the severity of its provisions. The following are the principal clauses of the projected ukase:—

"1. The provisional laws of the 3rd May, 1882, forbidding the Russian Jews to reside in the rural districts and villages, to possess land there, to farm, manage, or let landed estate, are now to apply to the whole of Russia, including all the ten governments of the Vistula (Poland) not heretofore included in the said laws.

2. Throughout the Empire Jews may only reside in the cities and market-towns, but not in any villages. Those who before 1882, resided in villages affected by the said provisional laws, and those who resided in other parts of the Empire not affected by them and who now reside in the rural districts, may continue to reside there. But all others residing in villages shall be forcibly expelled therefrom.

3. Those who by virtue of the 2nd rule are permitted to remain in the villages shall be regarded as interned there. They may not re-

move to any other village, not even if it be in the same Commune. Any urban Jew who wishes to stay temporarily in a village, or any village Jew who wishes to visit a village not his own, must be first provided with a permit inscribed with a limit of time. Any breach of this regulation will be punished by imprisonment.

4. All Jews who may, under the 2nd rule, be allowed to remain in the villages, will be subject to the local municipal police.

5. Jews will only be permitted to possess landed estate if it be situated in the place of their domicile and so long only as they may enjoy the right of domicile there. They may not sell their landed estates to other Jews and may only bequeath them to a next of kin, the heir holding under the like conditions. Otherwise the landed property must be sold to Christian by the owner or his heir, or, in default of either of these alternatives, by the police administration. The like rules are to apply to the real estate of Jews residing in towns.

6. (Here follow minute and detailed instructions for settling the lists of Jews having right of domicile in each district, for keeping the lists close and revised to date).

7. The temporary permits for leaving the place of domicile will only be granted to Jews who require to visit the markets or fairs in the country, or to those occupied in the carrying trade. But the duration of the permit will be strictly limited, and the traveller will be under careful surveillance. In general terms, Jews are to be regarded as having no right of access to the rural districts.

8. Merchants of the first guild, Jews who have completed their studies in a high school, and those engaged in farming on a Jewish agricultural settlement, will not be subjected to the restrictions as to movement from place to place; but they will be subject to the foregoing rules as to the possession, sale, and bequest of landed estate. Jewish merchants of the first guild only will be permitted to acquire land in the rural districts, but only for the purpose of establishing factories, but only provided that they obtain the special authorisation of the Minister of the Interior. In the ten Governments or the Vistula (Poland) the Minister will have the right to strictly limit the extent of land so acquired."

THE Municipal Commissioners have had the good sense to return Baboo Joygobind Law as their representative on the Port Trust. The threatened catastrophe has been averted.

THE rise in exchange has alarmed the import traders. On Wednesday, there was a largely attended meeting, in the rooms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, of the members of firms engaged in that trade of Calcutta, to discuss the situation and, if possible, to adopt a line of action. Mr. G. A. Walker, of Gisborne & Co., was voted to the Chair. He advised those present to sink all personal considerations for the general good. A sort of combination was suggested, but the votes shewed that twelve firms were for and twenty against it. There the matter ended and the assembled merchants should have dispersed and returned to their respective counting houses. This was too natural and straightforward for some. Accordingly, there was a resort to Oriental diplomacy. The meeting at last adopted a resolution forming a Committee of twelve to consult the different import firms and find out whether they could not devise some necessary basis upon which all could work together for the common good.

IT is the season of floods, and they are more general this year. Our readers are already aware of the disaster on the Bolan railway. A correspondent from Patna, under date the 26th writes to a morning contemporary:—

"From the last fortnight it has been raining incessantly, and every creek and streamlet is full to overflowing. Chupra is in a deluge, and people have to approach it in boats. Sonapore is also under water, and there is no sign yet of the floods abating."

IN the Benares Division, in the Ballia district, the Ganges had for sometime past been edging nearer and nearer to the town and at last overflowed its bank east of Gola Ghat, and a portion of the town was flooded. The Ghogra rose too and submerged a tract in the same neighbourhood about Ubhaon and Sikanderpur. In the Gorakhpur district, the Ghogra, Rapti and Rohin are in flood damaging crops and sweeping away cattle. In the smaller towns of Gola, Barhaganj, Majhau, Deoria and Barhaj, the Bazaars are under water.

IN Bengal, several parts of the country are under water. There is distress in the Nuddea district. As yet it is but the first scratch of the calamity. In Moorshedabad, notwithstanding precautionary measures, the Laltakuri embankment gave away. The breach occurred at night at 10 on Monday. By this time both districts have been laid under water, to the loss of crops and cattle and houses. That is distress by flood in right earnest. That has been reached in East Bengal. The Districts of the Delta and about it have been generally sub-



merged. In some the cattle have almost entirely perished and men are leading a miserable life.

LORD Connemara is reforming official manners. On reference, the Madras Government has decided that communication between Collectors and Chairmen of Municipal Councils shall be in the form of letters. That will undoubtedly remove a fruitful cause of unnecessary irritation. We wish the officials in other Provinces may take a leaf out of the revised Madras book of administrative etiquette. The form of ordinary daily correspondence between the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and his subordinate officers—in the form of memo without even the introducing "Sir," though it is not resented in the Municipal office, causes much surprise to outsiders.

THE spirit of reform is decidedly abroad in the Southern Presidency. The Inspector-General of Police, Madras, has strictly prohibited the Inspectors and Headconstables from purchasing, without express permission, food grains from heads of villages or rayyets within their jurisdiction. The complaint for non-payment for ordinary supplies to the policemen, who consider it their inalienable perquisite of office, must have reached its height for promulgation of such an order. But is the order expected to be obeyed?

There was, many years ago, a District Superintendent in the N.W. Provinces, who used to buy through the Police grain and fodder in the villages at his own price, and make a little business of it by supplying to the officials in his neighbourhood cheaper than the market, thus pleasing and profiting in the same breath.

HERE is progress at the capital of Upper India—with a vengeance :—

"Turba, the Pasi, who was reported to have committed a daring theft in the house of Mr. Breckenbridge, of the Accountant-General's office, in Colonelgunj, sometime in July last, and at whose request no criminal action was taken in the matter, framed a charge of defamation against Mr. Breckenbridge and his son, under section 500, I. P. C., before Captain G. B. Crawley, the Cantonment Magistrate. The Magistrate, after hearing the evidences of the witnesses, both for the prosecution and defence, on Thursday (Aug. 21), acquitted the two accused."

That requires some explanation to the uninitiated reader. The Pasis are the lowest class of publicans—sinners too, as a general rule. They are the toddy-sellers who living in secluded spots in the heart of the jungle, are understood to vary the monotony of their occupation and the dreariness of their life with the excitement of crime. On the report of any occurrence the Police are sure to watch their Pasis. Polluted by their unhallowed profession, without character or wealth to recommend them, they are among the despised classes. To think that one of such a lot should persecute two honest men through the magistracy! To think that he should thus treat them after having robbed them! To think that he should thus dare to molest them for having dropped their prosecution against him for a daring robbery in their house! Verily the education of our people under British law has been nearly finished. Well may the Henry Maines and Grant Duffs congratulate their countrymen on their success in moulding the Indians to a!

THE Secretary and Treasurer to the Anglo-Indian Family Benefit Fund reminds the Mofussil members that "when a reply to a communication is needed, it is necessary to enclose a stamp for such reply." Mr. Fox or the Fund evidently does not take into consideration the fact that postage stamps being money, cannot, under the postal law, be enclosed in a letter that is not registered. That means two annas more in addition to the stamp for reply. A question to the Post office thus suggests itself. Can a stamp for reply be attached to a postcard without breaking the law? The reply postcard is carried free, why then not the stamp for reply? This justly points to the need of a change in the law or relaxation in the rule.

ONE Meheruddin Sheikh was cited as a witness in a counterfeit coin-ing case at the last Alipore Sessions. He failed to enter appearance and give evidence. He was therefore tried by the Joint Magistrate of Sealdah for contempt of court and sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment.

We are afraid, this Joint of the Law, in his zeal to uphold the majesty of law, has exceeded his lawful authority by awarding hard labor instead of simple imprisonment.

UNDER the heading of "*Alms vs. Tamasha*," a morning contemporary publishes the following letter over an unknown signature :—

"Sir,—During the late visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to Bhagulpore on the 9th instant, Rai Wooma Churn Bose, Bahadoor, Manager, Bareilly Raj, under orders from Raja Padmanund Singh, Bahadoor, of Bareilly, distributed alms to about 4,000 beggars in honour of the visit, which is preferable to fireworks, &c.—Yours, &c."

We wonder whether the above was telegraphed. The writer is certainly a master of the telegraphic style. What is killing two birds with one stone to a sportsman who with a single scratch of his quill bags a whole lot of game? He serves the Lieutenant-Governor, the manager Bahadoor, and his Raja master all at once, and is yet far from used up. He concludes with a sermon and a satire against the weak multitude who, far less enlightened than his Raja and without the resources of his manager, waste their money on illuminations and fire-works and *nautches*. Indeed, though the satire is general, the hit will strike the Shaoos and Shah Sahebs of a neighbouring town. And all this in a sentence of no particular length. As for the Raja, he secures the interests of both worlds, serving God and man in the same breath. Surely, so much was never made of so little. The benefaction is of the most commonplace. Such as it is, its nature and pecuniary value are left beautifully vague. We are only told of "alms to about 4,000 beggars." The next best thing to personal wisdom for a nobleman is to have a prudent manager.

After all, the pity of it, Iago!—O, Iago, the pity of it, Iago! is that the imps of our contemporary's Pandemonium have made a mess of the identity of the exemplary almsgiver. Although his touter took care, twice in the course of his single-sentenced epistle, to give the territorial designation of the Raja, they have, with characteristic malignity, twice given it wrong. They have transported him far, far from his natal plains to Bareilly—not even the nearer Roy Bareilly but the farther one. What a calamity if the world, headed by the Viceroy and members of Council, the Secretary of State and Council, the two Houses of Parliament, above all, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and his Secretaries, should think that the "alms to about 4,000 beggars" were given by the Raja of Bareilly—whoever he might be!

HERE is a pretty—indeed prodigiously pretentious—specimen of *khos* British imperspicacity culled from the Press at Home :—

"The floor of the House of Lords was occupied yesterday by those eminent legislators Lord Stanley of Alderley and Lord Denman. It is difficult to decide who of the two is the greatest orator or the most successful law-maker. Some say the one and some say the other, and some say that neither the one nor the other is great or successful. But that is envy. This is certain, that they both talk a lot, and with little—well, we won't say what. Lord Stanley wanted to know something about Dum Dum, and Lord Cross was not in a position to tell him anything about Dum Dum, which is to be regretted. Not because Lord Stanley did not get the information he wanted, but because the noble lord will make this the excuse for another speech. And between you and the doorpost, and in the bussum of the family, the House doesn't care for Lord Stanley's speeches."

So much the worse for the House! If after receiving a present of empire and afterwards undertaking direct government of it by shelving and dismissing the donors, the Houses will not listen to complaints, retribution is as certain as day follows night. Then no small part of the responsibility for the result will attach to such frivolous public advisers as these. It was thus that the Houses lost America. If Lord Stanley is not listened to, when speaking in the cause of good government for England's dependent Empire, it is nothing to him; the misfortune is England's and that empire's. Nor is the neglect a portion peculiar to himself. He shares it with his betters—the greatest orators and statesmen—the Chathams and Burkes and Foxes.

We hope the case is not so bad as this smart paragraphist would represent it. His sneers at Lord Stanley are wholly gratuitous. This nobleman is no bore. A scholar of serious quiet pursuits, a traveller and a man of the world in the best sense, who has seen many countries and mingled with life in all parts of the globe, he has not in him the making of one. Nor has he any temptations to allure him in that direction of senatorial eloquence. As a member of the Upper House, he is under no obligation to Buncombe. There is not the slightest reason why he should be disregarded. He is no agitator always putting himself in the path of administration or dogging the heels of authority. He is neither a booby of a hereditary legislator nor a restless young lord of ambition. His special laurels are cultivated in a different field. He is one of the most learned men in the House or out of it, with an uncommon gift of tongues. That such a man,

withal so modest, so moderate, so considerate, should not be listened to with respect, specially when speaking in the name of an absent people!

So far as we know and can judge from this distance, it is nonsense to talk thus of Lord Stanley of Alderley. He never takes up any matter without reliable information and due thought. Nor does he ask too many questions. If half a dozen per session seem to these impatient journalists at home too many, they invite on themselves the rebuke which Burke administered to those who complained of his boring Parliament and the public with Eastern affairs. They may be reminded that India is not exactly of the dimensions of a British county or two, or of the nature of a larger New Forest with a few miserable denizens scattered about and a few hunters and poachers. Lord Stanley does not always make a fuss in the House at all, but, as we have had occasion to know in a few instances, quietly lays the papers received from India privately before the Secretary of State. Thus he is able to do more good than by figuring as a questioner in the House to be put off with evasions and delays. In one Madras case he positively refused to bring the matter into the House, thus disappointing his friends, but he did not neglect the subject and, we believe in his own way, procured as much alleviation of suffering as was possible under the circumstances. To charge such a man with anything like notoriety-hunting is the veriest recklessness of journalism.

We have read with much interest in the *Bradford Observer*, Mr. Cane's elaborate defence of the changes in his opinion on the Home Rule question of which much capital is made by his political opponents. The Irish question has been such a trying one to politicians of all ranks and grades, that one need scarcely feel ashamed of any apparent want of firmness upon a subject on which the Grand Old Man himself has passed through many phases. Mr. Cane, however, met his critics boldly in the face and made a thoroughly able and straightforward vindication of his conduct.

We find ourselves misunderstood in our obituary notice of the late Mr. Montague Bradford. That notice has been taken in certain quarters as at once an attack on the management of the General Hospital where he died, of the doctors and the nurses, and a reproach to the deceased gentleman's relations and friends. There could not be a more utterly erroneous impression. It must be the result of hasty reading, or we do not think much of the judgment of the reader. So far as we have accidentally caused pain, we are truly sorry. We dare say the Hospital is a wellconducted institution. A charity for Europeans cannot be sought else in India, specially one that is freely resorted to by the highest class in the land—the ruling class to wit. That was the very argument put forth by Lord Macaulay for placing Europeans and natives under the jurisdiction of the country courts. We do not know who the doctors were who treated or the nurses who attended, nor care. Even by the phrase “nursed by mere mercenaries” we did not cast any reflections on the noble Sisters of Charity who did nurse the young man. We meant to contrast hospital nursing—nursing by strangers that is—with nursing by one's own people—nearest and dearest ones—at home. The payment or non-payment is not the question. It is the natural relation between the nurse and the nursed that is important. Nor did we impute inhumanity or neglect to the numerous Europeans, whether civil or military or mercantile, who were wont to associate with him in better days and who loved him. How could we malign those whom we do not know? We did not know either Sisters or brothers or cousins or friends or physicians, any more than we knew the deceased. Is it suspected that our notice was the doing of a European? A preposterous suggestion! The Oriental breathes in every line, as he who runs may see. We did not dream of any of the things imputed to us. Our cue was different. Our purpose was higher and more philosophical. Our object was to attack manners, not men. We passed individuals by, to compare systems. We tried to express the Oriental horror of sickness and death in a hospital, no matter how wellconducted, no matter if *Æsculapius* himself were the attending physician, with Hippocrates and Galen, Celsus and Avicenna for dressers, no matter if the angels from Heaven themselves nursed—and the Bishop himself, instead of his Senior Chaplain, preached. It was the farthest from us to suggest that Europeans are bad or cruel or worse than Asiatics or Indians, or that Mr. Bradford's friends had neglected him. As to the latter point we knew nothing. We have since learnt with pleasure, what we before took for granted, that every

attention was paid to him by numerous friends of Mr. Bradford. But for all that the desolation of a death in a foreign land, away from family, from father and mother, in a public institution, afflicted us with pity that *would* find expression. All that we have been told, during the week, in public and in private, about the advantages of such a resort, even for those who can pay and have friends to look after them and minister to their necessities and their weakness, have not, we confess, reconciled us to the idea of such a “constructive” home of final departure from the world.

THE last Calcutta Correspondence of the *East* is a protest from the centre of the camp against the professions and pretensions of our “Patriots.” The writer adduces some remarkable facts. First, he refers to the approaching *rapprochement* between the two lifelong mutual enemies, the Editor of the *Englishman* and the Editor of the *Indian Mirror*, for no less a purpose than the interest of internal reform in Hindu society. He observes:—

“The fact that the veteran editor of the *Indian Mirror* is willing to co-operate with the editor of the *Englishman* in getting a law passed with the object of enacting, if possible, the evils of child marriage by raising the age of consent from 10 to 12 years, proves, among many other things, how helpless our so-called leaders are in making themselves heard by men whom they profess to lead. If the Native Press faithfully echoes the sentiments of the Hindus whom it professes to represent, there would be no necessity, in our humble opinion, for seeking Government interference in putting down an evil which is admittedly eating into the vitals of the society. If the gentlemen, whom the *Mirror* and the *Bengalee* delight to call our ‘natural leaders,’ have really any hold upon people whom they complaisantly style their followers, we do not know why cannot they convince and induce them to take up this much-wished-for reform themselves, instead of going up to Government with folded hands and in a supplicating mood. It is a shameful thing that men who consider themselves fit enough to have a share in the government of a vast empire, are not, according to their own admission, strong enough to set their own domestic affairs in order. If the *National Congress*, with its appendage the *Social Conference*, be not equal to the task of bringing about reforms, which even the unlettered classes of the Hindu community, according to the *Indian Mirror*, are ready to welcome, how can we believe that such a body of powerless men as our leaders are, will ever be able to achieve anything, in any direction, worth the fuss they make every now and then. After all our ‘leaders’ are nothing but victims of an irrepressible *Cacæthes loquendi*!”

The writer next notices both the shallowness and the hollowness of the politics of the Patriots and exposes the disingenuousness of their proceedings. On the subject of the day, the reform of the Legislative Councils, he sees—

“Our countrymen of the ‘Reform party,’ as the dabblers in politics have recently begun to style themselves, have, it is well-known, a stock grievance which they seem to be fond of airing every now and then. Government they say, while nominating men for the Legislative Councils, Imperial and provincial, have, as a rule, pitched upon men who, barring a few exceptions, are mere ‘Ornamental figure heads.’ The intellectual portion of the community the ‘natural leaders’ of the ‘great middle classes,’ that is to say, argue they have been invariably left in the shade, and their claims to have a voice in the administration of the country's legislative affairs have been on most occasions ignored by our rulers.”

He seems to regard these aspirations to be chimerical for long years to come. He has certainly nothing but honest scorn for the inconsistency of the Patriots. For he finds that

“Speaking in the name of democracy, as our leaders do in and out of season they have invariably selected to preside at their meetings and to occupy places of importance in their several committees, men simply because of their belonging to the aristocratic families without any consideration whatever, whether they possessed the requisite qualifications or not! Question the ‘natural leaders’ as to the integrity of their proceedings in this respect, and they will assure you in a confident tone and triumphant manner, that it is simply a stroke of policy that leads them now and then to take to the tactics of inviting the aristocrats to come and mix with them so that to prove to the world that their interests and those of the middle and lower classes are identical though in fact they may be poles asunder! Now, for such men, who would not for a moment hesitate, for the sake of a policy, to do things which are not quite akin to their hearts, to condemn Government in unmeasured terms for nominating scions of opulent families to seats in the councils, in accordance with, perhaps, a policy of the State, is, to put it mildly, quite unjustifiable.”

He goes into proof of the sharp practice of the Patriots. He convicts them of, if not blowing hot and cold in the same breath, at least blowing one temperature in one country and blowing another temperature in another:

“To ask, for instance, Raja Peary Mohan to come and preside at a meeting of the Bengal Provincial Conference in 1888 and then to speak of him contemptuously on an English platform, as ‘a titular Raja hailing from the suburbs of Calcutta’ simply because he had voted for the imposition of the Salt tax from his place in the Viceregal Council some 3 or 4 years ago, is, to our thinking, shamelessly inconsistent.”

That is pretty stiff, is it not? More to the same purport follows. The invitation to the Brahman Raja of Uttarpara to preside at their political and social meetings was by no means a case of personal partiality. Nor was it a solitary instance. Here is another. "We cannot," says the writer,

"consider it at all justifiable on the part of men who freely and mercilessly accuse Government of their undue inclination towards securing an aristocratic element for the Council Chambers of the Empire, to elect Raja Rajendra Narayan Deb Bahadur as President of the Indian Association—not that he possesses any superior claims to others for the position but because of his noble birth and high social position in the Hindu community. There was perhaps a time, when the Raja's election to the Presidentship would have been quite consistent and just the thing people wanted; but now, that he is old and infirm both physically and intellectually, it can scarcely be reasonably expected that he is of any practical service to the Association.

We have seen the Raja in the Town Hall on two occasions; once on the occasion of the public welcome accorded to Mr. Lal Mohan Ghosh on his return from England some three years ago, and again this year at the reception to Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea. On the former occasion the Raja was made to preside, and this year he was entrusted with the moving of an important resolution. On both these occasions he appeared in the hall supported by the arms of his younger kinsmen, and being, admittedly, a blind man, could not even read out the speeches himself prepared for him by officious friends. On the first occasion it was, we believe, Babu Krishna Bihari Sen who read the Presidential address; and on the occasion of the reception accorded to Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea the resolution which stood in the Raja's name had to be moved by a gentleman whose name we unfortunately cannot recall to mind at this time. Now, if this is not riding the constitution with a vengeance we do not know what it is. If jobbettes like these can be perpetrated by men who are practically powerless to do any thing good or evil so far as the community at large is concerned, we cannot say to what extent may not their disregard of public interests go once they are in power. If there was any thing wrong on the part of Government in nominating Raja Rumpal Sing's *Urdu* speaking uncle a member of the Legislative Council of which Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea seems to have made such a capital joke while in England in May last, what justification there was, we say, on the part of those who condemned our rulers in this connection, in making the two Mahomedan gentlemen move and support resolutions in the late Town Hall meeting in honor of Mr. Banerjea, in a language of which but few could understand a syllable?"

We should much like to see some young fire-eater who has sat at the feet of Gamaliel attempt an answer.

THE Nawab Bahadoor of Moorshedabad has no sooner recovered somewhat from his serious illness than he has resumed his career of beneficence. His charity is nothing of ostentation—no trap to catch applause—but a thing of Religion and the heart. A small part, however, of his benefactions reaches the newspapers. Many and multitudinous are the men, women and children whom he supports. He is constantly helping gentlemen in difficulty and ladies in distress. His charity leaves no sting, as charity does in many hands. He relieves without degrading. He too has lately given alms to thousands, during the Moharam, as a matter of course, and has, besides, distributed Rs. 1,000 among the poor inhabitants of the city including many respectable but deplorably destitute ladies who would sooner perish in seclusion rather than come out to beg and who must have their gifts reached to them at their own homes by female hands. May God bless him! It is a pity that Government has not armed him with sufficient means for the exercise of his goodness. A few such souls in every town would appreciably lessen the sum total of human misery.

THE Senate of the Calcutta University have at their to-day's meeting referred the case of the Ripon College back to the Syndicate for reconsideration. It is understood that, in view of the letter addressed to the Syndicate on the 14th instant by the Proprietor of that College, the Syndicate will now be disposed to deal leniently with the irregularities which took place. There was an unprecedented gathering.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Colds, Coughs, Shortness of Breath.—These maladies require early and unremitting attention, for if neglected they often end in asthma, bronchitis, or consumption. The Ointment well rubbed upon the chest and back, penetrating the skin, is absorbed and carried directly to the lungs, whence it expels all impurities. All the blood in the body is perpetually passing through the lungs, and there all noxious particles tending to disease can be quickly, thoroughly, and permanently neutralized, rendered harmless, or ejected from the system. Holloway's Ointment and Pills perfectly accomplish this purification; and through the blood thus cleansed, the influence of these wonderful medicaments reaches the remotest parts of the human body, and thus cures all diseased action, whether internal or external.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1890.

### MOURNING IN MHOW.

NATIVE society in Central India has sustained a considerable loss in the death, on the 12th August, of Seth Sreeram Choonilal, head of the banking community and leader of the Hindus in general of the great British Cantonment of Mhow, in the neighbourhood of Indore.

He died rather suddenly after the operation of a carbuncle near the right ear. Though not a person of education, he was an able man of business, a shrewd man of the world, and a fine specimen of the native gentlemen of the old respectable type which is becoming extinct. Amiable and obliging in private, thoroughly loyal to the British Power and respectful to the officials, he was animated by a genuine public spirit. Although without the new learning himself, he had not been unobservant of the signs of the times, and was not jealous of new ideas or new men. It is not a little to the credit of this uncultured Bania in the recesses of Central India that he had realised, better than some of far greater pretensions in our midst, that the power of the purse and the influence of acres are no longer paramount factors in society and affairs. Perhaps, he had, like many of his betters, a weakness for popularity. If so, he had at any rate made sacrifices towards its attainment. He had certainly not shown the more diseased hankering for the empty honours which might be easily won by obsequious flattery to the local officials, coupled with the surrender of public interests. He was a courageous outspoken citizen, whom all classes of the native population looked up to, and who, we would fain believe, enjoyed, however unawarded, the respect of even the British officials. It was not easy engineering to introduce irrigation in the naturally and morally parched up arid desert of Central India—to sink the wells of a healthy public life. The Founder-President, down to his death, of the Central India Association, he was the leader of all public movements in that part of the country. The soul he was not. That honour must be given, willingly or unwillingly, to the Pioneer of all Progress in the different Provinces and parts of the Presidency and in the outlying lands out of Bengal Proper—the much-abused Baboo. At Mhow, as elsewhere, the new life originated with the little Bengali colony—the chief of it being, we believe, Baboo Mohendro Nath Chatterjee, pleader, editor of the plucky little *Eastern Herald*, and Secretary of the Central India Association. But the Baboos could do little without the hearty co-operation of the leading men of the permanent population. Of these, the deceased was the chief. He entered into all their plans with intelligent appreciation and unfeigned zeal. He had to sustain all the brunt of the struggle. He elected to be the marked man and uncomplainingly suffered all the obloquy and reproach. Who will grudge him the glory?

Seth Choonilal was far from happy in his personal life. His son died before him and he lost his son-in-law too. It is not necessary to tell our people what the burden of two young widows is—how the sight of his two girls, virgins to all intents and purposes, without hope of married life, daily chilled his soul. Then came a financial crash. He braved his accumulated ills with no small fortitude, and still went on pursuing his public duties. His fellow-

citizens showed their regard for his worth and their estimate of his services by swelling the long funeral procession to the place of cremation and crowding round the bier to have a last look at the lifeless body. All classes joined in this mournful office.

Following close upon the death of Seth Choonilal, occurred a similar mournful event in the European society of the Cantonment. It was the death of Mr. Williamson of the 18th Hussars located there. This is a crack Regiment in the British Army, in every sense, and the deceased was one of its finest spirits. His funeral was a spectacle, attended as it was by every officer, of whatever class or degree, from the Major General Gillespie, C.B., commanding, downwards, who was not detained by duty. The deceased was beloved of the whole garrison and town. A man of rare amiability, a true officer and gentleman, he had the secret of winning hearts. It goes without saying that he was a man of education, having been educated at Oxford. Devoted to the drama, he was one of the chief spirits of the amateurs of the Hussars.

The presence of a first class regiment at a Moffusil station is luck itself to the place. The 18th Hussars have enlivened Mhow beyond many a great city of pretensions. They have a Dramatic Club which gives creditable performances. Nor is their talent and activity exhausted there. They have started a literary organ of their own. We have much pleasure in extracting two stanzas of a pretty tribute to the late W. C. Williamson from the Dramatic Club which we find reproduced in the *Eastern Herald* :—

We mourn the friend who kindly came to cheer,  
Who each spare moment to give counsel seized,  
As though our equals in our social sphere :—  
Respect commanding, where his presence pleased.

Old Baliol ! Thou his alma mater proud !  
Thou erst did glory in thy brilliant boy,  
Who 'midst the plaudits of the learned crowd  
In Grecian Drama showed ambition's joy.

From that specimen there can be no question of the conductors' capacity to make of the organ a clever thing. We hope the 2nd Middlesex Regiment of Foot which has recently joined will combine with the Hussars in the good work. From a metrical address in the name of the infantry regiment to the Hussars' journal published in the *Eastern Herald*, the Middlesex men are no unworthy comrades of the famous Sowars, whether in arms or in letters.

#### A MOURNING DIFFICULTY.

MR. Statesman the son does not see much in *Reis and Rayyet* to extract in his broadsheets. Mr. Statesman the father was known to all the world to be of a different mind. He not only admired this paper himself, but quarrelled with others for neglecting it. He quoted largely from it, in different parts of his journal, here, there, everywhere. He for sometime regularly opened a column with a distinct heading "Cuttings from *Reis and Rayyet*." Often did he tell us that he would quote the whole paper with pleasure but that it would be unfair to us. Times are changed. The old man has gone to Heaven. The taste of the young is notoriously fastidious. And truth to say, we are aging rather than *younger*. Nowadays we are scarcely remembered in the great Journalistic House in Chowringhee. It is a redletter week with us if *Reis and Rayyet* is heard of in our contemporary's paper. This promised to be such a week particularly. On Tuesday, a long leaderette of ours, on the lamented death of Mr. Montague Bradford, was reproduced with a short prefatory heading characterising it as a "sympathetic notice." Such fare after a long famine was joy indeed ! Alas ! it was a brief illusion !—mere Maya ! Soon the inevitable flux set in and, so far from recovering

health and spirits, left us in a worse plight than ever. For, the very day of publication our brother received a new inspiration and the following morning he announced its character by way of a qualification of his appreciation of our leaderette. The previous praise, we must in fairness and thankfulness mention, was not at all withdrawn ; on the contrary, farther praise was bestowed ; what was sympathetic became excellent and sympathetic. In fact, everything was done to sweeten the bitter pill. We had been hasty and careless. Our article was thoughtless ; though "otherwise excellent and sympathetic," it was essentially "thoughtless." Our remarks, were unjust and had caused pain. Clearly, he had received some communication. That was bad enough—not the communication but the new deep blue light mixed with the previous transparent white light. The acme was reached the following day. He had been receiving further communications, and one missile from a clerical knight seems to have upset our friend altogether. In publishing this "war minister's" manifesto, the editor not only throws us overboard but jumps after us himself. He goes into the confessional before his Padre and repents for his sin—not without a parting glance of affectionate tenderness at his old love. As much as to say that though, under ecclesiastical admonition to save his soul he has turned a good boy, he had not lavished his heart on an unworthy object. If his Confessor had only known that object, his saintly soul itself would have confessed its fascination and been fairly beaten. Our old young friend says :—

"As to ourselves we regret of course that the paragraph should have been reproduced among our extracts, but it is impossible for the editor of a daily paper to personally scrutinise before publication every line that appears in the paper."

So, after all, it was by the merest accident, unfortunate to the credit of our morning contemporary but to the advantage of *Reis and Rayyet*, if not by some manipulation of Brahmanic Black Art of our own, that our little article, together with the commendatory introduction, got printed in the *Statesman* of Tuesday. Thus, for a single day's ecstasy, we were condemned to sack-cloth and ashes for ever and a day.

Pleasantly apart, for the sake of our contemporary himself we regret the closing of a by no means formidable war with such a surrender. It was all the more a surprise after the doubts freely expressed by the editor as to his wisdom in publishing the letter of his clerical correspondent. At the worst, his responsibility in the matter was infinitesimal. Surely, an English paper might without offence reprint an article from the indigenous press, if only as a curiosity of native sentiment or even native impropriety, or savagery. As for this paper, he had, as he said, vouchsafed a true explanation. There the matter might have been left.

After all this criticism, and specially the "chaff"—rather solemn—of our opening, we are bound in all seriousness to acknowledge that, notwithstanding the final weakness to which our contemporary was betrayed, the *Statesman* from the first vindicated our good faith and the perfect innocence of our motive in inditing the obituary notice. We for our part would go further and deny the "thoughtlessness" and "injustice" imputed to our remarks, for we never made any remarks, at any rate consciously, against the hospital management, or the nursing of the good Sisters, or against the friends or relations of the deceased. Our contemporary hit the simple truth in saying that our

"remarks were merely the outcome of a strong feeling of sympathy for the lone sufferer, dying in a public hospital far away from home and loved ones—circumstances that are peculiarly repellent to the Hindoo mind. The feeling is a very natural one, and if *Reis and Rayyet's* remarks have occasioned pain in some quarters where they have been misconstrued, we are sure he will be the first to express his regret and disavow any such intention."

And this we do without the slightest reservation.

We cannot leave without expressing our amazement at the letter that the "Senior Cathedral Chaplain, and Chaplain of the Presidency Hospital" has thought fit to address the *Statesman* on this matter. Our contemporary might well have the "great doubts as to the wisdom of publishing this letter" which he confessed, and it would have been well for the poor gentleman's reputation had the editor shown the requisite firmness and quietly passed it to the limbo of literary vanities at the foot of every editorial table. Is he an Irishman landed in India by the way of the United States—specially the rowdy ones ? His name is Irish, but its spelling Transatlantic. Wellbore or, according to the American orthography, Welbore Macarthy as the appellation of our reverend Guroo, is a nomenclological contradiction in terms. "Macarthy" is Pat and comes pat and no mistake, in the case of a violent knight who flies to arms without occasion and explodes without powder or fire, and who is probably as ready, with as little reason,



to swear eternal friendship. But, "Welhore"—there's the rub! We perceive no wellborne deportment—no trace of forbearance—no Christian meekness under suffering—no Christian charity in the least. The temper of this pluralist in the Church is more military—of the young Subaltern sort—than civil.

Bore he unquestionably is, but had bore, with his long rigmarole, no "wellbore"; an ill bore that bears no good to anybody—that bodes only mischief, and breeds trouble and hate and dissensions among mankind, setting class against class. His voluminous letter starts with the conviction, reiterated throughout, that we were actuated by malice towards the hospital—the doctors, the sisters, and all—as well as towards the friends of the deceased. Such a man never stays to inquire what possible motive there might be under the circumstances. Our clerical denouncer even denies the good feeling of our notice, and chides the *Statesman* for calling it "sympathetic." "I," says this reverend writer,

"have no hesitation in characterising that so-called expression of sympathy as a tissue of false representation."

Again,

"From such sympathy as the *Reis and Rayyet* has expressed for the family of Mr. Bradford, may we all be delivered in our day of trouble."

We know what the *odium theologicum* is, but one might expect it to be kept in abeyance so long as no polemics were stirring. The man of God speaks throughout with the greatest insolence of "this sympathetic Bengali," meaning himself. And this is the sort of men that is sent out to minister to the souls of the British in India and keep them in the path of religion so that they may be an example of the superiority of the Gospel to the Eastern world!

We almost deserved our fate. We have rarely written of any of our own people in such terms as we wrote of the young gentleman, whom we never saw, with whom we had no connection whatever, direct or indirect. And here is our reward. Happily, this clergyman is not the only surviving friend of the deceased. We have received acknowledgments from other quarters of our appreciative notice and of the good feeling which dictated the article.

#### THE FLOODS.

SINCE writing the paragraphs on this subject published above, we have come by farther news.

A Burisal correspondent of the *Statesman* reports the occurrence of a tornado which passed over that city on the night of the 4th instant. Several houses were destroyed, windows were blown off and trees uprooted. Its force may be imagined from the fact that a bamboo 12 feet long was found stuck half into the ground on one of the public roads. Fortunately, its ravages were confined over the bank of the river where there were no large population, and no life was lost nor was the damage to property great.

There is great distress in Nuddea. A part of the district has been flooded. The city of Kishinaghur looks like an island with a vast expanse of water on all sides. Cattle and cottages have been swept away and the head quarters and higher lands are crowded with refugees. Pitiable stories reach us of men carrying what crops they could hurriedly save from the flood on their heads but, being overtaken by the rising water, compelled to make their escape, resigning their precious load to the advancing flood.

A part of the Azimgunge Railway line is flooded, over which passengers have to make their way by boat or trolley. There are floods also, if not to the same degree, in Jessore. The river Hooghly below Calcutta is rising apace, and it is reported that it will attain the greatest elevation in the next two days when the level of the river will rise to a height of about 23 feet, submerging the riparian parts of the metropolis. Some of the riparian towns on the river are already under water which only subsides with the tides. While there is inundation in so many places, the loss of crops must come to no inconsiderable figure. No official account of the extent of the injury done so far has been published, but the distress must be particularly felt by the people of Nuddea, the inundation there exceeding anything in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of even that flood-ridden district. In the meantime, an appeal for assistance has been promptly made by the Rev. Mr. Clifford, Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, who had been stationed in Nuddea for some years and has now revisited the district.

While there is distress from over-much water in these districts, there is complaint of want of enough water in the districts of Hooghly

and Midnapore. The rains there have been far below normal, so as to interfere with the progress of cultivation. What with floods in some parts and what with insufficiency of rain in others, the outlook for the province cannot be very hopeful.

#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

##### HOME DEPARTMENT.

The following despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India regarding the Draft Bill to make provision for the isolation of lepers and the amelioration of their condition is published for general information:

No. 39-Public—Medical, dated Simla, the 22nd July, 1890.

From—The Government of India,

To—The Secretary of State for India.

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, we have

To Secretary of State, No. 45 (Public—Medical), dated 13th July 1889.

From Secretary of State, No. 66 (Statistics and Commerce), dated 5th September 1889.

and Administrations on the draft Bill to make provision for the isolation of lepers and the amelioration of their condition.

2. Before referring to the general opinions expressed by the Local Governments and Administrations and by the public bodies and individuals consulted by them, we desire to draw Your Lordship's attention to the fact that many of the medical men who have given their opinions in regard to the Bill have not stated whether they consider that leprosy in its different stages is communicable or not, and have apparently abstained from doing so under the impression that the Bill is based upon the assumption that leprosy is contagious. We think it right, however, to inform Your Lordship that many of the highest medical authorities in India consider that the evidence at present available goes to show that leprosy is only contagious in the sense that it is inoculable, and that inoculation plays only a very subordinate part in determining the spread of the disease. The very small number of authentic and unequivocal cases of communication of the disease from one individual to another, which even the strongest advocates of a belief in the influence of contagion are able to adduce, is considered by our medical advisers strongly to support this view. They also consider that the phenomena of the distribution of the disease within leprosy countries are altogether adverse to a belief in contagion playing any important part in causing the general diffusion of the disease. In Norway, for example, the disease appears to be almost limited to certain areas, such as the districts around Bergen, Molde, and Trondhjem; and in India the very unequal incidence of the disease over different parts of the peninsula is equally striking. Your Lordship will find an able paper on the subject by the late Dr. Lewis and Surgeon-Major D. D. Cunningham, F.R.S., printed as Appendix B to the Twelfth Annual Report (for 1875) of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India. Dr. Cunningham, who in his capacity of Special Assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India is our chief scientific adviser, is of opinion that the evidence at present existent in regard to the communicability of leprosy is very imperfect, and that, such as it is, it is opposed to the theory that the disease is readily communicable by contagion in any stage, or that, even in the ulcerative stage of the disease, lepers are a source of any considerable danger to those with whom they may associate.

3. The opinions on the objects and scope of the Bill given by the Local Governments and Administrations, and by those whom they have consulted, exhibit, as might be expected in the present state of uncertainty as to the cause and character of the disease, great divergence.

The Madras Government considers that there is no reasonable room for doubt that, if it is intended to stamp out or materially reduce the disease, something far more thorough than the proposed legislation is essential. It holds that to effect this object it would be necessary to enact that any one found to be suffering from leprosy should be compulsorily removed to an asylum and detained there until cured or until death. The cost of such a measure would in the opinion of the Government of Madras be prohibitive, and it regards the small measure of seclusion proposed in the draft Bill as likely to have no appreciable effect on the spread of the disease, while the expenditure necessary to carry it out would absorb money which can, the Local Government thinks, be devoted with greater utility to general medical relief. The Governor in Council is therefore unable to approve of the proposed legislation, but he would give his support to an amendment of the law which would render it possible to control the carrying on by lepers of various avocations, such as those of butcher, baker, bazaar-keeper, barber, or washer-

man, likely to spread the disease, provided that such control should be exercised not with the object of generally prohibiting lepers from earning their own livelihood, but with that of dealing with any special cases in which the danger of contagion might be shown to exist.

The views of the Bombay Government are in close accord with those of the Government of Madras. It considers that the Bill will be ineffectual in stamping out the disease unless it is made compulsory, so as to affect all lepers in every condition of life, and that its effects in mitigating the disease will be limited to removing from public view and providing for lepers who are unable to earn their own living. It would extend the operation of the Bill by including in it stringent provisions for the detention of persons who by working in various capacities may spread the disease among the public, and would have it declared to be an offence under the Indian Penal Code for a person consciously suffering from leprosy to omit to take effectual means for his own segregation, or to take measures to get himself placed by lawful authority in a retreat.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is prepared to accept the Bill as a tentative and experimental measure, intended only, should experience and further scientific enquiry demonstrate that it is required, to pave the way for more stringent legislation in the future; but he would add to it a provision similar to that suggested by the Governments of Madras and Bombay for controlling the exercise of trades by lepers, and to prohibit their use of public tanks, and possibly of public means of conveyance. The opinions of the numerous public bodies and associations consulted by the Bengal Government demonstrate how much public opinion in India is at present divided upon the subject of the segregation of lepers. The associations which are composed of natives of India do not regard the need for isolation as having been established, and are generally apprehensive lest diseases which are admittedly quite innocuous may be confounded with leprosy: those associations, on the other hand, which are composed mainly or entirely of Europeans and Eurasians regard the Bill as of too permissive a character.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh accepts the main lines of the Bill as it has been drafted, but is also in favour of extending its application to lepers engaged in trade or other occupations calculated to spread the disease, and of prohibiting any leper from using a public conveyance or attending a place of public resort.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab would limit the provision of the Bill regarding the detention of lepers found asking for alms to wandering lepers or lepers begging in towns or cities or fairs, but would, at the same time, widen its terms so as to include all lepers, of whatever rank in life, if it can be shown that their behaviour is a source of danger to the public.

The opinions of those consulted in the Central Provinces is that legislation should be undertaken to check the spread of leprosy, and the Chief Commissioners both of those Provinces and Assam advocate the extension of the scope of the Bill so as to restrain lepers from pursuing avocations which are likely to favour the extension of the disease.

The Resident at Hyderabad would accept the draft Bill as it stands for Berar.

4. After considering the very conflicting opinions received from those whom we had consulted regarding the Bill, we deliberated whether it would not be desirable to allow the introduction of the Bill in an amended form, limiting its application, on the one hand, to persons suffering from the disease in an advanced and specially dangerous stage, and, on the other, extending the power of arrest and compulsory detention so as to cover all such dangerous lepers who might, after warning, persist in coming out and mixing with the public. We were, however, advised, as we have already observed in paragraph 2, that there is no safe basis for an enactment even of this restricted description.

5. His Excellency the Viceroy has recently received two unofficial communications from the Honorary Secretary of the National Leprosy Fund. With the former of these were sent copies of a pamphlet reporting the proceedings at a subscription dinner lately held in connection with the National Leprosy Fund under the presidency of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. It is stated in this pamphlet that one of the objects of the Fund is the appointment of a Commission for not less than one year, to consist of three members nominated in England and two nominated by an Indian Auxiliary Committee, for the purpose of investigating the disease of leprosy in India. From the subsequent communication, which has just been received, it appears that the Committee of the National Leprosy Fund has determined that, before sending a Commission to India, it is desirable to collect by correspondence as much information as possible, and that with this object a Technical Secretary should be appointed for the term of not more than a year to collect from the medical officers of leper establishments and from others interested in leprosy throughout the world all available and useful information relating to the causes of, and cures for, the disease. The Committee proposes to publish in a condensed form in a journal the details thus collected, and to circulate the journal among those interested in the matter. We are instructing those

of our medical officers who have had special opportunities for studying the phenomena of leprosy in this country to supply to the Secretary appointed for the purpose all particulars which they may have to communicate. We desire at the same time to inform Your Lordship that, while we cannot now pledge ourselves to accept the conclusions of such a Commission as the Committee of the National Leprosy Fund proposes to appoint, we shall be prepared, in the event of three members being eventually sent out as proposed from England, to depute two medical officers in the service of Government to co-operate with them, and to bear the cost of such deputation. We think that this would be preferable to leaving the selection of two Commissioners to an Auxiliary Committee to be formed in India.

6. Under these circumstances, and in consequence of the doubts which exist as to the contagious character of leprosy, even in an advanced stage, we have come to the conclusion that it is expedient to postpone legislation for the present, and we hope that the investigations above referred to may provide more definite information as to the causes of leprosy and the best means to be adopted for its prevention.

7. As the subject has evoked much interest in this country, we propose to make this Despatch public at the end of the week in which it will reach Your Lordship.

C. J. LYALL,  
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

### THE DUNLO CASE.—VERDICT.

The case in which Lord Dunlo sued for a divorce from his wife, Lady Dunlo (Miss Bell Bilton), was brought to an end late on the afternoon of July 31, after a hearing which lasted six days. The co-respondent was Mr. Isidor Wertheimer.

Mr. Lockwood, Q.C., in addressing the jury on behalf of Lady Dunlo, maintained that, with the exception of one incident, in which he could not help feeling that she was more sinned against than sinning, her whole life, as the jury must have seen, was blameless. Her letters to her husband, he maintained, were couched in terms which showed that she was a woman capable of deep feeling and affection.

Mr. C. F. Gill followed on behalf of Mr. Wertheimer; and Sir Charles Russell then rose to reply on behalf of Lord Dunlo. With regard to the conduct of Lord Clancarty, it had been alleged that he neglected his son's wife, and that he was a party to hounding her down, and was laying a trap for her. Lord Clancarty acted throughout on the view of not recognizing the marriage at all. It was further said that Lord Clancarty was responsible for Lady Dunlo's movements being watched. He was; and he must bear, for good or ill, the responsibility. Let the jury remember the position in which Lord Clancarty was placed. Here was a woman who had been on terms of intimacy with Weston, who after Weston's conviction had to all appearances been living under the protection of Mr. Wertheimer, and who when her husband left England apparently resumed those relations. Discussing the conduct of Wertheimer, the learned counsel did not deny that, mixed up with other motives, there might be a generous impulse on his part. "I do not deny," exclaimed Sir Charles Russell, "God forbid that I should—that men are incapable of generous and unselfish thought; but I do say that the man who is honourable and generous will make his generosity good, will prove his affection and his philanthropy in a way which would at least secure the object of his supposed respect and admiration from having the finger of scorn and reproach pointed at her."

Finally, Sir Charles asked the jury to say why Mr. Wertheimer should dangle about Lady Dunlo when she was a married woman. He had assisted her before her marriage, but a single word from her would have kept him off. They would have to ask themselves whether they could believe in these pure and Platonic feelings on the part of the co-respondent.

### THE JUDGE'S SUMMING-UP.

Sir James Hannen proceeded, at half-past three o'clock, to sum up. The suit, he said, was clearly not promoted by Lord Dunlo, but by Lord Clancarty, who had given instructions that Lady Dunlo should be watched. He told the jury that Lady Dunlo had been on the stage from an early period, and he need not point out the temptations which beset her. He touched on the relations between her and Weston. Her position at that time might have excited the compassion of any one. Mr. Wertheimer at once offered her such services as she stood in need of. It had been suggested that he had not been actuated by compassion, but it was not uncharitable to think that compassion was a factor in the case. Nothing could have been more imprudent than Mr. Wertheimer taking Lady Dunlo to Trouville and Paris, and Mr. Wertheimer admitted his foolishness in the matter, but there was the evidence that they always travelled in their own names. As to the hotel book, he was bound to say that it had been displayed in a manner in which it ought not to be displayed. The evidence of the waiter who came from Trouville was, he thought, effectually disposed of in cross-examination, and he was somewhat surprised that Sir Charles Russell should have resuscitated it in his speech. The difficulty and danger

of the case were that they had a glimpse into a life—a class of people—quite foreign to their ordinary experience. Miss Bilton did not conduct her life according to the usages of the society with which he and the jury were acquainted. Still there could be no doubt that persons like Mr. Marmaduke Wood were inclined to adopt certain canons of judgment with regard to the conduct of women—first of all, that all women on the music-hall stage are purchasable, and, secondly, that every woman who has had a child not in marriage is also purchasable. But he did not think this would be at all a fair construction of people's conduct. Certainly, there were many women who had had a child out of marriage who were not purchasable.

Continuing his address, Sir James Hannen said that the conduct of Wertheimer in taking and furnishing 63, Avenue-road was "extravagantly generous." He did not think the jury need trouble themselves about the motives which induced Miss Bilton to marry Lord Dunlo. She seemed to have a genuine affection for him, and her letters were letters of affection, and he found nothing in them that was of a coarse description. The marriage took place on the 10th of July, and it seemed to him clearly established that Lord "Clanricarde" (so, by a *lapsus lingue*, Lord Dunlo's father was described) intended to send his son abroad before the marriage. He was sent abroad accordingly, and he was bound to say that it seemed to him a very serious thing that a woman should be deprived of her husband's presence and her husband's society. Undoubtedly the

joint action of Lord Clancarty and Lord Dunlo was such as to expose Lady Dunlo to temptation. On the whole, he thought her letters to her husband were frank letters, and he read extracts to show that this was the case.

As to Lady Dunlo's going to 63, Avenue-road, after her marriage, Sir James Hannen thought that any man who had a regard for her would be anxious to protect her from the attacks of a man like Weston. As to the "man-of-the-world view" which Sir Charles Russell had asked them to take, it meant one of two things—either that they should take a common-sense view of the case, or that they should take an unfavourable and cynical view of the woman. Commenting upon the evidence, Sir James pointed out that the only important thing in the testimony of the detective Clarke was the kissing, which he had an impression must have taken place. Of this there was no entry made at the time. He was not favourably impressed with Lumsden, while the evidence of Nunn did not amount to much. In regard to Mr. Marmaduke Wood, the jury had the means of measuring the value of his veracity. He was sorry to have to make an observation with reference to Lord Dunlo's conduct, which showed an utter want of appreciation of the circumstances of the case. He was, in point of fact, a mere cipher—a puppet in the hands of his father.

The jury retired to consider their verdict at five o'clock; and after less than twenty minutes' consideration found a verdict for Lady Dunlo.

### CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

THE Commissioners of Calcutta have resolved to offer to the holders of the 6 per cent. Municipal loan of 1st December 1870 for Rs. 3,00,000, falling due on the 1st December next, the option of exchanging such debentures to the extent of Rs. 2,64,000 for 5 per cent. debentures of a new Municipal loan to be raised this year 1890, and having a currency of 30 years.

The rate for the exchange is fixed at a premium of Rs. 4 per cent. on the amount of the 5 per cent. debentures that may be allotted to them.

As the amount of the 5 per cent. loan available for transfer is Rs. 2,64,000 only, it will be understood that the full amount of the 6 per cent. debentures, namely, Rs. 3,00,000, cannot be exchanged.

Holders of the 6 per cent. debentures desirous of effecting transfers, should communicate their wish in a letter to reach the Secretary to the Corporation on or before the 30th September next.

Such portion of the 6 per cent. debentures, as may not be exchanged, will be repaid in cash on application on or after the 29th November 1890. Interest on these debentures will cease on the 30th November 1890.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
Calcutta, 22nd August 1890. }

### NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lall Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Wednesday the 17th day of September next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate:—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed messuage tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less

and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Mukhtaram Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring 9½ cottas more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonnee Dass on the North by the public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydya Nath Ooriya and Nilmonnee ssDa.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottas 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottas more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Bural and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.

### KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund:—

Pheroza Shah M. Mehta, Esq., Bombay	Rs. 100
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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of Reis and Rayyet, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him. *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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*Review of Politics, Literature, and Society*

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OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1890.

No. 440

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### GIVE HIM A LIFT.

GIVE him a lift ! Don't kneel in prayer,  
Nor moralize with his despair ;  
The man is down, and his great need  
Is ready help, not prayer and creed.

'Tis time when wounds are washed and healed  
That the inward motive be revealed ;  
But now, whatever the spirit be,  
Mere words are shallow mockery.

One grain of aid just now is more  
To him than tomes of saintly lore ;  
Pray, if you must, within your heart,  
But give him a lift, give him a start.

The world is full of good advice,  
Of prayer and praise and preaching nice ;  
But generous souls who aid mankind  
Are like to diamonds, hard to find.

Give like a Christian, speak in deeds ;  
A noble life's the best of creeds ;  
And he shall wear a royal crown  
Who gives a lift when men are down.

### THE KING.

ONE comes to her in kingly garb and guise,  
She hears the wary world his praises sing,  
And listening shyly with a pleased surprise,  
She owns the hope that now at last her eyes  
Behold the King.

Yet still a doubt her maiden spirit grieves,  
Love's perfect trust his presence fails to bring,  
And in each tender romance that she weaves  
Why is it that she never quite believes  
He is the King ?

Another comes unnoticed and alone,  
About his life no royal glammers cling ;  
The world has never branded him her own,  
Yet to one heart the certain truth is known  
That he is King.

Now can her soul the shafts of doubt defy,  
His voice from truth has caught the royal ring ;

No substitute can shine when he is by,  
Disguises fall and life is grand and high,  
For he is King.

GRACE S. WELLS.

### A FANCY.

THE tide goes out and the tide comes in,  
And gulls hang whitely about the shore,  
Our ears grow used to the water's din,  
And we heed the birds' quaint flight no more.

The roses bloom and the roses fade,  
The green leaves wither and brown and fall ;  
The brook from its old-time course has strayed,  
And what does it matter, after all ?

We gather moss from the rolling waves,  
Or pluck a rose that is red and rare ;  
While their comrades sink into nameless graves  
We lay these by with a careless care.

And so with friends that are dear and true—  
We love them, ay ! with a love-like flame ;  
But when they pass from our daily view,  
'Tis near—ah, me ! is it quite ?—the same.

We put the thought of their love away—  
A picture, flower, a ring, a book ;  
We breathe a prayer that they used to pray,  
And shrine in our hearts a tender look.

But redder roses shall come with spring,  
Sweeter and larger than these by far ;  
And new, bright mosses the waves will bring,  
A fresh face shine for our beacon star.

So what does it 'count that the sun goes down,  
That waves roll out, and the roses fall,  
That eyelids close over smile or frown ?  
Ay ! what does it 'count us, after all ?

JAMES BERRY BENSEL.

*Holloway's Pills.*—Weak Stomach.—The wisest cannot enumerate one quarter of the distressing symptoms arising from imperfect or disordered digestion, all of which can be relieved by these admirable Pills. They remove cankerous taste from the mouth, flatulency and constipation. Holloway's Pills rouse the stomach, liver, and every other organ, thereby bringing digestion to that healthy tone which fully enables it to convert all we eat and drink to the nourishment of our bodies. Hence these Pills are the surest strengtheners and the safest restoratives in nervousness, wasting, and chronic debility. Holloway's Pills are infallible remedies for impaired appetite, eructations, and a multitude of other disagreeable symptoms which render the lives of thousands miserable indeed. These Pills are approved by all classes.

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## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Viceroy returned to Simla from his trip with fever. He has not yet been able to shake it off. By the latest accounts his Lordship is improving.

THE Commander-in-Chief has recorded a General Order on the game of polo as prejudicially affecting the welfare and efficiency of the service, basing his objections on grounds of unnecessary danger and of expense.

THE Military authorities at Fort White in the Chin country have successfully grown vegetables from seed obtained from New Zealand. English seed gave poorer results by half.

IT is reported from the Gilgit Agency that Mr. and Mrs. Littledale have crossed the Baraghil and Darkat Passes in safety and reached Gakuch *vid* Yassin. No English lady is said to have accomplished the journey before—an assertion not strictly true.

THE Nepal Durbar, suspecting frauds by their own officers as well as by British subjects, have ceased to permit the latter to cut and carry timber as of yore. Nepalese alone will be allowed to cut timber and sell them to British subjects. The vain fools! And should the British retaliate with a law against any Nepalese trading in India?

THE overland mail, which now leaves Bombay on Friday, and Calcutta on Tuesday, will from the fourth week of this month, depart on Saturday from that city, and on Wednesday from this. The change therefore takes place from the 24th September in Calcutta and 27th in Bombay.

WITH the lamented death of his wife, the Father of the Indian Congress has broken up his establishment, and his Scotch laird's well known "pleasance" on the heights of Jakko at Simla called Rothney Castle, is for sale. It is the finest property in Simla, and its collection of plants is magnificent.

THE P. and O. steamer *Oriental* lately delivered the mail from London to Hongkong in 26 days, 13½ hours—the quickest passage on record. The difficult navigation from Singapore to Hongkong was made in a few minutes more than four days, at the rate of 15 knots an hour.

EVEN the Dewan of the Maharaja of Benares is not safe from the mercenary attentions of the ruffians of that holy city. A body of these fell upon Baboo Baleswar Prasad in one of his evening drives and attacked him with lathies. Assistance coming at the nick of time, the Dewan escaped with slight injuries.

WE read :—

"It appears that there was a mutiny among the students of the Free Church College at Chinsurah, near Calcutta, lately in consequence of the dismissal of one of the native professors, whose cause they espoused. Their remonstrances, which were insolently submitted, having failed to move the Principal to restore the dismissed professor, the students of the College classes became very rowdy, threw down their books, insulted their professors and in a body walked out of their class rooms. After absenting themselves for four days they sought re-admission: but the Principal refused to re-admit the ringleaders under any circumstances, and the others only on the payment of a penalty of five rupees each.

THE Gas Manager While died suddenly at Allahabad on the 19th August and was buried. The body has now been exhumed for post mortem examination.

BOMBAY charity is proverbial, and knows no race. Mr. Pestonjee Hormusjee Cama who founded the Cama Hospital for women, has again come forward with Rs. 25,000 for medical education of Parsee, Hindu and Mahomedan women. The Bombay University will have the administration of the sum, and provide a gold medal for the best essay by a female graduate.

As the people of the "Bareilly" Raja's of whom we had occasion to speak last week, in announcing his undefined aims of

undefined aggregate value, have thought fit to claim credit for the usefulness of his expenditure on the occasion of the Governor's visit as contrasted with the waste of others, we may as well remind them of a far more intelligent and truly humane use of wealth, on the same occasion, and that by a *Purda* lady without any pretensions to learning or experience of the outside world. We refer to Ranees Man Mohini Devi, of Pootia in the Rajshaye District, who, in honor of Sir Stuart Bayley's visit, has purposed to dig a number of wells in the District, at places where there is particular complaint for drinking water. That is at once a useful and important charity, showing both intelligence and feeling. Let the Rajas and Dewans hide their diminished heads before true woman!

To the very respectable gentlemen who have been made sick in the East by the inherent sinfulness of the natives as well as to the publicists who are always inveighing against the weakness of native juries and native magistrates, we respectfully dedicate the following singularly horrible case of murder which has just been tried at Versailles :—

"Last May an old woman named Levert was found hanging by the neck from a low branch of a tree in the forest near Saint Leu Taverny, her shoes being five yards distant, and her position almost a kneeling one. The suspicion naturally arose that she had been first strangled and then fastened to the branch to make believe she had committed suicide. It was thought that her son, Emile Levert, was the most likely person to have committed the murder. His mother was a peasant proprietor, and a widow. When he was about to be married five years ago, she made over all her property to him and a daughter living in Paris, in return for a small annuity. Soon after she signed the deed the son said he could not pay his share of the annuity, but was willing to let her have the run of the house. Her health broke down, and, as she could not work, he insisted on her paying for her keep out of what his sister allowed her. This she refused to do. From that time she was beaten and starved. Twice the neighbours rescued her, and denounced him, and he was condemned to terms of imprisonment. When charged with the murder he began by denying it, and on being driven into a corner said that his mother one day lost her head and threatened to kill him with a reaping hook. In his rage he threw a rope round her neck, strangled her, and then took her corpse in a wheelbarrow to hang it from a branch in the forest. He afterwards said that his mother was an old miser. She could not work, and she refused to pay for the food she ate. Levert's counsel pleaded that if the mother could rise from the grave and come into that court she would implore indulgence for her son. The best way to avenge the crime would be to leave the accused to the stings of remorse which, if his life were spared and he condemned to the solitude and silence of the gaol, must for ever assail him. The jury took this view, and pronounced a verdict of guilty, with extenuating circumstances."

No wonder, juries are at a discount in Europe.

By order of the Governor-General in Council the following rules have been substituted for Article 506 of the Civil Service Regulations. The Bombay Government had pointed out that that Article was inconsistent with Rule 6, section 110, of the Civil Pension Code, 6th Edition. While the Rule empowered officers named therein to pass final orders as to both retention in service and retirement of certain classes of subordinates after attainment of the age of 55 years, the Article permitted delegation of authority in cases of retention only :—

"The Local Government may delegate to heads of Departments or to officers not under the rank of Collectors or District Judges—

(1) The power of declaring any non-gazetted subordinate to be efficient, and permitting him to remain in the service, provided he continues to be efficient, for a definite period up to, but not beyond, the age of 60 years.

(2) Subject to such conditions as the Local Government may think fit, the power of declaring any non-gazetted subordinate to be inefficient, and compelling him to retire either at the age of 55 years, or on the expiry of any further period up to which his service has been extended, or before the expiry of such further period if he ceases to be efficient.

Each such subordinate's case must be taken up when he is 55 years old and on the expiry of each extension of service."

The Government of India have delegated the powers of a Local Government to the following officers :—

(i) The Director-General of the Post Office of India in respect of all officers subordinate to him;

(ii) the Comptroller and Auditor-General in respect of all non-gazetted officers subordinate to him;

(iii) the Inspector-General of Military Works, the Director-General of Telegraphs, and the Director-General of Railways in respect of all subordinates serving under them, except Accountants;

(iv) the Accountant-General in the Public Works Department in respect of all subordinates serving under him, including all Accountants belonging to the establishment under the Government of India.

AN experimental treatment of rinderpest in Madras with solid cinchona febrifuge, shews that the drug reduces the temperature in the first stages and that it ceases to act in an advanced stage. The inspector

of cattle diseases reports that of twenty two cattle, fifteen recovered, one was relieved and six died.

At a time when grave complaints like albuminuria and Diabetes are becoming frequent in India, we deem it advisable to reproduce, from our collections of a few years back, the following giving probably the only satisfactory mode of treatment :—

"Since we know not at present any drug that possesses therapeutic value to any marked extent in this terrible and fatal (Bright's) disease, and since it is daily making sad havoc among human beings, and principally among that class who, by reason of their valuable public labours, are particularly necessary to the welfare of the world, therefore, it becomes a medical question of paramount interest that we should discover some potent method of combating this very prevalent disease. Some years since Carel first called attention to the treatment of Bright's disease by the use of a milk diet, and since then Duncan, as well as many other prominent physicians, has written on this subject.

We have ourselves seen some remarkable results follow this treatment, while Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, of our city, is now quite an enthusiast on this subject. This method of treating a formidable disease has received sufficient distinguished indorsement to recommend it seriously to our notice. We would, therefore, ask all physicians who read this article to try this method of treatment and to furnish us with their experiences, which we will publish. The milk is used thoroughly skimmed and entirely freed from butter. To procure the best results, it has been advised that the patient shall restrict himself absolutely to milk and continue the treatment for a long time. If it disagrees with the stomach (as it will in some cases), Dr. Mitchell advises that the patient be put to bed and the treatment commenced with tablespoonful doses, to which lime water is added, until the stomach tolerates the milk, when from eight to ten pints daily should be taken, and absolutely nothing else. The sanction of such a distinguished physician as Dr. Mitchell forces us to seriously consider the merits of this treatment, and we trust to receive the experience of all readers of this journal who may have cases of Bright's disease to treat."—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*. (U. S.)

We may add that we have seen, at Agartala, Baboo Doyal Chand Banejee, now of 135-6 Cornwallis Street, treat an advanced case of Diabetes completely cured by medicine and an exclusively skimmed milk diet.

ANTHRAX is reported in the Viceroy's stables at Dehra Dun. Six horses were attacked, and three of them have died including Lord William Bressford's Arab pony Shamshad.

As regards the offices of the Government of India, the Calcutta session begins from 1st November next.

THE next Calcutta University Examinations in Arts and Law will begin—the Entrance on Monday the 2nd February, the F. A. and B. A. on Monday the 16th February and the B. L. on Monday the 2nd March, 1891.

WE see the *Pioneer* has extracted our notice of the death of young Moutague Bradford. It is a distinguished honour—the Blue Ribbon of the Indian Press. But we dare not enjoy the felicity. Some fine morning we may see the great Editor excuse himself from having been tempted to the weakness of recognising anything quotable in a Baboo publication.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE parting of the two Emperors at Peterhoff was not friendly. The Kaiser, it is said, left abruptly as the Czar refused to allow him to attend the coming military manœuvres in the South.

DISASTROUS floods have occurred in various parts of Austria. The Danube overflowed its banks, entering the valley of the Moldau. The dam of a lake near Prague burst and swelled the Moldau, causing the collapse of the famous old bridge over the Moldau and drowning thirty persons. Vienna, Buda Pesth, Prague and Presburg are partially submerged. Prague is threatened most. Portions of it are already surrounded by raging torrents and the utmost alarm is felt.

THE Czarewitch commences his Eastern tour on the 13th October, accompanied by his brother the Grand Duke George.

A CROWDED meeting of Socialists at Berlin resulted in a collision with the Police.

THERE is coolness between France and Italy. A French squadron was ordered to Spezia to salute King Humbert during the launch of an Italian ironclad. There was a difference as to the formalities to be observed resulting in the withdrawal of the order for despatch of the squadron. King Humbert resented it and declined to go to Spezia.

THE month opened at Liverpool with a Congress of the Trades Unions. The delegates represented one million and five hundred thousand members. No movement is now complete without ladies and many of the fair sex added to the significance of the meeting. The Congress adopted a resolution of sympathy with the Australian strikers, appealing to all Unions for funds in aid of the greatest labour revolt. The president was of opinion that the time had come to urge upon Parliament an eight hours' working day Bill. He favored the State control of railways and direct Parliamentary representation of labour. According to him, Nationalisation was the only solution of the land question. That view, however, the Congress would not accept, and rejected the proposition for its inclusion in the Parliamentary Programme. As good as their word, the Unions are collecting funds for Australia. There is also a counter-movement of Shipowners. At a meeting in London representing one hundred millions capital, they have passed a resolution for the federation of the shipping trade of the British Empire to deal with the labour question and to resist the tyranny of the Trades Unions. The meeting promised its support to the Australian shippers. At Sydney too they have formed an Australian Employers' Defence Union.

The latest news from Australia is that the strike and blockade at Brisbane have collapsed. Steamers have been despatched with black-leg crews, and blackleg dock labourers have been permanently engaged.

Nothing comes amiss in this world. There is a time for everything and every dog has his day. Thus the black legs of the Colonies have turned to splendid use. They could not have done more service to their country and the world if they had always been the most well-conducted fellows on earth. Their very number which had hitherto been an embarrassment to society and administration, is all the more welcome at this crisis.

THE Congress of Agriculture and Forestry opened at Vienna on the 1st, with six hundred delegates.

THE Baronetcy of Sir Dinshaw Maneckjee Petit has been announced in the London Gazette. On his death, the dignity passes on to his second son.

ON the plea of communicating a secret, a young man named Scandimiroff advanced to the Governor of Novgorod and presented a revolver at him, who, equal to the occasion, at once closed and wrestled with the assailant. In the scuffle the revolver went off, the bullet entering the ground. Scandimiroff was secured.

THE King of Portugal is laid up with typhoid fever.

INSTEAD of fifty-four million ounces annually, the Washington Treasury will purchase an average of four and-a-half million ounces of silver monthly. We believe the law lays it down so.

TO escape banishment, Moussa Bey fled on the 29th August to Mecca. He has been arrested at Sivas.

IT is telegraphed from Washington that the Senate has reduced the duties on flax and cotton bagging. The news from Russia, however, is that in proportion to the rise in the exchange, the customs duties have been raised twenty per cent.

SPEAKING at the Cutlers' Feast at Sheffield on the 4th, Lord Cross spoke of the enormous strides India was making and said that Government was doing its utmost to increase the railways in India.

THE Emperor William, on the 3rd, reviewed the German Fleet at Kiel. The Austrian squadron was present and Admiral Hornby represented the British Government. The proceedings passed off brilliantly.



THE rumour has been revived that the Czar will visit the Sultan in October.

IN view of the growing estrangement between the two principal sects in India, the *Hindu Ranjika* suggests the formation of a National Association, having for its object the restoration of good feelings between the Hindus and Mahomedans. Thereupon, our native contemporaries all exclaim, this is a very good suggestion. We regret to be unable to join them. There seems to be a mania for associations and public meetings. What can associations and meetings do in such a case? Let our Hindu brethren cultivate good feeling towards the Mahomedans, instead of holding solemn conclaves, making declamatory speeches, and passing hollow resolutions.

MR. Bradlaugh has at least in one instance saved the honour of the British name. Not long ago he asked whether one of the guerilla leaders of Burma, having surrendered on a promise of his life, had nevertheless been tried and sentenced to capital punishment. The Viceroy, on being communicated with, telegraphed the suspension of the execution. The case was then brought in appeal before the Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma, who has now commuted the sentence of death passed by the Sessions Judge of Myingyan on Boh Yan Yun and others, to one of transportation for life.

To this day the enlightened and strong *régime* which has displaced the "unspeakable" Thebaw's barbarous and weak administration has not been able to secure tolerable protection to the inhabitants of the very capital. Robbery of all kinds is of almost daily occurrence. Matters have reached such an intolerable pass that the tradesmen and other residents of Mandalay are about to wait in a body on the Chief Commissioner to represent their grievance. The Police is evidently inadequate in number, or miserably deficient in energy and resource. If matters are anything so bad, the Local Government is much to blame. The subject is of more than ordinary importance. The civil security or insecurity of the capital of the late kingdom indirectly—almost directly—influences the final settlement of the newly acquired territory. Thus the question is not unworthy the prompt attention of the Supreme Government. A quiet and courteous filip from Simla to Rangoon would be a proper exercise of the viceregal function of general supervision. As for the poor subjects of the deposed majesty of Burma, they must be unlucky indeed if, deprived of their national throne, they do not obtain the protection which is the boast of British administration.

THEY have struck what is said to be a very rich gold-bearing reef in Chota Nagpore—rich even for Australia—and the "find" threatens to raise disputes between the Sonapet and Chota Nagpore Companies, unless an amicable arrangement is come to. The Sonapet are holders of lands on both banks of the head waters of the Son river, while the Chota Nagpore are proprietors of all the surrounding lands, and claim that the reef has been struck on their property. The Sonapet, on the contrary, assert that it runs for miles through their lands, so that the point of discovery is not of so much importance as the definition of the boundary.

Whatever may be the character of this discovery, or at least the ultimate value of it, it has as usual roused the frenzy for gold. There is a fever of speculation. Companies are starting up every day and the shares of some have already gone up to fabulous lengths. Everybody knows it can not last. No matter, sufficient for the hour is the gain and glory thereof!

ONE of the complaints of the *Civil and Military Gazette* against the Nawabate of Bahawalpur recently was the undue influence of the foreign element in the personnel of the immediate advisers of the ruler. It is now glad to report that

"something has been done to reduce the friction and tension caused, as we noticed, in the administration of the Bahawalpur State by the employment of outsiders, who have no real stake in the welfare of the State, and are bent only on self-aggrandisement. Further elimination of the foreign element would doubtless be beneficial to the State, which is a purely Mahomedan one, both in government and population, and the race is naturally intolerant of the outsiders of other religions."

This spirit of exclusiveness has been carried to the extent of prohibiting, by beat of drum, Hindus—men and women—from joining

the procession of the Mohurram *tazias*. Divide and rule is the latest state craft in British India, and the precedent is being drafted into the native states.

IN July last, we noticed a contempt of Court case in which the Chief Justice of Ceylon fined a Magistrate for presuming to order arrest of a horse yoked to the Chief Justice's carriage standing in the Court premises, it being the subject of a charge for theft. The Magistrate was fined £10, and the complainant £5, the arresting Police inspector being let off with a severe reprimand. Another new interpretation has been given to the phrase contempt of contempt in the same fruitful island by a Puisne Justice. It seems that that offence is not there limited to disrespect to Judges and for their belongings. Even Court officers of whatever degree are a Court and are privileged against any trifling of the kind. For instance, Mr. S. T. Muttiah was summoned to serve as a juror. Lest his business suffer, he wanted to be saved from the service of a juror, and took the illegal course of visiting the wife of the Deputy Fiscal and attempting to induce her by offers of money to speak in his favor to her husband, and then requesting the Deputy Fiscal himself to get him exempted. This was construed a contempt of Court and Muttiah was hauled up to answer the charge. What followed will appear from the order of the Hon. H. Dias, Junior Puisne Justice. Addressing Mr. Muttiah, he said:—

"I think you have been very properly advised in not denying the facts referred to in the affidavits, as it would have been almost madness on your part to contradict the statements of three such respectable witnesses. You have been charged with contempt of a more aggravated character than contempts usually are, that is to say, that you, by means of a bribe, attempted to tamper with an officer of this Court in the exercise of his duty; and that duty was not a common duty but an extraordinary one connected with the administration of justice. It is quite clear that, at the time you went to the Deputy-Fiscal's house, you do not seem to have been so irresponsible as you would wish to make out by your statement; but I am willing to accept your statement that you were not in a proper state of mind—that is the least expression I can use. However according to the facts set out in the affidavits, you could not have been so utterly irresponsible. You went to Mr. Driberg's house, one of the officers of this Court with a bundle of notes in your hands; you met his wife and son, and exhibited a bundle of notes apparently and undoubtedly for the purpose of tempting them to accept the notes. You seem to have miscalculated in the matter, and the intended present was rejected. Offences of this kind in other countries, in fact in all countries where the law is administered by a proper set of officers—and interference with courts of justice—are looked upon as one of the most heinous offences, and in this case you tried by tampering with the Deputy Fiscal to induce him to abuse the process of the Court. I need not make any further remarks with reference to your conduct on the occasion in question. You are a sensible man, and a man of the world, and you must feel satisfied that you have committed an act which will stamp you with a character which is not enviable, but in view of the apology offered by you, and in view of the sensible words addressed to me by your counsel, I am not prepared to inflict a heavy punishment; but the law must be vindicated both where a rich man as well as a poor man is concerned. You seem to have trusted to an abundance of wealth to attain your object. I must express the sense of the Court with regard to conduct of this kind by the punishment I am about to inflict on you. At first I considered the case so serious that I had made up my mind to send you to jail; but in view of the apology offered and in consideration of your defence that you were not, at the time, in a proper state of mind, I am prepared to simply fine you, and I accordingly impose on you a fine of Rs. 200, and until that fine is paid you will be detained."

His Lordship may be, and doubtless is, technically right, but this is our thinking is stretching the point too far.

IN reply to an address presented at Poona to the Governor of Bombay by the Local Branch of the National Indian Association, Lord Harris made a neat little speech signifying nothing beyond appreciation of the compliment. He happened to refer to the facilities offered in these days to the native of India to make the acquaintance of the British at home, "amongst native fogs, and judge for himself whether there is much difference." This affords our clever contemporary of the *Rast Goftar* a fine opportunity to moralise on the subject. Says the writer:—

"There cannot, of course, be any fundamental difference in the nature of the two, but the nature undergoes a great change when the Englishman has come to India and settled here. He comes here with ideas more or less romantic of the East, with kindly sympathies for the natives of these climates and anxious to cultivate their acquaintance. But a change is gradually wrought over his nature and this is mainly due to the environments by which he is surrounded. His sympathy wears off by degrees. There is ample and undoubted warrant for his race pride and race superiority. But we do not know if that affords sufficient justification for his looking down upon all natives without any distinction. The glamour of romance and sentiment is gone, after the Englishman has been here for some time, and the

actualities with which he is confronted, mingled with his own little prejudices, make a cold, unsympathetic, exclusive man of him. He knows nothing, and cares little to know anything, of the people of strange manners and customs whom he daily sees around him. This attitude engenders in both races a mutual distrust, misunderstanding and enmity which it is the aim of the National Indian Association to remove."

That puts the best face upon the matter, but it is more philosophical than real. There is no disenchantment in the matter at all. The romance of the East is the romance of the pagoda tree, pegs, pillaws, hot curries, chutnies, sherbets, dancing girls and so forth, and it exists to this day in all its barbaric splendour and its enough of pristine profusion; only for pagodas the old tree now yields rupees, for Claret and Port and Shiraz there is Champagne and Hungarian and Greek wines, while the eating and relishes are as glorious as ever, and the sherbets more refreshing being now cooled with ice, and if the Hindu-stani ballet is not so much patronized that is because the Naiads of the Danube are preferred. But does the stranger "come with kindly sympathy for the natives of this climate and anxious to cultivate their acquaintance?" We much doubt. In fact we know, we may say.

THE Bengal Government has limited the use of liveries for messengers for the Calcutta offices to the Bengal Secretariat in all its branches; the Board of Revenue; the offices of the Director of Public Instruction, Inspector-General of Jails, Inspector-General of Registration, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Sanitary Commissioner, Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture and Provincial Superintendent of Census. The peons in personal attendance on the Excise Commissioner will also have his livery. The costs are not to exceed Rs. 50, 30 and 20 for Jemadars, head peons and peons. The hardest restriction, we believe, is that no expenditure should in future be incurred on liveries in any office from contract contingencies. Jemadars and peons in attendance on the Secretaries and Under-Secretaries to Government, the duffries and peons who go on duty with the Secretariat to Darjeeling and the peons on attendance on the Heads of Departments who are authorized to accompany the Government to Darjeeling are entitled to their liveries annually, others every alternate year.

THE Political Pandit to the Government has made a new departure. He is certainly not the man to accept martyrdom if it can be helped. After having done as much as lay in him to abolish the great Hindu festival of the Doorga Pooja and earned, on the one hand, a reputation with Europeans for liberality and freedom from prejudice and, on the other, the execration of his own community, he might well think it time to humour his people and recover caste. He has now made his *prayaschit*, but with his usual lack of judgment. He has gone from one extreme to the other. He has outorthodoxed the most orthodox. He has done an act at which the most illiberal Pandit of the backwoods of Bancoora would in these days hold his breath. If the act belonged to his personal sphere he might please himself, though at the expense of public derision. But it concerns his public life and hence all the more marvel, and all the less excuse. It is as an official, or at least as a servant of the general public, that he has aired his newborn zeal for orthodoxy. It appears that as Secretary to the Hindu Hostel he refused to admit a *bania* (*subarnabanik*) student into the house on the ground of his low caste! Here is a grand Manu *redivivus*! Here is a fine *pose* for the Pandit who has already been pushed to a corner by his brother Pandits in the country for his endeavours to take the Tagores quietly back to caste! Yes, we dare say the purity of his Hostel would not be affected by the presence of Pir Alis! But a *bania* is abomination. Don't the Banias give any presents to Pandits? Did not Baboo Bholanath Mullick call Nyayaratna to preside at the distribution of gifts on the Singhabahini Pooja or on the occasion of his own weight against gold and gems? This is Hinduism with a vengeance. We have been simply amazed—the whole town is amazed. But it will never do. At this day it is ridiculous. There is no objection to Hindus of different classes to read in the same school and the same class, sitting on the same bench closely packed. Why should not they be permitted into the same hostel? Surely, living in a common hostel does not necessitate eating together.

IN another part is an account of the Moharram at Moorshedabad and the disturbances which have thrown that city into a ferment. Our correspondent writes with the impartiality of a Hindu and the knowledge of a Moorshedabadite. We have pointed out one mistake he incident-

ally falls into. We will here notice one omission in his account of the occasions on which the peace of the Moharram was broken or threatened. In 1864 when we were in charge of the Nawab Nazim's affairs, a well known Mahomedan *mukhtar* of Lal Bagh attempted to disturb the Nizam procession in His Highness' presence and in sight of the civil head-quarters. Being repulsed, he revenged himself by complaining before the city magistracy against the heads of the party from the Palace. Mr. Hosmer spared the Nawab Nazim but gave summonses against the Nawab's Nazir and the favorite Haquim. There was a burst at once of indignation and alarm in the *killa* and His Highness directed us to save his *izzat* and the integrity of his faith at any cost. His favorite Haquim Abul Hossein and his Eunuchs must not even appear in court, and gave us the *carte blanche* to spend a lac of Rupees or more if necessary! We were to import Attorneys and pleaders and barristers fetched from Calcutta. We did nothing of the kind, but managed with a single pleader from Berhampore. In fact, Mr. Hosmer himself managed it. His Highness' faith and *izzat* were saved and all the rest of it far too cheaply for our credit.

On the eve of retirement from the Western Presidency of the eminent Professor Wordsworth, a suggestion has been started for the local University to grant him the honorary degree of LL. D. The *Indian Spectator* will none of it. He is, in our contemporary's opinion, far above such honorary titles. Nor will a Bombay degree—even that of Doctor of Laws of both kinds—be any great honor to him, though it might be to an inferior man. Our contemporary writes with genuine sympathy and with great force:—

"We, for one, cannot see what service could deserve more to be honoured and rewarded than that of one that has for a quarter of a century been an example to the young men of this generation of all that is noble and just; that 'uttered nothing base'; that has ever come forward from his retirement to fight the battle of truth when its interests were in jeopardy; that has been, in fact, to the educated young men of the present generation a pattern of all moral worth, of gentlemanliness and gentleness. Learning will be always admired. But in the form in which he presented it to the view it has had a charming, endearing presence. We remember the impressions created by Sir Alexander Grant, and by Dr. Haikness on their pupils. There is no doubt of the learning of the former of these, especially. But from the nobility of his life there hangs a charm round the name of the present Principal, to which his predecessors can lay no claim. It is something to have inspired with noble thoughts a whole generation of students, to have taught them, by his unostentatious example, to shun what is mean and base and untruthful. Lawgivers seldom succeed so well as one that imprints a law on the heart from the record of his own simple life. Such a one, the like of whom appears once in a century here, is fit for something more dignified than honorary distinctions or decorations."

That is all very true. Yet we do not see why the degree should not become the learned Professor. It would be more appropriate than a knighthood. Indeed, there should be no appearance of passing him over by the University. He would prize it as a memento of his connection. After all, not for him but for the honour of the University and the cause of learning in India, should the degree be conferred on him with all imaginable pomp and circumstance. No such opportunity should be lost for permanently connecting the name of Wordsworth with an Indian University.

THE Maharaja of Cooch Behar's loyalty to the British Government and to Europeans is well known. He has impoverished his State in pursuit of it. And yet when, having exhausted his resources, he comes to his patrons and friends for what is no great favour, and in the cause of that easy access to his territory, a cause which is as much theirs as his—in behalf of a public work which is mutually beneficial to the Paramount State and the Principality—he is snubbed for his pains and treated worse than was poor Dhulip Singh himself. His Highness asked from the Government of Bengal a loan of five lacs only for the proposed Cooch Behar State Railway, on the securities of the Chucklaj estate—his hereditary property in British territory. But the terms demanded by our Government, it is said, were such that the Maharaja could not make up his mind to submit to them. His Highness must be deeply disappointed. This ought to be a lesson to the Maharaja, however. God grant that he may henceforth learn to rely on himself. He should pay greater attention to his own finances, and we trust the Maharani will assist her consort in setting their house in order.

AN Englishman signing "B. C. S." in the *Indian Mirror*, whose letter of indignation against the people of this country for their neglect of the memory of the late Robert Knight we see reproduced in the *Statesman*, has taken unnecessary, not to say unaccountable, offence

at a single expression in a back number of *Reis and Rayyet*. We thought we wrote with sufficient care. Writing of the dead, we have cause to write with care, knowing that though ghosts might not care to pay us a visit there were living spirits enough around us, far and near, even in our neighbourhood, prowling for an opportunity, by themselves or other nearer diabolical agency, to fall down on us. In explanation of our own conduct why we did not start a Knight Memorial Fund when asked after the indifference of others, we said that we were afraid of injuring the cause by rousing the jealousy of members of our own community, and therefore referred our kind friends to the Editor of the only native daily, the *Mirror* (a long established journal by the way), as the better man to take the lead. We thought nobody could possibly fasten a quarrel on us on that paragraph. How mistaken! Some people are up to any feat. Here is a member of the Bengal Civil Service—for B. C. S. is either that or Bill Collecting Sircar—in high dudgeon with us. He has fired off a long and scathing paragraph at us. It so appears that in referring to our “petty jealousies” we dropped a passing suggestion by way of explanation of the phenomenon. That suggestion was “foreign domination,” and that has stuck in the British throat. It would certainly have been more pleasant to B. C. S. if we had attributed our weakness to our innate baseness. He takes us to task for this outrageous sentiment and does not hesitate to class us with that large section of the local press which practises the peculiarly British precept, namely—any stick is good enough to beat a dog or a native; and practises it with such success as to seize the said stick and use it against the British lion himself—a section “with which it is common to ascribe all the ills which afflict Indian humanity to English rule, and to show a convenient oblivion of the countless benefits, which this country derives from its connection with the Empire of Great Britain.” So it has come to this, that we are among the scurillous and seditious journals! All our independent support of the British Government—all our moderation and discrimination—have gone for nothing! And this writer is voluble on the subject of gratitude. He lashes our countrymen for their ingratitude. He loftily descants on the virtue and, of course, claims a full measure of it for his countrymen. “Let me assure your readers,” he loftily proclaims, “Let me assure your readers that all Englishmen, worthy of the name, have a wholesome respect for gratitude, and a proportionate abhorrence of the converse.” Well, in any case, it is easier to preach than to practise. The injustice done by this writer to us is so gross as to destroy all his claim to authority. If ever journal in the world has suffered in any cause, *Reis & Rayyet* is that paper. If the malcontent section of the Indian press is so large, it is because malcontent pays so well. In the discharge of our duty as public journalists, we have never been allured by that payment. Nor did we expect the Europeans of our generation who live in flats like rabbits in a warren and use dogcarts for conveyance and maintain a single hideous landau for equipage of ceremony or state, to make good our loss. But surely we were entitled to common fairness. What a commentary does B. C. S.’s own treatment of this journal supply to his voluble discourse on gratitude! Nor is he the only quarter of which we have to complain. Could there be a worse case of ingratitude than the letter of Senior Chaplain Welbore Macarthy on which we commented last week? The holy man abused us like a—saint and prophet for our very fondness towards one of his own people.

## REIS & RAYYET.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1890.

### THE FLOODS AND THE DISTRESS.

THE floods in the present year are as bad as ever—in some places even unprecedented. By the failure of the great Laltakuri and Rampal bunds, all Moorshedabad and Nuddea are under water. There is extensive distress, but we are happy to observe that, on a prompt appeal from the Missionaries, subscriptions are being collected and relief measures organised to mitigate the distress. The Government officers are also on the alert, and the District Magistrate is taking steps to ascertain the extent of the distress and to apply the need-

ful remedies. The floods in other districts have also more or less damaged the crops on low lands. From the official summary for the week ending the 30th August last, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, it appears that, in addition to the district of Nuddea, injury has been done to the crops by excessive rain in Khulna and Satkhira, while the extent of the loss in Bongong, Jhenida and Magura caused by floods is great. The *aus* crop in the greater part of Bongong has been destroyed. In Moorshedabad, the destruction of both *aus* and *amun* in all the lower tracts is considerable, and the people are much inconvenienced by inundation. According to the official summaries, there is not much distress in this district yet. In Rajshahye, the flood is higher than usual and some injury has been done to the *aus* which could not be cut earlier, while *haimanti* paddy on low lands has also been submerged, but the outlook is yet good if the flood subsides soon. In Pubna, the crops on low lands are lost. The *aus* and jute have suffered from the rapid rise of the rivers in Dacca, and fodder is becoming scarce. There is partial damage also in Furreedpore and Backergunge. The rainfall in Perozpur in the latter district was heavy, and the official estimate of the outturn of crops is 12 annas. Standing crops, though partially damaged, are yet fairly promising. *Amun* seedlings are also damaged, but new sowings have done well. An average crop is expected. The floods in Tipperah are considerable, but there is no serious damage to crops as yet. In Behar, with the exception of a few tracts, the prospect is not good. The *Bhadoi* crop is almost a total failure in Sarun, while in Mozufferpore, although the condition of the rice crop is satisfactory, the floods have damaged the crop in low lands. At the best, a 6 to 8 annas crop is all that is excepted in this district. The prospect is better in Durbhanga, though the inundation has not altogether spared the district. As regards the distress in Sarun, the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his approval of the arrangements already made by Mr. Bourdillon for the organisation of relief in the town of Chupra. For the rest of the district, His Honor recommends prompt measures, saying:—

“In the interior it would appear from the eagerness with which grain sent from Chupra by boat was purchased that there is real distress, which all residents will not be able to provide for by buying grain. The Lieutenant-Governor is, moreover, inclined to doubt whether the mahajans will advance to all rayyets, now that the usual security has disappeared with the loss of the crop on the ground, and also whether all labourers will be supported, as the best of them will doubtless be, by their usual employers. It seems desirable to establish a village agency for ascertaining the facts, and administering relief where necessary; also for co-operating with the officers whom the Collector proposes to depute to examine applications for loans. These may be freely given, where required, up to the amount of the Government grant for the purpose, and the proceeds may without objection be applied to the support of the rayyets, and their cattle. Very small loans may occasionally be made to labourers, on such security as they can offer. The result of the enquiries made by the village agency will indicate how far gratuitous relief is needed; where required it should not be withheld.”

The damage from rain and floods in the Bhagulpore Division if not general, appears to be severe in the Supal sub-division and in parts of Maldah. The *makai* is reported to be a complete failure in parts of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. In Orissa, particularly the Bhudrak sub-division, crops have suffered from insufficient rainfall, and the extent of the distress may be conceived from the fact that 36 relief works had to be taken in hand. Damage has also been done in the Chota Nagpore Division to the Bhadoi crops in Hazaribagh from excessive rain.

The above is the official estimate of the condition of the crops. Private accounts of the distress

caused by the floods in the Eastern Bengal Districts are naturally of a more serious character. It is true popular impressions on such subjects are apt to be exaggerated. Unfortunately, official narratives are not to be implicitly received. Europeans fail to see aright from defect of sympathy and from ignorance of the conditions of existence of a poor Asiatic population, while Natives take their cue from their superiors. To us the official accounts from the East appear very unsatisfactory. Native servants of Government rooted out and swept away from their stations tell a dismal tale. In Northern Tipperah and the neighbouring parts, the cattle have been simply washed away. There is cry for help from all sides, and great are the sufferings of men thrown out of their homes by the inundation. Relief measures on an adequate scale will be promptly provided, particularly for those who have lost their all by these floods—their crops as well as homesteads.

#### MR. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE AS AN EDUCATIONIST.

THE Central Provinces are to be congratulated upon the record of their educational progress. They have struck out a new line and succeeded. Technical education has found a congenial soil and taken root. Under the watchful and sympathetic care of the Chief Commissioner, approved methods of education have met with an encouragement here which is unknown in other parts of the country generally. Mr. Mackenzie had lately an occasion of referring to the work achieved in this direction during the last three years of his administration, and well might he feel proud of that work. It is an honor to his province also to practically head the movement for technical education. It has achieved no mean distinction in having successfully carried out reforms which have yet scarcely emerged from the stage of "talk" elsewhere. With Mr. Mackenzie's pronounced opinions on the subject, our readers must be thoroughly familiar. When those opinions were formally set forth three years ago, in connection with his proposals for the conversion of the Morris College into an institution for Technical instruction, we were obliged to express a strong dissent. While thoroughly realising the great need in these times, for some thorough measures for the encouragement of practical education, we were not prepared for the too drastic scheme of Mr. Mackenzie. We thought his zeal had led him to make a proposal which stood small chance of acceptance from the general public. And we were not mistaken in our anticipations. The suggestion for the abandonment of the Morris College as a College in Arts was received with vehement opposition, and eventually it had to be abandoned. Mr. Mackenzie, however, is still of opinion that it would have been the best thing to adopt the course he recommended but, though he was obliged to give it up, he has not been inactive in promoting the cause he has had so much at heart. With such limited funds as were available, he has, with the cordial co-operation of his Education Department, succeeded in placing Technical education in his territory on a satisfactory footing of efficiency, and his success in this important work ought to stimulate the efforts of other Provincial Governments. His strong determination to advance useful education has removed all difficulties, and the Central Provinces now stand in the enviable position of leading the way in a field of reform in which more favored territories must follow its brilliant example.

The arrangements for the teaching of drawing are not only in a satisfactory state of advance in Colleges, Middle Schools and Normal Schools, but a beginning has already been made in the Primary Schools. Drawing is no doubt, as Mr. Mackenzie says, at the root of all technical education and of especial importance for our youths in bringing their minds in contact with things and not merely with words. It is indeed very gratifying to be told that a greater percentage of lads in these provinces show an aptitude for drawing than is generally met with in English schools. This is no doubt a most encouraging circumstance, justifying Mr. Mackenzie in indulging in the hope that, with the fostering care of his successors and the provision of a steadily advanced technical instruction, the Central Provinces may prove the cradle of a new and better school of Hindu artists and architects.

The steps taken for introducing the Kindergarten system into infant classes, and for recognizing the carpentry classes, also promise to be attended with important results. Mr. Mackenzie speaks with great approval of the improved system of carpentry instruction which is described as follows:—

"The Carpentry Classes, which are I think peculiar to these Provinces, have now been reorganised on the *Slojd* system as modified by Mr. Ricks of the London School Board. They will no longer attempt to teach carpentry as a trade, but will take up the 'hand and eye training' where the Kindergarten system leaves it: and teach the pupils a manual dexterity which may be turned to account in a score of ways after they leave school. 'The principal occupations' (says the Inspector-General, in describing the system) 'are wood-work and modelling in clay and in card-board. The occupations are based on drawing. Every student is required to draw to scale plans of the models to be made, and then to make the models from the drawings. The exercises are progressive. The first exercises in wood-work are done with a knife, and when the student has learnt to cut accurately with that instrument, he is taught the use of tools.' Nothing could be better than this for native lads—and I anticipate great popularity for these classes. I hope to see one attached to every Middle school at least."

Nagpur already boasts of an Agricultural School with a sufficiently comprehensive curriculum of studies, and arrangements are also in contemplation for attaching an agricultural class for teachers to this institution. Provision for the teaching of Physical Science is likewise being advanced by the appointment of itinerant instructors for the teachers of primary schools, by the supply of apparatus, and by the establishment of scholarships. Indeed, there is unmistakable progress in every branch of technical instruction from the highest, such as Law and Engineering, to elementary instruction in the Primary Schools. The Normal Schools have been remodelled, and even drill and gymnastics are now placed under better methods.

The concluding portion of Mr. Mackenzie's speech is a vigorous re-statement of his educational policy. We extract it with pleasure for our readers:—

"The improvement of the Colleges and High Schools must depend entirely upon the action of the Universities. I have only been able in their case to introduce drawing as an optional subject and such an amount of physical science as the University consents to recognise. I must again express my own conviction that the dominating influence of those great bodies has not yet been sufficiently diverted into the channels which would be most beneficial to the country at this stage of its progress. At the outset, when the task was merely to give a general stimulus to Western studies, and to equip the public service and the learned professions with an English-speaking *personnel*, a purely literary education may have been sufficient. But surely it is high time now that the Universities should recognise that what India wants at the present day is industrial and commercial development, and should shape their requirements so as to give due scope for, nay rather should insist upon, the teaching in High Schools and Colleges of something more than a purely literary curriculum (grudgingly supplemented of late by a bare modicum of physical science, and by the establishment of an alternative (B) course which the majority of affiliated institutions appear carefully to avoid.) The Universities in India ought to perform the function of directing and stimulating High Education of all sorts, and ought to fill the place taken in England by South Kensington, the School of Mines, the Owen College and other Institutions of technical training. I say the present policy of the Universities is not only narrow, but is in fact positively mischievous in its results. I am no enemy of culture, no advocate for teaching only bread and butter



ciences. But can any one pretend that the Indian Universities do turn out men of culture? and is not the one idea which their alumni have to secure 'bread and butter' or its Oriental equivalent? What has been the effect up to date of cramming our undergraduates with English poetry and classic prose? of stuffing them with metaphysics and a mutilated system of ethics? We have few native 'captains of labour,' but hundreds of voluble pleaders and platform orators. We see all the great industries of the country for the most part in English hands and carried on with English capital, while our graduates are either starving at an over-crowded Bar or besieging the steps of Government offices. They have schemes by the score for reforming the Empire, but no idea of exploiting and developing its resources. Let us by all means have a good native Bar. An institution which can boast such names as Telang in Bombay, or Romesh Chunder Mitter in Calcutta, and, let me add, as Bipin Krishna Bose in Nagpur, stands in no need of apologist or defender. But surely the Bar is not the only profession outside Government service to which our young men should be shut up. Yet practically this is so at the present time, and the result is that we see the country overrun with half-educated self-styled reformers, who having little of that general knowledge which makes the perfect advocate, find themselves with no prospects at the Bar, and accordingly turn from the Cutcherry to the platform, substitute the newly discovered trade of Delegate for that of Pleader, and inundate the public with torrents of mischievous and frothy declamation. Just as badly digested food evolves flatulence in the stomach, so the badly digested cram of our High Schools and Colleges produces gas on the brain; and for this very prevalent malady in India I fear the University system is to blame. My views may seem to many Philistine, or heterodox, or exaggerated, but they are based at any rate on firm and honest conviction."

### A CRY AGAINST CANINE PERSECUTION IN MANDALAY.

THE *Mandalay Herald* utters a doleful cry. It is in a sad plight, which may any day turn into a mad one. It is the picture of misery—its last issue is the very voice of distress. Our contemporary is the victim of cruel, determined persecution. Unable to help himself, our brother has, in despair, repeatedly made the most piteous and affecting appeals for help to his *guv'nors*—of the city corporation. Alas! the Conscript Fathers of the municipal senate had stuffed their ears against his tale of woe! Knowing no other alternative, he has again sent a shriek. He has represented his case powerfully and brilliantly, and we trust, in compliment to the draughtsman at any rate, if for nothing else, the petition will be heard. Meanwhile, he is passing through a Purgatory before death—with indeed a constant fear of a horrible death. The enemies are formidable for numbers and persistence. They are simply irresistible. Their name is—Legion. And the cry is, still they come! And they all come crying. They multiply with the rapidity of Nature's scavengers in the Tropics. They pursue him night and morning and not silently by any means. The British infantry do not more habitually charge with a tremendous hooray than these attack with their characteristic halloo balloo. Indeed, they are for noise the worst set in the world. They are vagabonds of the worst type. If they want in courage somewhat they make up with cunning. They would enter your kitchen, and if they dared, even your dining-room, and walk off with your leg. They allow him no rest by day or night, being wide-awake. They spoil his best thoughts, disturbing his quiet meditations at dead of night. Sedentary as his pursuits naturally are, they have converted him into a fixture, pinning him to his chair. He is not permitted to take his constitutional. Day is not to be enjoyed on account of their noisy attentions, and night they make perfectly hideous. Wherever he may go, whatever path he may take, they are sure to dog him at every step. They are quite canine, and of no aristocratic sort, in their habits. They are veritable curs—simply Pariahs and Loafers of the species.

If our contemporary will forgive the "chaff," he is a foeman worthy of the steel of the best warrior among them. His vituperative powers are equal to the lungs of their barker-in-chief. In his address to the corporation he says:—

"Have you ever walked down a street of the Town over which you hold civic sway, and when so walking have you ever been followed for several hundred yards by a pack of howling, yelling, yelping, growling, snarling, barking, starving *pariah* dogs; and have these dogs occasionally made a snap at your venerated calves?"

That ought to silence the most determined Bow-wow eloquence. It reminds us of Disraeli the Younger's piling up of verbal castigation on the thin Editor of the *Globe*, for taking up the side of O'Connell in his famous youthful encounter with the Great Agitator.

His canine belligerents, if a generous foe, might compliment the Mandalay editor on his tremendous outcry against them as—

The wolf's long howl from Oonalasca's shore!

We cannot resist the temptation of quoting more:—

"Or have you thrown yourselves into profuse perspiration by wield-

ing a stout walking stick over your heads and shouting, perhaps a little profanely, at a collection of quadrupeds, *cants* who have arranged themselves around you and glare at your extremities, encased in your best inexpressibles, with a hungry eye? Or have you ventured outside of your homes without a walking stick, and being watched and your defenceless position noted by a sneaking brute, who has often probably fed on the refuse from your house, have you been soon the object of interest of a yelping crowd, among whom you dash hither and thither with your arms working like a wind-mill and discharging stones like a catapult? And have you noticed that your betrayer, the brute that collected this yelling pack, has Judas-like sneaked away, after rendering you up to your enemies? Our City Fathers! We have endured this! The adventurous youth, who gazed on Diana in all the charms of her primitive bathing costume, was forthwith turned into a deer and hunted by his own dogs. But we who have never ventured on such sacred ground are yet worried by dogs. And yet the nymphs who display their charms around wells and ponds may like Diana be the cause. The Ancients had dogs to guard the mouth of Hell, and Mandalay—but comparisons are odious. But to return to our muttons, as the French say, and that nation have a happy way of expressing themselves, the *pariah* dogs in Mandalay will, unless their wholesale destruction is at once commenced, be in possession of the town in a few months. Deportation was tried, but although the dogs were sent across to the Sagaing side of the river, many of them managed to get back again. We have recognized a few old friends, or we should say enemies, who had been absent for several months, having probably been ex-patriated, and had returned to their old haunts. A *pariah* dog has the same love of home as a Scotchman."

It seems the authorities once deported them *en masse*, but to no purpose. After a few months, the cunning rascals contrived to come back—without any ticket.

This anticanine complaint is always the *bagatelle* that comfortable men are apt to think it. The inimitable Mogul historian of India Nawab Gholam Hossein Khan gravely narrated the inroads of dogs in Lahore as a great calamity. If there is no mistake in the text, it seems to have been a serious affair. Of course, we know nothing of the Mandalay nuisance. Europeans are apt to magnify these things. How they all talk of the dogs in Constantinople and other cities!

### THE LITERATURE OF INDIAN LADIES.

It is worth noticing that while the mushroom University of Calcutta, not forty years old, already confers degrees on Blue-stockings, the University of Cambridge, over which the goddess of learning has presided for centuries, should even in this radical age, when women's rights and liberties are not only being freely discussed everywhere but receiving perhaps more than their legitimate share of recognition at the hands of the sterner sex, not be able to make up its mind for the same reform. Miss Fawcett, although she obtained more than 200 marks than the Senior Wrangler, will not be called so, even though she happens to be an English woman in her native country. Our women, therefore, ought to be thankful for their advantage. Although born in a subject country, they are in many ways better off than their sisters in England. For, have we not B. A.'s and M. A.'s among our girls? But India, at all events Bengal, will not stop there. Onward we are marching with all the serious zeal and the patient toil of schoolboys bent on a holiday excursion, nobody knowing whither we are bound for, or where we are to stop, disregarding counsel and ignoring difficulties. The careful observer of men and manners cannot fail to be struck with the changes that are almost daily taking place around and among us, in all directions and in all sorts of ways, especially those affecting our womankind. Shades of Kháná, Bidyoddamá, Atreyi, revisit these shores again, and see for yourselves what you were and what your sisters of the present age are! Your learning, your poetry, your mathematics, your astronomy, your thorough Aryan mind, have all undergone a complete change of front and aspect through which you many find it difficult to recognise their identity. The nation that once heard your songs with rapt attention, or admired your solutions of intricate mathematical problems, has passed away. Western education, Western culture, Western thought and Western enlightenment have invaded the country and are gradually pervading it from corner to corner. And the cry is for more. Whether we like it or no, such is the fact. It is foolish to try to stem the current of events. Change is the primary law of Nature, and change there will be. We must content ourselves with what we have, with the present, and not pine over, much less struggle to restore "The dead past," as Longfellow calls it, following the same poet's precept:—

"Act, act, in the living present,  
Heart within and God o'er head."

So, even the degrees, the academic distinctions which are denied to her sister in England, will not stop our lady graduate. From learning to teaching is but a step. They must write—and not write only but publish: they that sing at home will soon sing in public. They must tread on the footsteps of Ouida, Eliza Cook, George Elliot, and Felicia Hemans. They must not only produce novels and poems and issue books and *brochures* with male help,

but they must edit magazines also. They do not content themselves with discarding the Zenana, but they also play tennis, run, dance, and what is more, ride too.

It cannot be denied that woman in Bengal is already on the high road to distinction in the sphere of letters. She has not only a separate literature for the sex but is ambitious of taking part in the literature of, and for, man, that is literature irrespective of sex. The *Bharati*, a high class Bengali magazine, is for the last dozen years being with great success edited by Srimati Sarna Kumari Devi. This accomplished lady is also the author of several meritorious works of fiction, like *Deep Nirvana* and others. But by far the best book as yet written by a Bengali lady is a collection of poems just published under the title of "Alo-o-chhaya," (Light and Shade.) It is introduced to the Bengali reading public with a prefatory note from Babu Hem Chunder Bannerjee, whose fame as a poet is considerable. Babu Hem Chunder speaks very highly of the fair author, and speaks of some of her poems as probably unrivalled. The authoress has very wisely or probably unwisely, withheld her name from the title page, but we do not think we betray any confidence when we say that she is Miss Kamini Sen, B.A., who obtained Honors in Sanskrit. Her language is chaste and elegant, but sometimes she is very mystical. With a heart full to overflowing of youthful feeling and pathos, she possesses the pleasing art of presenting with marked effectiveness purely oriental thoughts clothed in occidental garb. Her poems are generally the outcome of deep and serious thinking. Her book gives clear evidence of her close intimacy with Sanskrit literature, and a still closer insight into the speculative side of the Hindu mind in all its mysterious aspects. We recommend the public to read this book carefully, for it will amply repay such reading. There is yet another little book just published, which deserves special mention here. It bears the somewhat queer name of *Pramila* and is a collection of short poems occasionally written for the magazines. Here also the proverbial modesty, we will not say timidity, of the Hindu lady stands in the way of her openly and bravely coming forward before the public. We are told that the fair author is a lady of a very tender age, daughter of a Kayastha gentleman of the Bose clan, and bears the same name as her book. Some of her poems are very good indeed. Full of a sweet pathos, as they are, they will wring admiration from the most confirmed *Nil admirari* cynic. Her poems are clothed in very simple language, and lay bare a heart rich in tenderness. The pieces entitled "Biphale"—"Smriti"—"Ki Tumi"—"Deko ma amare"—will bear comparison with many much admired poems. Miss Bose has not, it is true, the erudition of Miss Sen, but she has equally broad sympathies. "Sayi Hashi" which is after Moore's "one dear smile" breathes a tone of deep despondency which is somewhat unnatural in a girl of her years. "Taba Kano" is a patriotic song, and may with great advantage be recited at the sittings of our Congress. We have always praise ready for those who really deserve it. It is therefore a very pleasing duty to us to be able to review favorably this little brochure. We hope more such books will gradually see the light, and pray that the young authoress of this one may live long to earn still higher laurels!

S. M.

#### THE MOHURRUM DISTURBANCE AT MOORSHEDABAD.

Now that reports of ill-feeling between the Hindus and Mahomedans are being received from all parts of the country, an extraordinary and interesting item of news has fallen to the lot of this city to supply. Your readers are well aware that this city being for a long time the seat of the Mahomedan Government of Bengal has a very large Mahomedan population wherein the *Shias*—the descendants of the successive Nawabs Nazim and their retainers—form the most predominant element, though in number they are only a "small minority." The most important festival of the Mahomedans "The Mohurram" is consequently performed here with uncommon grandeur and pomp. It is a public Mahomedan festival, but the manner of observing it is different with each sect. The *Shias*, while they join in mourning the untimely death and offering prayers for the departed souls of their deceased Imams Hassen and Hossein, are further required to make certain formalities in outer manifestation of their grief, which the *Sunnis* highly resent. There is another custom which has received the sanction of the *Shia* Scriptures, which enforces on all true believers and mourners the sacred duty of imprecating curses on the enemies of their Imams, as also upon all infidels who were in any way connected with the murder of their martyrs. Such is the strict injunction of the saints that without this the ceremony is considered incomplete. This practice is generally known as *Tuburrah*. The *Tuburrah* in its viler form is objectionable to the *Sunnis*, for it is only the abuse of their Caliphs. Ever since the establishment\* of this city, the reigning families having been *Shias*, this obnoxious privilege has always

been enjoyed by the *Shias* without any the slightest interruption by the other sect. There is however an isolated instance of disturbance which took place in 1840, in the time of the late Nawab Nazim Humayoon Jah, the grandfather of the present Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad, when the pronouncing of the *Tuburrah* was strongly opposed by a body of *Afghans*, resulting in bloodshed. About three to four hundred persons were severely injured on the affray, and both the sects were bound down to keep the peace in the occasion of the succeeding festival. Later on in 1870, one Syed Ali tried but failed to disturb the ceremony, and the man was prosecuted and punished for his rash attempt. It was only four years ago that the ember of hostility was first propagated by the unmannerly conduct during the Mohurram of one individual menial *Shia* Mahomedan of the name of Ali Jan. The fire could not spread on account of the excellent arrangements of the Police and the preventive measures adopted by the Nawab Bahadur. The year before last a public notice was issued and circulated by His Highness prohibiting the *Tuburrah*. This was indeed an ill advised step inasmuch as it displeased the entire *Shia* community on the one hand and gave opportunity and license to the *Sunnis* on the other hand to take advantage of even the slightest plea to make a riot. The *Shias* could not brook the disgrace any more. Some of the brothers of the Nawab Bahadur determined at any risk to revive this year the *Tuburrah* and thus no more to suffer their festival remain in an incomplete state. The news spread like wildfire among the *Sunni* population who began immediately to hold meetings for its suppression. They applied for and obtained an injunction from the District Magistrate against the renewal of a practice which tended to cause a breach in the public peace. They were further emboldened by the fine position in which they were placed for they expected countenance in all their doings from the police and executive authorities of the Subdivision who fortunately for them belonged to their own sect. They also thought that the Nawab Bahadur's notice was favorable to them and that therefore no better opportunity could occur to give a deathblow to the pretensions of the *Shias*. Exalted by such hopes, they went out on the morning of Wednesday the 27th instant, when all the *Tazias* (paper coffins) were being carried in procession to Kerbala for interment, fully armed with sticks, lances and bamboos, presumably with the object of making a riot should a suitable opportunity occur. Finding that all the grand processions had managed well and were strong enough against their attack, they pursued the *Tazia* of Shahibzada Fyazuddin Ali Saheb which was accompanied by the Subdivisional officer himself. They were timely noticed by the *Shias* and requests were made to the authorities to disperse them. The entreaties of the Subdivisional officer pressing them to retire, and his assurance that there was nothing objectionable in the proceedings of the *Shias*, proved futile. The fanaticism of the mob heeded him not. The *Sunnis* began to enter the procession with shoes on, to fling stones, shoes and bamboos on the *aulums* (silver crescents) and to shower abuses on the *Shias*. Thus provoked, the *Shias* who were unarmed snatched away sticks from the *Sunnis*, took possession of the branches of the trees on the way and commenced to face the intruders. The Subdivisional officer, the European police inspector and others in charge of the procession were hurt. The lower police officers, most of whom were *Sunnis*, instead of trying to restore peace and order became themselves a party with the aggressors. The disturbance ended on the approach of the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Kilby, with a detachment of police, when several arrests were made of men of both parties. Charges and counter-charges were preferred. The accused were subsequently enlarged on bail. Great sensation prevails in the city. The disturbance would have taken a formidable shape had it not been for the influence of the Nawab Bahadur who prevailed upon his brothers and the prominent members of his family to keep themselves away from the procession. It is rumoured that counsel will be brought from Calcutta to conduct the case here before the District Magistrate. The *Sunnis*, it is said, will be helped with men and money by a Mahomedan Zemindar of this district who, as the rumour runs, was especially brought here on the occasion of the Mohurram to give the *Sunnis* his support and strength.

A case of murder by a woman of the lower class is reported from Jiaganj. She, it is said, was not on good terms with her husband who used to tyrannise over her. She contemplated therefore to kill herself by drowning and thinking that her death will cause extreme pain to her son and daughter, resolved first to take their lives by administering opium. Her motives were discovered when she was about to drown herself. She was rescued, and her children who were then in a precarious state taken to hospital for treatment. The boy and girl expired after a few hours, and she is now in the hand of the police awaiting her trial.

The Laltakuri and Rampal embankments have given way and the Eastern part of the district is now wholly under water. The river is consequently at a stand still.

R. D.

Moorshedabad, the 31st August 1890.

\* Was Nawab Jafer Khan who founded Moorshedabad a *Shiah*?  
—Ed. R. & R.

## CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

THE Commissioners of Calcutta have resolved to offer to the holders of the 6 per cent. Municipal loan of 1st December 1870 for Rs. 3,00,000, falling due on the 1st December next, the option of exchanging such debentures to the extent of Rs. 2,64,000 for 5 per cent. debentures of a new Municipal loan to be raised this year 1890, and having a currency of 30 years.

The rate for the exchange is fixed at a premium of Rs. 4 per cent. on the amount of the 5 per cent. debentures that may be allotted to them.

As the amount of the 5 per cent. loan available for transfer is Rs. 2,64,000 only, it will be understood that the full amount of the 6 per cent. debentures, namely, Rs. 3,00,000, cannot be exchanged.

Holders of the 6 per cent. debentures desirous of effecting transfers, should communicate their wish in a letter to reach the Secretary to the Corporation on or before the 30th September next.

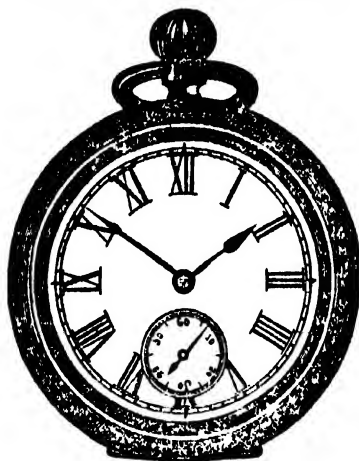
Such portion of the 6 per cent. debentures as may not be exchanged, will be repaid in cash on application on or after the 29th November 1890. Interest on these debentures will cease on the 30th November 1890.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.  
MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
Calcutta, 22nd August 1890.

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## CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

## NOTICE.

THE Senate will proceed, in the month of March 1891, to the election of a Tagore Professor of Law for the term of one year, to commence on the 1st of November 1891.

The salary of the Professorship is Rs. 10,000 per annum, and the Professor will be expected to deliver a course of not less than twelve lectures upon one of the following subjects:—

- (1) The Law relating to Damages.
- (2) The Law of Estoppel in British India.
- (3) The Mahomedan Law relating to Marriage, Dower, Divorce, Legitimacy and Guardianship of Minors according to the Sunnis.
- (4) The Mahomedan Law relating to Marriage, Dower, Divorce, Legitimacy and Guardianship of Minors according to the Shi'ahs.

Candidates for the Professorship are requested to forward their applications to the Registrar on or before the 1st of January 1891, and at the same time to state on which of the abovementioned four subjects they are prepared to lecture.

A. M. NASH, *Offr. Registrar.*  
Senate House, the 2nd September 1890.

## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lall Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Wednesday the 17th day of September next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate:—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed messuage tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and butted and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Muktarām Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring 9½ cottas more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonnee Dass on the North by the public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydyā Nath Ooriya and Nilmonnee ssDa.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottas 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built messuage tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottas more or

less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Burrall and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.  
Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.

## KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund:—

	Rs.
Pheroza Shah M. Mehta, Esq., Bombay	100
Babu Krishna Behary Sen, Calcutta...	10
Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, Calcutta	2
A Zoroastrian, Calcutta	5
Babu Ram Gopal Sanyal, Calcutta	2
Kabiraj Abinash Chunder Kaivratna, Calcutta	2
Framji Mancherji, Esq., Calcutta	251
Kumar Benoy Krishna, Calcutta	100
A Bengali Friend, Calcutta	5
Babu Gopal Chunder Mukerji, Editor <i>Sungbad Probhakar</i> , Calcutta	5
Babu Radna Nath Sen, Calcutta	2
Dinshaw Edulji Wacha, Esq., Bombay	25
Kahanrai Hakaimutrai Desai, Esq., Broach	100
S. C. Kaye, Calcutta	10
An Admirer, Calcutta	2
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Lala Bansa Gopal Nande Saheb, Burdwan	500
The Star Theatre	51
Baboo S. K. Lahiri, Calcutta	5
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The Ghattal Bar, through Baboo Sharoda P. Ghose, Ghattal	10
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Shib Chunder Sen, Calcutta	2
Moharam Surnomoyi, C.I., Cossimbazar	100
Yor, Calcutta	2
Raja Sir Sourendra Mohun Tagore, C.I.E., Kt.	50
Baboo Gopal Dass Roy Chowdhry, Calcutta	10
Further subscriptions may be sent to the <i>Indian Mirror</i> Office, 74, Dhurumtola Street, Calcutta, and will be duly acknowledged as received.	

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THE  
EMPRESS OF INDIA COTTON MILLS  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

Proceedings of the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Half-yearly General Meeting of Shareholders of the Empress of India Cotton Mills Company, Limited, held at the Registered Office of the Company, No. 55, Canning Street, Calcutta, at 9 P. M., on Saturday the 30th August 1890.

PRESENT:

D. B. Mehta, Esq., in the Chair.  
Algernon Watkins, Esq.  
P. E. Guzdar, Esq.  
G. C. Farr, Esq.  
Jetha Jaichund, Esq.  
Baboo Goury Sunker Tewary.  
" Mohun Loll.  
D. C. Sethna, Esq.  
Mahomed Hujee Abdool Wahed, Esq.  
R. D. Mehta, Esq.

The Advertisement convening the Meeting having been read, and the Directors' Report and Accounts circulated among the Shareholders being taken as read, the following Resolution was proposed:—

Proposed by D. B. Mehta, Esq.,  
Seconded by Algernon Watkins, Esq.—

That the Directors' Report be adopted, and that the Accounts for the Half-year ending 30th June 1890, as audited and circulated to the Shareholders, be also adopted and passed as correct, and that the Balance at the credit of Profit and Loss Account, viz: Rs. 5,985-3-6 be carried forward to the current half-year.

Carried unanimously.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting separated.

D. B. MEHTA,  
Chairman.

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TRAVELS & VOYAGES IN BENGal

BETWEEN  
Calcutta and Independent Tipperah,

BY

SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

Formerly Minister to the late

NAWAB FARIDOON JAH BAHADOOR,  
(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Behar,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of Reis and Rayyet, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridoon Jah, Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

# BEECHAM'S

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This Company's Steamer "PUNJAB" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 9th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 6th instant.

**CACHAR LINE.**

The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 16th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 13th instant. The river having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Cachar.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1890.

No. 441

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE HIGHWAY COW.

The hue of her hide was dusky brown,  
Her body was lean and her neck was slim,  
One horn turned up and the other turned down,  
She was keen of vision and long of limb ;  
With a Roman nose and a short stump tail,  
And ribs like the hoops on a home-made pail.

Many a mark did her body bear :  
She had been a target for all things known ;  
On many a scar the dusky hair  
Would grow no more where it once had grown ;  
Many a passionate, parting shot  
Had left upon her a lasting spot.

Many and many a well-aimed stone,  
Many a brickbat of poodly size,  
And many a cudgel swiftly thrown,  
Had brought the tears to her loving eyes,  
Or had bounded off from her bony back  
With a noise like the sound of a rifle crack.

Many a day had she passed in the pound  
For helping herself to her neighbour's corn ;  
Many a cowardly cur and hound  
Had been transfixed on her crumpled horn ;  
Many a teapot and old tin pail  
Had the farmer boys tied to her time-worn tail.

Old Deacon Gray was a pious man,  
Though sometimes tempted to be profane  
When many a weary mile he ran  
To drive her out of his growing grain.  
Sharp were the pranks she used to play  
To get her fill and to get away.

She knew when the Deacon went to town ;  
She wisely watched him when he went by ;  
He never passed her without a frown,  
And an evil gleam in each angry eye ;  
He would crack his whip in a surly way,  
And drive along in his "one-hoss shay."

Then at his homestead she loved to call,  
Lifting his bars with crumpled horn ;  
Nimbly scaling his garden wall,  
Helping herself to his standing corn ;  
Eating his cabbages, one by one,  
Hurrying home when her work was done.

His human passions were quick to rise,  
And striding forth with a savage cry,

With fury blazing from both his eyes,  
As lightnings flash in a summer sky.  
Redder and redder his face would grow,  
And after the creature he would go.

Over the garden, round and round,  
Breaking his pear and apple trees ;  
Trampling his melons into the ground ;  
Overturning his hives of bees,  
Leaving him angry and badly stung,  
Wishing the old cow's neck was wrung.

The mosses grew on the garden wall ;  
The years went by with their work and play ;  
The boys of the village grew strong and tall,  
And the gray-haired farmers passed away  
One by one as the red leaves fall,  
But the highway cow outlived them all.

## SUGGESTIONS.

HAPPY is the life of married people when,  
She's the best of wives and he's the best of men.

When Adam first met Eve,  
And Eve met Ad,  
They never could believe  
Each other bad.

She was never cross and never had cold feet ;  
He would never wink at the girls across the street.

He never sassed her ma ;  
And held his tongue,  
The best you ever saw  
For one so young.

So you young beginners, starting out in life.

Kittie with her husband, Tom with such a wife,  
If always to agree  
You truly try,  
You'll take the cake, and be  
As good as pie.

H. A. FREEMAN.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment* exert a rapidly favourable effect in all those diseases which are induced by exposure to damp or by great changes in temperature. They will therefore be found eminently serviceable to those who work in iron foundries, copper mines and collieries. These well-known remedies present manifest advantages in respect of use and effectiveness, being entirely compounded of vegetable drugs selected with the greatest care and regardless of price. When used in accordance with the ample printed directions which accompany them, they act surely but mildly, and do not interfere with the daily work. There are but few diseases which are not capable of cure—or, at all events, of great relief—if Holloway's remedies are perseveringly used.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

LORD Lansdowne, we are glad to find, has shaken off the fever he contracted from a sudden change of climate on his return from Pangti to Simla. He is no longer confined to his room but takes carriage exercise. The Viceroy starts on his winter tour towards the end of October, leaving Simla on the 21st. He visits Patiala, Nabha, Ulwar, Ajmere, Oodeypore, Jodhpur, Mount Abu, Jeypore, Delhi, Agra, Bhurtore, Deeg, and Benares. The viceregal party is timed for Calcutta on Tuesday, the 9th December.

WE are really sorry to find that the Maharaja of Durbhanga who has been suffering more or less from, if we mistake not, the last year, is not restored to his previous health. He had been making a rather long stay at Calcutta from the beginning of this year for treatment. He had improved somewhat under Dr. Coates, then Principal of the Medical College, and gone home. But he seems to have relapsed there, and now it is announced that he has been advised to take a thorough change. The conditions of living imposed by his religion—to which he is staunch—make a sea voyage out of the question for him. He therefore goes to the hills, taking up his residence at Simla.

WE are glad to announce that the Ameer-i-Kabeer of the Deccan is all right now and will in about two weeks leave for Seronungur. He had come to his town residence to take part in the Mohurum ceremonies but fell ill and remained so all the time, attended by the old Sawbones of Calcutta who has managed to become the Hunter and Sydenham and Lister and Simpson combined of that place.

NAWAB Intesar Jung, the Revenue Secretary to the Nizam's Government, has offered to retire on pension.

THE High Court goes into the Long Vacation next week on the 17th. With the closing of the Court, the Officiating Justices Messrs. R. F. Rampini, H. W. Gordon and C. H. Hill go back to their old places, the Judges for whom they have been acting being due here at the reopening of the Court. The Hon'ble Messrs. Prinsep and Wilson have been told off as Vacation Judges.

THE time of Raja Durga Churn Law and Syed Ameer Hossein is up in the Viceroy's Legislative Council. The latter has served two terms and it is time for another competent Mahomedan. Who succeeds him?

THE Government of India has allotted a lac of rupees this year for camps of exercise and divisional manœuvres.

NEXT November, there will be a Camp of Exercise in the neighbourhood of Attock. The Northern or Peshawar force will attack and the Rawalpindi defend. The former will be formed of a battery of horse artillery, two field and three mountain batteries, 1,500 native cavalry, two battalions of British infantry, seven native infantry regiments and a company of sappers, or a total of about 9,000 men. The defending force will be only 8,000 men—or one horse, one field and two mountain batteries, one British and two native cavalry regiments, three and a half battalion of British infantry, four native infantry regiments and a company of sappers.

It has been arranged that

"When a soldier or small party of soldiers are ordered to travel by rail the officer who issues the railway warrant will also attach coupons thereto, at the rate of two coupons for each day the man travels. They will be of the value of six annas each, and upon presentation at any refreshment-room will entitle the man to a plate of meat, a pound of bread and a pint of tea or coffee. The railway authorities will take over the coupons and deal with them in audit as cash vouchers."

It is reported from Madras that

"The Secretary of State has revised the rules regarding the acceptance of fees by public officers. The rules cover the cases of honoraria from funds controlled by the Government and the acceptance of fees by Government servants from persons or bodies over whose funds the Government has no control. They also confer larger powers on Local Governments and the Government of India as regards sanctioning rewards from public revenues."

MADRAS is truly benighted as regards Tea. In 1889, there were only 110 tea gardens with a total acreage of 7,271, including 4,589 under mature plants. The total outturn weighed 8,84,916 pounds.

THE breaks in the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway have been made up and thorough communication restored on the line for passengers, luggage, parcels and goods. Since the 4th, on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, trains are also running as usual, the breach between Lucknow and Cawnpore having been repaired. On the Eastern Bengal Railway, at Bagola, passengers are still transhipped, but the piers of the bridge have been shored up with metalling which has been found to stand the strain of more than ordinary traffic. Thorough traffic will be restored next week.

ON the 3rd, a native powder factory at Gujrat was blown off, killing eight persons. It appears a large quantity of sulphur, while being ground in a handmill, caught fire through friction.

AN extensive forgery of counterfeit rupee and postage stamps has been traced out in Bombay. The imitation of stamps was so perfect that but for the water mark, it could not be detected. A London collector first suspected the fraud.

ONE Chhedi, a Khatri and a budmash, and Anuntu, a mali in the Maharaja's employ, with three others are being tried for attempting the murder of the Benares Dewan, Baleswar Prasad. It has transpired in the enquiry by the Magistrate Mr. James White, that Baboo Ram Padarat Singh, one of the close attendants of the Maharaja, had employed the men, to revenge himself on the Dewan for depriving him of his perquisites. He has therefore been arrested and charged with abetment of the offence. The Dewan has taken fright and is now protected by a special guard of one head constable, ten constables and one sowar. The Ramnagar police has also been replaced by a fresh body.

CAPTAIN Norman *alias* Nelson, an ex-officer in Her Majesty's service, is wanted in Bombay. He purchased jewellery from two shops to the value of Rs. 2,000 promising payment by cheques. But no cheques were drawn or offered and he left Bombay the same day without payment. Warrants are out for his apprehension at Suez.

ON the prosecution of the Board of Trade, the Bow-street Magistrate fined the Captain of the Glen Rosa steamer of the Victoria Steamboat Company £15 and 1s. for each of the 307 persons in excess of his proper number carried from London to South-end, on a Bank holiday. We believe a Bank holiday in England is equivalent to a "public holiday" in India under the Negotiable Instruments Act. But public holidays are at a discount in this country. They are not scrupulously kept, and yet Government fights shy of allowing the full term.

THE Deputy Magistrate of Howrah, Baboo C. N. Chatterjee, has fined a groom Khagoo Chamar Rs. 10 with the alternative of 15 days' imprisonment, for wrongful restraint of H. A. B. Evatt, of Ghosery. While Evatt was leaving his house in his dog cart, the groom who had left the service that day, rushed up and seized hold of the reins, demanding instant payment of the wages due. A policeman came up and removed Khagoo. There the matter would in most cases have ended, but Evatt would not, could not leave it there. He had probably reason to fear of being stopped on the Queen's highway. So he submitted to the lesser evil of appearing in Court on the same level with his native groom as a complainant against him. The Baboo Magistrate was no doubt shocked at the audacity of the fellow in defying Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights and the Habeas Corpus Act and the rest of it, and convicted the unspeakable Khagoo. So far so good, and we trust the injured spirit of Britannia has been appeased. But then what about the poor man's wages? We hope the master will be generous enough not to drive him to Court.

For the rest, impertinent boldness of menial servants seems a growing feature of modern life in Calcutta—European or Native.

Relying on the welcome of the petty Courts, they rush at once to them without waiting for their dues from their masters. It is very rarely, however, that they take the law in their own hands.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE American merchants have joined the English Shipowners in their movement against labour strikes.

The Australian Steamship Companies have been enabled to resume the service along the coast with freemen. For molesting the freemen, several Unionists have been fined or imprisoned. With that news is coupled the disagreeable intelligence of the refusal of 9,000 employees to work the Broken Hills mines.

There was a strike in England too at Southampton. On the 9th, the striking dockers and coalheavers attacked the blacklegs and barred their access to the docks. The police being powerless to restore order, half a battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment was called in from Gosport, who cleared the approaches to the docks with the fire hose. This enraged the strikers the more, and later on they attacked the troops with stones, breaking the nose of Lieutenant Abercrombie and otherwise injuring two privates. The Mayor appealed to the Riot Act which was read. This only drew a volley of stones on his premises from the infuriated mob. The disturbance could only be quelled by repeated bayonet charges and by wounding many of the crowd. To prevent repetition of disorderly scenes, 250 more soldiers were brought in. Gun-boats patrolled the harbour to prevent picketing. The dock approaches and other points were in military occupation. This continued for 2 or 3 days. The mutineers finding that the London executive condemned their action and refused to support them, have now submitted, and are anxious to resume work. At any rate, the town is quiet. There have been 26 arrests.

THE King of Portugal who had been suffering from typhoid fever has been pronounced out of danger.

THREE British officers have been stabbed by some Spaniards at a picnic on Spanish soil near Gibraltar. The wounds are not serious. They fell out on some financial question.

THE Emperor Francis Joseph has decreed the outlay of two million florins for repairs of the damage done by the floods at Prague and the relief of the sufferers.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire has laid waste 250 acres at Salonica. No water being available, it raged for full 24 hours, destroying the consulates, mosques, churches, hospitals and most valuable archives.

THE Indian pilgrims to Mecca have been brought back to Bombay. They were in quarantine at Camaran since July 3, and were not permitted to land at Jeddah. They suffered the greatest privation having run out of their provisions and money and as many as 150 of their fellow pilgrims died.

WITH the return of the Prodigal Dhulip to England, the hope of the Sikh refugees—the sons of the late Sirdar Thakur Singh, Dhulip's chief agent in India—at Pondicherry have revived. They too have applied to the Government of India for pardon.

THE criminal sessions was opened on Monday week by Mr. Justice Prinsep, C. S. That duty is no longer restricted to Barrister Judges, though no Native Judge has yet presided. It is no doubt feared—not without very good reason—that the natives might make a mess of it, but that fear might be dismissed since Brother Wilson is at hand to save them from any *contresens*.

R. H. D'Cruz charged with attempting to murder his wife Wilhelmina and with voluntarily causing her grievous hurt, was found guilty on the second count only and sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

IT was a bloody Sessions marked by Draconian severity against petty vermin.

A pick-pocket, an old offender, for theft of 4 annas, was ordered four years' rigorous imprisonment and a whipping of thirty stripes!

Another old offender for house-breaking and petty theft received five years and whipping with 30 stripes!

A third old offender—a Bengali—for wresting a gold mohur attached to the watch chain of a Mahomedan, at the Registrar's sale in the Court premises, was sentenced to 8 years' hard labour! He was spared the flogging.

IN the Connaghur "Ghat Murder" case, Womesh Chunder Ghose was indicted for murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, causing death by doing a rash and negligent act of and grievous hurt to Chamatkaree. When he was sent up he was on bail, but the bail was withdrawn for the charges added at the office of the Clerk of the Crown. The same barrister who defended Harimohan Maiti defended Womesh Chunder Ghose. In the present case, out of the nine jurors, eight were Bengalis. Eight European jurors were challenged on behalf of the prisoner. The trial lasted two days—Tuesday and Wednesday. We give below the address of the Judge to the Jury:—

"His lordship summed up at considerable length. He said that it had given him particular satisfaction to find that the jury was composed almost entirely of Hindoo gentlemen, who devoted much care and attention to the hearing of the case, and whose education and intelligence and high social position would enable them to give a verdict such as would satisfy the ends of the case. It was hardly necessary for his lordship to go at any length through the evidence after the careful way in which it had been laid before them by the counsel for the prisoner, who had said everything that might have been said. Nevertheless he would trouble them with a brief statement of the evidence so as to enable them to arrive at a verdict on the facts disclosed. His lordship then gave a history of the case. There was evidence that before the removal of the woman to the ghât the prisoner was advised to take her to hospital, and to one of the witnesses he said that she did not like to go to the Medical College Hospital, but wished to be taken to the river-side as she was dying. The jury had to consider first of all whether that statement had been made, and next as to what effect it had upon the mind of the prisoner. They had also to decide whether they believed that that wish was ever expressed by the woman. On this point they had the evidence of one witness, who said that he had heard from the prisoner that she had made this statement. Then there was the evidence of the two women who were living in the same house with the deceased. They said that they heard from the outside the deceased make this statement. His lordship asked the jury to consider whether it was possible for the woman being in that condition to speak in a voice which could be heard from outside. But if they did believe the statement was made, they must consider how far it had any effect upon the prisoner in removing her. They had the fact that no medical aid was given to the unfortunate woman up to the time she was taken to the ghât. Considering the circumstances under which she was taken to the ghât, was there any necessity for taking her in such a hurry without any preparation, and without seeing whether the *gungabasi* house was in a proper state to receive her? There was no necessity of taking her there in such a hurry, and keeping her under a tree for several hours. The medical evidence showed conclusively that she died from neglect in consequence of her treatment before she was brought to the Eden Hospital. The jury had to consider what was the real object of the prisoner in taking her to the ghât when she was in the point of childbirth. The evidence showed that she had been living openly with the prisoner, and the jury had to consider whether the scandal arising from the report of this illicit intimacy could not have been aggravated by the fact of the birth of the child, and whether the prisoner was not therefore interested in endeavouring to conceal the birth, and whether that might not have been one of his objects for removing her to the ghât, and whether also that might not have been one of the reasons for his not calling medical attendance to ascertain the cause of her sickness and to give her relief. It was clear that the prisoner was accelerating the woman's death by keeping her at the *gungabasi* house, and that he did not do his best to attend to her comforts. His lordship in conclusion asked the jury to consider the charge of having caused her death by a rash and negligent act, which did not amount to murder."

The Jury retired for 38 minutes and returned a unanimous verdict of guilty on the charge of causing death by negligence. The Judge then sentenced the accused to two years' rigorous imprisonment—the full term allowed by the law. Let no one be sorry that the brutal man has been overtaken by his just reward. He was base enough to destroy the woman whom he pretended to love and whose virtue he had robbed, and his own child by her. If he did not stab or poison he employed killing neglect against his innocent victims. Surely, the law will not allow

*Negligent use of concubine or bride.*

THE Chartered Bank Fraud case has, on the opposition of the defending counsel Mr. Jackson, been broken up into two separate trials against the father and the son. He pointed out last week that the lumping of charges, that is, the inclusion of the various sums in one charge, was against law and that the ends of justice would be defeated as the accused would be prejudiced if tried together. This was allowed by the presiding Judge on the advice of Mr. Wilson—now the recognized Gamaliel of the Bench—who had been consulted. The trial of the father Shama Churn Sen, the cashier, commenced on Monday



and is still proceeding. Twelve lacs of rupees are unaccounted for in the books of the bank in the course of eight years. Attempts had been made to hush up the matter, the cashier agreeing to pay 5 lacs provided he was fully released. The negotiations, however, fell through, and criminal proceedings were commenced against Aubinash the son and Shama Churn the father.

THE prosecution of the *Tribune* has commenced at the Lahore magistracy. \* Mr. Warburton, late District Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, has charged Babu Sitala Kanta Chatterjee, Editor, Ahmed Ali, Printer, and Sirdar Dayal Singh Gil Majhitiah, Proprietor, of the paper with having defamed him in successive issues. The proceedings are voluminous, but the most important fact may be separated. The editor offered a full apology for what had appeared in the paper regarding the mother of the prosecutor but for nothing else—a crime for which we expect the right reverend man of the *East* to croak against his fallen brother in the West. Mr. Warburton, as a full blooded Afghan as he confessed himself, was not to be so easily appeased. He would leave to the Court to deal with the apology as the Magistrate thought best in mitigation of punishment. A second prosecution for libel arising out of the same matter but against a different person—though not a lot—has cropped up. In the course of his examination, the editor mentioned the name of his correspondent. Mr. Warburton took advantage of the opportunity and has obtained a summons against Mr. Buchanan, a schoolmaster of Gujrat, for defamation.

ONE of the latest instructions of Government regarding the census is, that the return should shew the occupation of workers and in the case of non-workers that of the person who supports them. This instruction does not include persons who do not work but enjoy independent means.

ACCORDING to the Calcutta Noter of the *Indian Planters' Gazette*, Mr. Justice Norris has been offered the chance of immortality as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the coming Congress. For once the learned gentleman hesitates. He has taken time to think.

In another note, the writer says:—

"It is said that the Government of India was much displeased at such a telegram (he sent home before the meeting held by the delegates at Cardiff, announcing his support of such views) having been sent by a Judge of the High Court, and that a communication to that effect was sent to the Chief Justice. Sir Conner Petheram, however, if report speaks truly, vigorously took up the cudgels in defence of Mr. Norris, and the right of the judges in general to express any political opinions which they might hold, so long as they were not opposed to the authority of the Government. This, I am told, has produced another letter from the Government of India, and as the feud between the Government of India and the High Court is one of very long standing, though they mutually express the highest respect and esteem for one another, the correspondence, I understand, is not as yet finished."

Perhaps, that accounts for the hesitation.

THE Bombay Legislature must be more knowing than experts. It is well-known that the medical faculty throughout the world are not agreed as to the contagiousness of leprosy. If anything, the weight of opinion is against the alarmist view. The Legal Remembrancer of the Western Presidency is, however, of opinion that the Bombay Act VI of 1867 has declared the disease infectious and dangerous to life and health, and that, under the said Act, the leper is liable to compulsory removal to sanatoria. It was just the interpretation after the heart of his Chiefs, and we shall not be surprised to see the smart man quickly receiving a lift over the heads of half a dozen seniors. The Bombay Government has now found its way clear, and with a view to encourage segregation—the rage of the hour—has instructed the Presidency Magistrates to deal with the lepers according to the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer. We hope the Bombay Magistrates will examine the law for themselves before depriving any leper of his liberty. What is the Advocate-General's interpretation?

THE last annual report of the Rajputana States contains the following sympathetic notice by Colonel Walter's successor of his efforts at social reform in those States:—

"These continue to prosper. A third meeting of the 'Walterkrit Rajputra Hitkarini Sabha' was held in February 1890, when the working of the rules during the previous year was discussed, and reforms on

some minor points, which experience had shown to be necessary, were introduced.

Though Colonel Walter's guiding hand has now been withdrawn, and his long and intimate acquaintance with Rajputana, his personal influence with its Chiefs and Thakurs, are possessions which any successor of his must envy, I believe the rules inaugurated by his counsel for the reduction of marriage and funeral expenses will work *suo motu*, being, as I know them to have been, the outcome of groanings which Thakurs, afraid of being banned by Charans, yet longing to escape from the bondage of ruinous custom, were almost afraid to utter even to a British officer. The public interest which has been evoked by these social reforms, and the reputation they have brought to Rajputana, should further stimulate those whom they concern to see that everything about them is always real, and that the main rules laid down by the Sabha are properly observed."

We have always turned into these Rajputana reports to see how Colonel Walter's reforms were taking with the people. It was indeed a bold thing to experiment upon a race so much wedded to old notions as the Rajputs, and we must confess that we were not much sanguine of the success in the long run of the movement made for the check on extravagance in marriage and funeral ceremonies. While similar movements were hanging fire in more advanced parts of the country, it would have been strange, even with the supreme influence of Political over Native Chiefs, if they met a better fate here. We feared with the withdrawal of the personal influence of Colonel Walter, things would revert to their normal condition. The above paragraph is no without a hint of the inherent difficulty of the problem.

MR. Finucane's annual report of the progress of land surveys and settlements for the last year is an interesting record of progress. There were 83 estates, lying in 20 separate districts, under survey and settlement operations, of which 51 are Government, 9 Wards, and the remainder private Zemindary estates. The financial results of the resettlements to the owners of the estates are in all cases highly satisfactory. In one Wards estate, namely the Burdwan Raj, the work of the Agricultural Department has proved of service in a new direction. Villages belonging to this estate have been found to have been long appropriated by other people, and steps are being taken to recover their possession. The Director of Agriculture notices the discovery as follows:—

"In the course of the survey operations it came to light that a large number of mouzahs belonging, it is alleged, to the Burdwan Raj estates, which had never been let in putni or otherwise alienated, had been taken possession of by others. Towji No. 4 of the Bankoora district contains, according to the Collectorate records, 349 mouzahs, and was purchased by the Raj, at a sale for arrears of revenue, about the year 1828. Of these 349 mouzahs, 3 were given in putni by the Raj within a year or two after the purchase, leaving 346 mouzahs apparently khas. In 1855 thakbust maps were prepared, and in these thak maps and records, a number of persons had their names registered as proprietors of 161 mouzahs, appertaining to towji No. 4, without opposition on the part of the Raj, thus leaving 185 mouzahs still to be accounted for. Of these, 90 have been traversed as undisputed khas mouzahs, leaving 95 mouzahs of which nothing was known except their names. They were not shown in the Raj books, but from enquiries made on the spot by the Survey Officer, Mr. Scott, it was ascertained that they were in possession of one Beni Madhub Banerjee of Bankoora, who, it was found, had neither registered his name as proprietor nor filed road cess papers for them. In order to ascertain where they are situated, and to enable the Raj to adopt measures for resuming khas possession of them, a traverse and boundary survey of all lands appertaining to towji No. 4 was ordered under the Survey Act, V of 1875.

Similar confusion is said to prevail in towjis Nos. 1 and 3 of the Bankoora district, and the fact is significant, as illustrating the chaotic state of the records kept, in Bengal, in zemindari offices supposed to be well managed. Mr. Reilly has resumed khas possession of many of these mouzahs without opposition, and the persons in possession of others have applied to him to come to terms with them, as to the settlement of them."

The work of the Department in regard to agricultural experiments does not seem so far to have been attended with any marked results.

A RUSSIAN General jumped into a tram car. There being no vacant seat, he ordered a Jew to get down. He refused. The General called out, "Do you know who I am? I am General———" The Jew with a bow simply said: "You are a General of the Military, not of Civilians." The General jostled the Israelite out and took the ejected occupier's seat. Not content with making himself comfortable on his journey, at another's expense, the man of war reported the matter to the Commissioner of Odessa. That official immediately notified in the newspapers that from that date Jews riding in tram-cars must vacate their seats whenever required by the 'Gentile, if not genteel or gentle, Russ; Jews objecting would be handed over to the police, and the Deputy Commissioner might, without trial, give them twenty-five stripes, besides ordering them to quit Odessa within 24 hours. A pretty state of

things in a country claiming to be civilized! The Governor-General, however, seeing this order in the papers, telephoned to the Chief Commissioner to recall it, saying it might bring about a revolution as on a former occasion. So this satrap is not in the least ashamed of the business, but only afraid of its political consequences. Those of our countrymen who have been worked up by a foolish writing and speaking into a spurious disloyalty, who are so ready without knowledge or thought to denounce the rapacity and tyranny of the British, and who even affect to regard with an easy indifference, if not positive joy, the prospect of Cossack domination in India, ought to ask themselves this plain question, How would they like to live in Odessa? They could not possibly endure such a rule as that prevailing in Russia. Time was perhaps when they might have done so and been yet tolerably happy. It is British Rule that has changed them into susceptible beings. And what prevents the British from being in India like the Russians? Their enlightenment and political advancement and their character. John Bull is not a bear that has seen the world. And God is merciful that he is not.

THE Calcutta Public Library lately advertised for a Secretary. Of course, for a quiet office in magnificent airy quarters overhanging the great river that sweeps past our capital, there were numerous applicants. There was a competition of all races, nations, creeds, classes, and sexes. As not unfrequently happens, the dark horse has won.

Baboo Bepin Chundra Pal's candidature was a surprise. But more notable things have happened. We hope his people will allow him to fulfil his engagements.

He is a man of high ability and, we believe, of strong character, but a little too good, we suspect, if not for human nature's daily food, at any rate for personal success. He has been in all the Provinces of India and seen life in them all below high. He is a literary man in Bengali and English. In the Jubilee year he wrote in his mother tongue a most eloquent Life of the Queen-Empress as the Model Woman, which, if India had been decently cared for, would long since have been suitably brought to Her Majesty's notice, and would have brought to its author as much honour as his sovereign might venture to confer upon a black Theodore Martin. He is above all a true orator. Professionally or in active life, he has been a reformer—religious, social, and political. He was known as a Brahmo missionary of the advanced section until the Congress developed him into a considerable agitator. A Librarianship on a pittance without a prospect is not, we submit, the proper vocation for such a spirit of wild energy and enterprise. It is a waste of mind and muscle to confine such a man to such, we cannot say, improper but uncongenial occupation. But then a man must live. It is a melancholy reflection for us all that, under the political situation of India, there is no provision for such gifted sons of her.

In one respect this selection is about the best. For a languishing concern like this great Public Library, deserted by the public—the learned as well as the merely reading—the best deliverer would have been the prime gal At., to speak Sam Slick.

Beauty draws us by a single hair, you know. Our angel of a blue-stocking would have drawn all Calcutta to the learned groves of the Metcalfe Hall by the profusion of a Bengali head of hair and the taste and refinement of an educated lady. But as Paris was suddenly seized with an unaccountable shyness and not only did not hand the Dead Sea Apple of Discord over to the fairest but refused it to any of the fair, that was a lucky accident by which it fell to the strong man. As he was in for, and now has got the place, he will justify the choice of his constituents. With his ability and energy, supported by the Committee, he ought to make the institution more thriving than ever.

THE many friends in India of Mr. Munro, late Chief of the London Police, will be glad to learn that he is coming out to this country, for a considerable stay. The reason given is Mrs. Munro's health with which our climate suited. That cannot be all, we suspect. An active man of great energy in the prime of life cannot possibly condemn himself voluntarily to burial alive for any length of time, even to keep a good wife in company and countenance. He can scarcely come out again on State employment, unless of the highest sort independent of service restrictions. But inquiries in connection with schemes of commerce are still open to him. An able man of large Indian experience might always be useful to British capitalists.

IN the Durbhunga cow-killing riot prosecution, the trying Magistrate Mr. Maddox has convicted all the accused Hindus and sentenced—two of them to a fine of Rs. 1,000 each, in default 6 months' rigorous imprisonment, one to Rs. 100 or one month, and 17 more to terms of imprisonment, namely, three to six months' hard labor each, one to 12 months', six to 18 months' and seven more to one month's each. Two escaped the vengeance of magistracy by death. It was all a one-sided affair, cut and dry. The District Magistrate having deposed that he "did not see the Mahomedans do any acts of violence. I saw no *laties* in their hands, and their attitude was one of protest. They were in a minority," and having himself made several of the arrests, the doom of the Hindus was sealed.

Other cases are pending or maturing against the Hindus. We read in the *I. D. News*, under date Durbhunga, Sep. 10:—

"On the late *Bukrid* day, the date of the cow-killing riot occurrence, some Mahomedan butchers, when bringing some cows to the town from the mofussil for making sacrifices on the day in question, were on their way to town mercilessly beaten by some Hindus, and the cows were forcibly seized and taken away. Regarding this highway robbery, a criminal charge was preferred against the Hindus, and the case, after several adjournments, was taken up to-day by a senior Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Chunder Bhushan Chuckerbutty, who, having made out a formal charge against the Hindus, has put the case off to the 16th instant—the three accused, including one Brahmin, being in the meanwhile remanded to jail in custody. The case, like the riot, is causing much sensation among the public here. What is more noteworthy is that another case of a similar nature is shortly to be instituted, and this, and all the instances heretofore observed, will greatly tell upon the personalities and cruelties of the Hindus. The charge about to be brought up is that on the *Bukrid* day a Mussulman trader was passing the scene of the riots with bundles of clothes and valuables. On reaching there he was unmercifully beaten, and his clothes and all that he had on him were looted. These facts, amongst others, will show to the public the wrongs that are daily done to the poor Mussulmans by the Hindus in defiance of the English law."

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENT.—Jay Krishna Banerjee—in our next.—ED. R. & R.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 13, 1890.

### THE COURTALLAM SCANDAL.

THE sensation in Indian politics is the Courtallam Scandal. The incidents are extremely painful, and what is particularly to be regretted, they have furnished a handle to fomenters of race animosities. These animosities naturally die hard, but it is curious to note how they manage to flourish in out-of-the-way nooks beyond the reach of influences before which they give way in important centres of life and business. The injured party is, of course, the mild Hindu, although we cannot exculpate him of all responsibility for what has happened. Indeed, neither of the two parties seems to be free from blame, whatever the disparity in the measure of their respective faults. The outrage committed by a European planter upon a Hindu lady was extremely cowardly, while the conduct of the district officers was indiscreet in the highest degree. The Hindus were to blame, but in a very slight degree. They might as well have waited for a judicial settlement of their claims which had been involved in some degree of uncertainty by their own laches in the past. Having tamely given way once, they need not have thought of enforcing their right. The dispute between the natives and the European residents relates to the right of bathing at the Courtallam waterfalls in the Tinnevely district at the earlier hours of the day. It has been repeatedly described by British and foreign travellers and tourists, the last time lately in connection with illustrations in the *Empress* fortnightly magazine. The old Hindu sages have shown their taste by voting this place sacred. It is a lovely sight—the most romantic in India—certainly of any site out of the great mountains or high hills. Not 500 feet in height, it is almost Himalayan in its climate and charac-

teristics, its botany and zoology. It is a miniature Alpine locality, where the smallest waterfall has a descent of 100 feet. It has always been Hindu, but of late the Europeans have usurped it, pushing the old occupiers into a corner! Below the little cascade is a bathing pool at the foot of a temple. The right of bathing naturally belonged to the native Hindus from time immemorial. The falls were resorted to at all hours for the religious merit of a bath in the waters by people from surrounding villages to the distance of many miles all the year round, while water for worshipping and cooking purposes is taken from them from the earliest hour in the morning. Thus the right of the Hindus to the use of this place without restrictions as to time was of a kind not to be summarily set aside or encroached upon. But Right is proverbially feeble before Might. The local Europeans suddenly discovered some 6 years ago the sanitary value of the place. Not exceeding half a dozen at the most, and even this number not permanently resident at the village, they determined to have the use of the falls all to themselves for bathing and swimming in the morning hours to the exclusion of the natives. Their use, however, was confined to the three months of the south-west monsoon—"the season" as it is usually called—and it was for the convenience of such a handful of Europeans for such a short space of time, an accommodating District Magistrate in 1884 issued an extraordinary notice arbitrarily fixing the hours for the use of the falls by Europeans until 9-30 P.M., after which they were available for natives. This order was not worth the paper on which it was written and hung up at the falls. Yet nevertheless it was timidly or good-naturedly submitted to by the Hindus concerned till their acquiescence gave it somewhat of the force of a custom. They themselves admit that although it was a most unjust prohibition, they, placing loyalty as the first duty before them, had not particularly objected to the Europeans bathing first in the waterfalls during the season. This was a weak surrender of an ancient right—a surrender all the more to be deprecated as interfering with valued religious observances. Having given way at all, they tacitly helped in the assertion of a right on the part of the Europeans. They now keenly contest that right but the difficulty is partly of their own creation. One thing, however, must in fairness be said in bar of the this right claimed on the part of the Europeans. The magisterial order was never strictly observed. The Europeans were always a fluctuating population at the place. Formerly when there were copious monsoon showers, they used to come in numbers, but latterly the number has fallen off considerably till it sometimes happened that there were no Europeans to use the bath except Mr. Clarke, a resident Coffee planter and his wife. These latter often did not use the bath. From this uncertainty in the use of the falls by Europeans, the magistrate's arbitrary prohibition came to be imperfectly enforced. The enforcement of it was, at any rate, very lax. This laxness would naturally lead to habitual evasions of the order. When there was no knowing if the only too permanent Europeans at the place were coming to the bath or not, people would naturally be tempted to bathe during the prohibited hours, particularly as the prohibition was a great hardship especially to people coming from a distance. The remissness of the guards was a necessary consequence of the uncertainty of the European visits to the falls. The authority of the District

Magistrate was too far off to check the remissness of subordinates. This appears to us to be an important consideration in appraising the strength of the so-called custom claimed in the subsequent developments of the quarrel.

There is no doubt the Magistrate's notice often fell into desuetude. On this point, we have the following clear statement from the *Hindu* :—

"As a matter of fact this year the notice had been hung up for two or three weeks, but natives used to go to the falls at all hours when there were no Europeans, and no one objected to their doing so. In fact the European community felt that a rigorous exclusion of the natives during the prohibited hours would be unjustifiable and harsh and as their privacy was not intruded upon the one or two Europeans who had come for the season did not insist upon a strict adherence to the hours in the notice. We believe we are correct in saying that, for a week or so before the assault on the Hindu lady, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke used daily to bathe at the falls and the natives also were going long before 9-30 A.M., but not, of course, when the Europeans were there. The first disturbance of this harmony and good understanding was due to the events of the 26th July which are given below."

To turn now to the outrageous and ungallant treatment of a lady. The facts are thus given in the same journal :—

"On the morning of that day at about 6-30 or 7 A.M., the wife of Mr. Krishna Iyer, went to the falls to bathe as usual. She used to go there daily at that hour ever since she came to Courtallam. She was, as usual, accompanied by her husband, who, however, stood on the temple side of the bridge which one has to cross to get to the falls. Just as Mrs. Krishna Iyer was passing towards the enclosure, Mrs. Clarke and another European lady came near the bridge. Mrs. Clarke told Mr. Krishna Iyer that she was going to bathe and asked him to recall his wife. Mr. Krishna Iyer recalled his wife, and this lady came back and sat on the low parapet, some distance outside the enclosure. Mrs. Clarke insisted on the Hindu lady being called away altogether from the place and made to go near the temple. Mr. Krishna Iyer did not see the necessity for this. There was no intrusion on Mrs. Clarke's privacy, as his wife was out of the enclosure, and some distance from it, and the demand of Mrs. Clarke appeared to him to be unreasonable. But Mrs. Clarke who with the other Europeans had enjoyed the sweets of despotic power so long under the ægis of the Collector's notice could not brook this opposition and she ran straight to her house to bring her husband who is Secretary to the 'Bathing Fund.' In this capacity he is looked upon as the sole monarch of the falls, and invested with full power to regulate the bathing at them. The wife of Mr. Krishna Iyer finding that the European ladies had gone away went into the enclosure and bathed there. Just as she was bathing the Ayah of Mrs. Clarke who was in the enclosure told her that Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were coming. She bundled up her clothes, and came out of the enclosure and was nearing the bridge on her way home. Mr. Krishna Iyer was standing on the side of the bridge. Mr. Clarke crossed the bridge and his wife pointed out Mrs. Krishna Iyer as the person that had bathed at the falls in the hours set apart for Europeans. Mr. Clarke got behind Mrs. Krishna Iyer and pushed her by the neck from behind. She was near falling down. He again gave her another push by the neck. Mr. Krishna Iyer who was on the temple said of the bridge then ran up to his wife's rescue and some Hindus who had witnessed the scene ran up also. Mr. Krishna Iyer is said to have caught hold of Mr. Clarke's arm to prevent further violence to his wife."

The outrage naturally provoked the resentment of the Hindu community who held a meeting at which resolutions were passed expressing indignation at the conduct of Mr. Clarke and calling in question the legality of their exclusion from the bath before 9-30 P.M. A criminal charge was also laid against Mr. Clarke. The next morning at a little after 6 A.M. some of the people of the Dewān of Mysore who had just at this time been making a temporary stay at Courtallam, having come there on leave for the benefit of his health, went to the falls to bathe. It is not certain whether these men went to bathe in the usual way, or with the premeditated object of forcibly giving effect to the latter resolution of the meeting. It was alleged they had sticks in their hands. In the meantime, the local authorities having apprehended from the excitement caused by Mr. Clarke's conduct, that there might be a breach of the peace had taken measures to guard the falls by police from forcible entry by natives within the prohibited hours. The police ordered the Mysoreans not to enter the bath as there might be a breach of the peace if the Europeans should come to bathe. They were not heeded. One Constable was, it is said, pushed aside. While they were in possession of the bath, Mr. Clarke and

other Europeans arrived for a bath, when the Sub-Magistrate ordered the Dewan's people to disperse lest there should be a riot from the Europeans insisting on their right. This too had no effect. The Europeans were then advised to retire to avoid a disturbance and they did retire without having their usual morning bath. The Mysoreans were subsequently charged with being a criminal assembly and with rioting and put on their trial before an English Joint-Magistrate indented from another division to the exclusion of a competent native magistrate on the spot. Mr. Henry, the trying Magistrate, found them guilty of the offences charged and concluded his judgment as follows :—

"Though the riot was only a little more than technical one, I consider the conduct of the accused should be visited with a severe punishment in having wantonly broken through a rule or custom which had hitherto worked harmoniously and which had reconciled to the satisfaction of all parties the contending rights and privileges of the Europeans and Natives in regard to the use of the waterfall in having set an example likely to lead to constant difficulties and likely to imperil the future maintenance of the public peace in the locality.

I accordingly sentence each of the accused to four months' imprisonment and direct that for the first month it be simple and for the remaining three rigorous. I further direct under Section 106 C. C. P. that each of the accused do execute a bond personally for Rs. 50 with surety each in the same sum to keep the peace for two months."

The sentence has been set aside on appeal to the High Court which has taken sharp notice of the conduct of the officials in the matter. The magistrate's prohibition is declared to be illegal and the allegations against the defendants that they came armed and with a premeditated object to cause a disturbance in the case of resistance to their right of bathing were disproved. In fact, the connection which to Mr. Henry's mind existed between the meeting and the conduct of the Dewan's servants the next day was not established, and the High Court expressed astonishment at the severity of sentences for a riot which Mr. Henry himself had the sense of calling a technical one. The incidents are of a most extraordinary kind and have been condemned by all fairminded judges. We are glad to find that Anglo-Indian journals are at one with the native press in censuring the local officials.

The remarks of the *Pioneer* are conceived in admirable spirit. It writes :—

"The inhabitants of such a place—and it is a mere village—are presumably members of the Brahmin sect, whose stronghold is in this part of the country, and whose practice it is to bathe much and early, in sacred waters particularly. We cannot wonder that they should dislike an order from the Magistrate forbidding any of them to bathe before ten o'clock. It is natural that the half-dozen officials and planters should like their morning bath in the waterfalls too, and should prefer to enjoy it in privacy: but looking to the religious associations connected with the waters the presence of the European is probably even more obnoxious to the Brahmin than that of the Brahmin is to the European. The former too has been in occupation, we suppose, for centuries, and if it was a question of adjusting the matter by a compromise, the small society of Europeans should certainly have been the party to give way. But to settle the difficulty by a magisterial order forbidding natives to bathe in their own pools until well on in the day is an exercise of summary authority which is out of keeping with the times, even when the scene is a far off nook in the Western Ghats in the remotest district of the Madras Presidency."

#### SOCIAL REFORM AT THE POINT OF THE BAYONET.

THE *Morning Post* is a valuable journal and knows it—as we find from the occasionality of its doles to its contemporaries of inferior chronological *status*—the weekly beggars, we mean—at any rate, the weakly ones like ourself. We had formerly occasion to notice the imperfections and lapses which marred the usefulness of the new enterprise. We have since remarked a change, and now it is, so far as we have had opportunities of judging, an admirably conducted journal. As such, it cannot fail to influence the current of public opinion and the

course of legislation and administration. All the more is it incumbent on its brethren to warn it, in a friendly spirit, against any dangerous view to which it may show a leaning. One of the recent issues of the paper contains a well written leader on the topic of the hour, "Child-wives." The writer speaks with just horror of the barbarous custom of taking infants to bed, and expresses honest scorn of the apologists of the brute who, in exacting his fancied superior conjugal rights, tortured the poor girl he called his wife to death. "'Child-wife,'" he exclaims, "what an unnatural combination these two words make: the pen almost refuses to write them." We are in thorough accord with him in his view of the law. It is the view taken by Mr. Justice Wilson at the Sessions trial of Harimohan Maiti in the High Court. To that view we gave our humble support, without any reservation. We have also advocated the raising of the age of consent. Although averse from legislation on social questions, indeed jealous of the interference of a foreign Government with the private life and social arrangements of the people, we think that, as the Indian Penal Code had already established an arbitrary limit of age, it is but just that that limit should be altered to suit altered conditions. When an existing law, itself imposed by a foreign Government, and carrying no higher sanction than the will of the powerful stranger might give,—when such a law has been found by experience to work harm, it is simply the obstinacy of barbarism to stick to it. So far we are in the same boat with the reformers headed by Mr. Malabari and Dewan Raghunath Row. We do not mention the European philanthropists advisedly. Their alliance is not of the best. They have no *locus standi*, and their connection is a source of weakness rather than of strength to the cause of Reform. European newspapers in India must of course treat of the subject, as European officials form their judgments on it. Even so has the Allahabad paper written. Now, with the ultimate aims of the *Morning Post* there is no manner of quarrel. Nor is it any definite proposition launched by it that we take exception to. Our complaint is against the *modus operandi*. We object to the plan of campaign for carrying out the object. We cannot regard the new propaganda with unconcern. The complacent confidence with which the writer would push legislative action—the spirit of jaunty Britishism in which the article is concluded—alarms us. The argument put forward for legislation *instantly*, is, to our judgment and experience, fraught with danger to governors and governed. The matter seems to our contemporary's leader-writer the simplest imaginable, and he chides the old women of the Government of India much in the style in which the Prince of Publicists, Mr. Thaddeus Delane, once rebuked a Lord High Admiral and a Napier into the bargain.

They were friends, the literary man and the sailor, and corresponded with one another. In the last great European war in which England took part—and a conspicuous part it was—when the people of England were chafing under the inaction, in the Baltic Sea, far from the mouth of the Neva, of the greatest fleet that ever left Britain's shores, the great editor, disappointed of his hopes, equally as a friend, a journalist, and an Englishman, of daily chronicling the victories of England—bombardments and captures of the enemy's fleets and forts—urged his correspondent to show fight and prove his mettle—to make one effort to sustain the honour of the British Navy



which had never been consigned to such idle cruising or such make-believe reconnoitring, in front of the enemy, as then under the Admiral's command. Apologies were sure to be made, of course, for delay and inaction, demonstrating by the clearest logic upon unquestionable facts that everything was going, on famously and that Nelson himself would, under the circumstances, have been content to admire the fortifications of Cronstadt without trying their strength by cannon-ball. No editor was ever deceived by such chaff, much less Jupiter himself of Printing House Square. He anticipated excuses and answered them with true Jovine haughtiness and *tranchant* scorn, saying—"Difficulties? Any old woman may make difficulties." Referring to an eminent statesman of the time, Sydney Smith once said that the family of the Dukes of Bedford were up to any enterprise, that any one of the race would at a moment's notice take up the command of the Channel Fleet. Editors are by virtue of office as great heroes as the Russels by virtue of blood. Mr. Delane almost fancied he could by a wave of his quill bring down to surrender at discretion the Russian garrison of the chain of forts protecting the passage to the Russian capital.

After thirty six years, that lofty selfconsciousness reappears in the far East, in our Allahabad brother's lecture against the faint-heartedness and timid hesitation of the men entrusted with the government of this Empire in striking a decisive blow for the conquest of barbarism. Says our contemporary:—

"Of what, we would ask, are the responsible authorities afraid in this matter which renders them unwilling to deal with it? A short and intelligible Act, a few sharp and equally intelligible sentences on offenders of the highest attainable rank, and the whole thing would be done. Some wisecracks, who are scared by the bugbears of their own fancy, may doubt the expediency of this prompt and decisive method of legislation. It is hardly probable that the natives of India will indulge in another mutiny for several generations: the lesson taught by the events of 1857 will not fade so rapidly from the minds of Englishman, Hindu, or Mahomedan. That there will be an excited appeal against the action of Government which will be construed into an attack on the religion and social life of the people, there can be no doubt. But it will die of inanition."

This light-heartedness amazes and alarms us. No more dangerous advice could be given than is compressed in the few sentences just quoted. It is bad enough that an influential journal should commit itself to it. But our contemporary is by no means alone. There are signs that the view is shared by other publicists, of more as well as less influence.

The above has been in type for some weeks for want of space. Since it was written we have been learning day after day of the steady progress of Mr. Malabari's mission in England. The Oracle—we mean the *Times*—has spoken and a formidable Committee has been formed of the highest Indian authorities including almost all the Past Masters and Past Grand Masters of Indian state-craft—for actively reforming the social institutions of the Hindus.

#### THE GOLD FEVER IN BENGAL.

With whatever derisive incredulity rivals may regard the claims of the Western capital to be in all respects *Primus in Indis*, all must readily acknowledge that Bombay is *facile princeps* in commercial activity, from substantive business and transactions above board down to forms of speculation undistinguishable from gambling. In the latter, her experience has been long and wide. She has sinned and suffered. According to our proverb, the patient of one day is the physician of another. The exploiters of Back Bay Reclamation and heroes of time bargains in opium and cotton are entitled to a respectful hearing from us

of the East who are just now passing through our sudden gold paroxysm. Accordingly, we quote the *Bombay Gazette*:—

"On the whole, the ruin gauge betting in Bombay, which has lately been put down by legislation, seemed to offer a less risky means of speculation. There was at least a shower of rain to gamble upon. But in the case of these Bengal mining companies, which are springing up day after day, it is doubtful if there is anything so substantial even as that. The only question now is, how long the gamble can be kept up. Excitement feeds on excitement, and cannot last for ever. Sober moments must come by and by, and then we may prepare for a rushing down as rapid as the rushing up has been. Meanwhile, some one must be making a good deal of money, which is the same thing as saying that before accounts have been finally settled, some one must lose a good deal."

The use of the grammatical singular number is a piece of literary urbanity only. Not some "one" has been making money, but more "ones" than one—a syndicate, a conclave, more properly speaking a cabal—probably more cabals than one. These things are not done singly, though the originator and moving spirit be one. This master-mind is comparatively powerless without supporters and agents and emissaries. He organises a confederacy—a small but compact body of men who work in concert without often seeming to know one another, unless by accident or in the veriest way of business. As in the French theatre they have *claqueurs*, so in auctions there are puffers. The Turf is notorious for its mysteries, of which we get glimpses when the high priests who guard them or their creatures fall out among themselves. The more important Race on'Change too has its own rites and peculiarities. The stock market indeed is a regular "Zoo" or rather an extensive park, having, besides the deer and smaller game without number, not only bulls and bears but also wolves and hyenas, foxes and curs, with a lion or tiger at the head, or two perhaps, where the constitution is of the nature of a dual sovereignty such as was supposed to exist in certain states like Bhootan, Siam, &c. These all prey upon the unwary who may be tempted to stray into their inviting well watered precincts and romantic shades, and hunt their victims into one another's hands. It would not matter so much if "some one" only—literally one—lost even a good deal, provided he could well afford the loss, and provided specially he had been sinner enough. If one or any of the confederates lost, he or they would be served right. Sometimes they do—by over-avarice. There is a principle of retribution in all evil, demoralising those who voluntarily engage in it, until, in the continual indulgence of an illegitimate passion, they lose their wits and plunge deeper and deeper, to be ultimately lost. Those who retain sufficient self-command, make hay in hot haste in the brief half-hour of sun-shine, and bundle off their crop,

"And leave the world to darkness and to"—

the dupes. These poor fellows ill deserve their fate, except for their folly—their faith in the undeserving—and can bear it worse. It is the trustful poor investors who are taken in by large promises under the sanction of respectable names that are really the objects of pity. How many of the poor become poorer—how many are utterly ruined—how many widows and orphans come to want bread—with the inevitable crash of every "bogus" business or inflated enterprise, be it a South Sea or a Mississippi Bubble, a Railway Mania or a Gold Fever!

In past centuries, men were tempted by myths of the main—Eldorados and perennial Pagoda harvesting beyond the sea. Nowadays, people are more prosaic minded though not less credulous, and any cismarine cock and bull story whose scene is

laid on *terra firma*—say a scheme for shearing pigs or brick-making without straw—will arrest men engaged in

—the madding crowd's ignoble strife.

Endless are the matter-of-fact business at home, at one's very door, daily appealing to investors, which for invention might stagger a Swift or a Defoe, for they are many of them more romantic than the quest of the Golden Fleece.

The earth hath bubbles, as the water hath,  
And these are of them.

#### GILCHRIST EDUCATIONAL TRUST.

##### TRUSTEES.

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[All communications to be addressed to

The Secretary of the Gilchrist Educational Trust,  
4, The Sanctuary, Westminster, London, S. W.]

*Rules and conditions relating to Scholarships instituted by the Gilchrist Educational Trust for the benefit of Natives of India.*

[These Scholarships are open to Women upon exactly the same conditions as to Men.]

1. Three Scholarships of the value of £200 per annum will be awarded, one every year, to candidates who are natives of India (within the meaning of section 6\* of the Statute 33 Vict., cap. 3), or of the "Native States" of India. They shall each be tenable for three years at any University or any Science or Technical College in Europe (approved by the Trustees in each case), on condition that the scholar shall undertake to go through the course and pass the examinations necessary for obtaining a definite Science degree or diploma as may be prescribed by the Trustees. The nomination to these scholarships will rest with the Universities of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay in rotation, subject to the conditions hereinafter specified.

2. A scholarship will be given every third year on like conditions, the nomination of suitable candidates for which will rest with the Universities of the Punjab and Allahabad jointly. Each of these Universities may submit to the Government of India the name of one candidate, and the actual nomination to the scholarship shall be made from the names submitted by the Government of India.

3. The scholarships will be given (during the next few years) in the following rotation:—

1891	...	Calcutta, Punjab and Allahabad.
1892	...	Bombay.
1893	...	Madras.
1894	...	Calcutta, Punjab and Allahabad.
1895	...	Bombay.
1896	...	Madras.

4. (a) Each University shall make its nomination from among the more distinguished of its graduates of the three preceding years, who shall not be more than 22 years of age on the 1st of July in the year in which the scholarship is awarded. Of these, that graduate shall be selected who has done especially well in Science or Mathematics and is desirous of pursuing—and is most likely to benefit by—a further course of scientific study in Europe. Provided that no person holding a Government of India Scholarship, tenable in England, shall be eligible, or shall continue to hold a Gilchrist Scholarship, after he has accepted a Government of India Scholarship.

(b) Probably the results of the examinations of the three preceding years will be a sufficient guide to the University in making the selection; but it will be open to each University to consider whether a special examination shall be held, although the Trustees hope that this will be avoided, if possible. If a special examination is held, all the necessary arrangements for it must be made by the University holding it; but the regulations which any University may propose to lay down in regard to such examinations must receive the previous approval of the Gilchrist Trustees. No examination should be held later than the month of June in any year, it being essential that all nominations should be made so as to afford the scholar nominated a sufficient interval to complete his arrangements and to reach England in time for the Autumn term at the Universities and Colleges. The candidates for the special examinations, when such examinations are held, must be graduates of proved ability, selected by the Vice-Chancellor on the report of the Syndicate or governing body, who will in their turn be guided by the opinion of the Professors and Examiners.

5. Every candidate for a scholarship will be required to satisfy the Vice-Chancellor of the University as to his good conduct, his knowledge of the English language, his physical capacity to undergo the course of life and study which he will have to follow in Europe: he must also satisfy him of his intention, if successful, to proceed to England forthwith, and to reside in Europe for a period of three years, unless compelled to return sooner by ill-health or some other cause which may seem sufficient to the Gilchrist Trustees.

6. Each scholar will be provided by the Government of India with a free passage to England. The Gilchrist Trust will provide a return passage (at the end of the three years) at a cost not exceeding £50, provided that the scholar shall have fulfilled the conditions of his scholarship; but the scholar will not be entitled to claim any difference between the actual cost of passage and the amount above named.

7. Each scholar must enter into a written engagement to submit to such regulations as may from time to time be issued by the Gilchrist Trustees for the guidance of the scholars.

8. The tenure of the scholarships will be strictly dependent on good conduct in Europe, and on satisfactory progress being made in study. The Gilchrist Trustees reserve to themselves the right of finally deciding whether a scholar has or has not committed a breach of the rules and conditions on which his scholarship is held, as also all questions which may from time to time arise, whether expressly provided for in the rules and regulations or not. They further reserve to themselves the power of altering the conditions of the scholarships, or of altogether withdrawing them, if they shall think fit. Due notice of any alterations will be given, and changes will not be made in such a manner as to affect the interests of students already appointed to scholarships.

*On the nomination of a scholar being completed, the University or the Government of India (as the case may be) nominating him should communicate his name and address to the Secretary of the Gilchrist Trust, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London. If the nomination is made after examination, the number and names, &c. of the candidates from whom the selection was made should also be communicated.*

N.B.—One of the Gilchrist Trustees will personally see each Gilchrist scholar as soon as possible after he has reported his arrival at the office of the Trustees, and will confer with him upon the course he may propose to pursue and the University or College to be selected.

##### *Regulations for Gilchrist Indian Scholars in England.*

(1) Every scholar shall, on reaching England, at once present himself at the office of the Gilchrist Trust and report his arrival. He shall be provided with an official certificate of identity signed by the Registrar of the University by which he is nominated, or by a Secretary or Under-Secretary to Government.

(2) Every scholar shall, on arriving in England, submit for the approval of the Gilchrist Trustees a statement showing the general course of study he proposes to follow; and specifying the University or College to which he proposes to proceed. After consideration of such statement, the Trustees will decide at what University, or Science or Technical college in Europe the scholarship shall be tenable, and will prescribe the course to be gone through and the degree or diploma to be obtained. Every scholar shall at once take steps to enter himself at the University or College which the Trustees shall have approved. The course finally prescribed by the Trustees shall not be changed without their sanction.

(3) Every scholar shall, at the end of each University or College term, send to the Secretary of the Gilchrist Trust a certificate from the proper University or College authority, showing that his residence, conduct, and progress in study have been satisfactory during the term.

(4) Every scholar shall at all times obey such instructions as he may receive from the Gilchrist Trustees or their Secretary.

(5) The scholarship allowance, at the rate of £200 a year for three years, will be paid quarterly, in advance, by the Gilchrist Trust, commencing from the date when the scholar reports his arrival in England.

(6) Every scholar will forfeit his scholarship, who, not being disabled by illness or prevented by any other cause which the Gilchrist Trustees may consider sufficient, fails to complete a residence of three years in Europe, or who is at any time guilty of misconduct or disregard of the orders of the Gilchrist Trustees. If a scholarship be forfeited, the scholar will lose his claim to a free return passage to India.

\* The provision in the section is as follows:—"That for the purpose of this Act the words 'natives of India' shall include any person born and domiciled within the dominions of Her Majesty in India, of parents habitually resident in India, and not established there for temporary purposes only; and that it shall be lawful for the Governor-General in Council to define and limit from time to time the qualification of Natives of India thus expressed."

† This rotation is arranged to avoid, as far as possible, giving to any University a Gilchrist Scholarship in the same year as a Government Scholarship; but it may possibly happen occasionally that a scholarship may fall to be given by a University in the same year as a Government Scholarship.

**NOTICE** is hereby given under Section 351 of Act III (B. C.) of 1884 for general information, that the Commissioners of the Baranagar Municipality, at a Special Meeting held on the 23rd February 1890, have framed a set of bye-laws subject to the provisions of the said Act, and that a copy of such bye-laws together with a translation thereof in the vernacular has been kept open, for one month from the date of this notification, in the office of the Commissioners during office hours (11 to 5 P. M.) for the inspection of the inhabitants of the Municipality.

It is hereby further notified that, after the expiration of the said period of one month, the Commissioners of this Municipality intend to submit the said bye laws to the Local Government for confirmation.

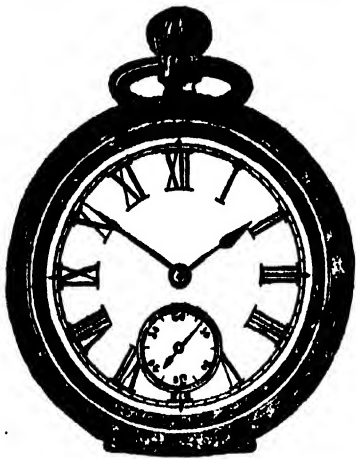
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## NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order dated the 23rd day of May 1889 and made in the matter of suit No. 340 of 1884 wherein Kanie Lall Seal was plaintiff and Gobin Lall Seal and others were defendants and in the matter of the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased by L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General of Bengal and Administrator to the estate of the said Panna Lall Seal deceased at the office of the said Administrator-General at No. 1, Council House Street Calcutta by public auction on Wednesday the 17th day of September next at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon the undermentioned properties belonging to the above estate :—

Lot No. 1.—All that lower roomed message tenement or dwelling house situate lying and being in and known as No. 221 Cornwallis Street in the town of Calcutta being Holding No. 197 Survey Block 15 North Division containing by estimation 2 cottas 19 chattaks and 30 square feet be the same more or less and bounded as follows—On the West by the premises belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others on the East by the said Cornwallis Street on the North by Muktaran Baboo's Street and on the South by the lands belonging to Upendra Lall Sircar and others.

Lot No. 2.—All that tenanted land No. 40 Champatolla 2nd Lane in the town of Calcutta measuring  $9\frac{1}{2}$  cottas more or less and bounded as follows—On the East by the dwelling house of Madhu Sudan Dutt Ram Mohan Dass and Nilmonnee Dass on the North by the public road on the South by the dwelling house of Jagabandhu Bose and on the West by the house of Jagabandhu Bose and the house of Boydia Nath Ooriya and Nilmonnee ssDa.

Lot No. 3.—All that upper roomed brick-built message tenement or dwelling house and the piece or parcel of land or ground whereon the same is erected and built containing 3 cottas 4 chattaks and 30 square feet more or less situate lying and being at No. 1, Rajmohan Bose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta and bounded on the North by the house No. 2, Rajmohan Bose's Lane formerly belonging to Bhagbat Kassary on the East by the house and premises No. 48-1 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane and on the South side thereof by the house and premises of Hadjee Syud Sabur and on the West by the premises No. 36 Dhuramtollah Lane.

Lot No. 4.—All that upper roomed brick-built message tenement or dwelling house formerly No. 21 but now numbered 30 Ram Mohan Ghose's Lane in Colootollah in the town of Calcutta together with the piece or parcel of land or ground thereunto belonging containing by estimation 8 cottas more or less and bounded on the West by the house and land of Mutty Lall Seal on the North by the house and land of Jadab Chunder Burrall and Ram Chunder Bose and on the South by the house and land of Monohar Dass and on the East by the house of Rajkrista Banerjee.

The abstract of title and the conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe and Chunder attorneys for L. P. D. Broughton Esq. the Administrator-General and Administrator to the estate of Panna Lall Seal deceased at No. 9 Old Post Office Street in Calcutta on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

L. P. D. BROUGHTON,  
Administrator-General of Bengal  
and Administrator to the Estate of  
Panna Lall Seal deceased.

Swinhoe & Chunder  
Attorneys-at-law,  
High Court,  
Calcutta.  
24th July, 1890.

## KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund :—

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(the last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal,  
Behar and Orissa.)

Latterly Minister of the Tipperah State.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have received from the office of Reis and Rayyet, one of the leading native newspapers of Calcutta, a most readable little brochure written by Baboo Sambhu C. Mookerjee, once Minister to the late Nawab Faridood Jah,

Bahadoor, Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which gives a graphic account of the Baboo's travels to and in Independent Tipperah. Written in capital English and evidently by a gentleman of broad views and enlightened mind, the work is decidedly a valuable addition to the catalogue of English written Bengalee literature. This book of travels should be read widely not only by English residents out here, but by our countrymen at home, for it teems with interest and teaches us far more about the fine belt of unopened country travelled through than any work of the sort written by an Englishman would have done. Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee is one of whom his countrymen may well be proud, for he writes throughout with the moderate and educated pen of a thorough gentleman.—*The Indian Planter's Gazette & Sporting News*. October 4, 1887.

If we have not before noticed Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's *Travels in Bengal*, which was published some months ago, it is not because the little book is either dull or pointless. It contains, on the contrary, much interesting matter, though some of the incidents are over-weighted with detail in what is facetiously called a "little booklet." The author's view as a rule is, by the way, facetious: he is given even to punning; but he is also sentimental in the highest degree—"a naked Whiteman" hurts his susceptibilities; a Hindu girl, bathing in the river, throws him into an ecstasy of delight: "she had such large languishing eyes!" But he is nothing if not philosophical, and his reflections on this or that social and political subject are not without their moral. Mr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was formerly Minister to the "last of the Nawabs Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa" and afterwards Minister of the Maharaja of Tipperah. He is a man, therefore, of experience, and when he speaks his brethren should listen to him..... *Travels in Bengal* is a readable book, and it abounds in anecdotes which are often as instructive as amusing, and it is not spoiled by too many political allusions, though, of course some few have crept in.—*The Pioneer*, Dec., 1887.

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All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 13th instant.

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The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 16th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 13th instant. The river having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Cachar.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1890.

No. 442

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

OLD.

BY THE REV. RALPH HOYT.

By the wayside, on a mossy stone,  
Sat a hoary pilgrim sadly musing ;  
Oft I marked him sitting there alone,  
All the landscape like a page perusing ;  
Poor, unknown—  
By the wayside on a mossy stone.

Buckled knee and shoe, and broad-rimmed hat,  
Coat as ancient as the form 't was folding,  
Silver buttons, queue, and crimped cravat,  
Oaken staff his feeble hand upholding,  
There he sat !  
Buckled knee and shoe, and broad-rimmed hat.

Seemed it pitiful he should sit there,  
No one sympathizing, no one heeding,  
None to love him for his thin gray hair  
And the furrows all so mutely pleading  
Age and care ;  
Seemed it pitiful he should sit there.

It was summer, and we went to school,  
Dapper country lads, and little maidens,  
Taught the motto of the "Dunce's stool,"—  
Its grave import still my fancy ladens,—  
"HERE'S A FOOL !"  
It was summer, and we went to school.

When the stranger seemed to mark our play,  
Some of us were joyous, some sad-hearted.  
I remember well—too well—that day—  
Ofttimes the tears unbidden started—  
Would not stay !  
When the stranger seemed to mark our play.

One sweet spirit broke the silent spell—  
Ah ! to me her name was always heaven !  
She besought him all his grief to tell,  
(I was then thirteen, and she eleven,)  
ISABEL !  
One sweet spirit broke the silent spell.

Angel ! said he sadly, I am old ;  
Earthly hope no longer hath a morrow ;  
Yet why sit I here thou shalt be told ;  
Then his eye betrayed a pearl of sorrow—  
Down it rolled !  
Angel ! said he sadly, I am old !

I have tottered here to look once more  
On the pleasant scene where I delighted  
In the careless, happy days of yore,  
Ere the garden of my heart was blighted  
To the core !  
I have tottered here to look once more.

All the picture now to me how dear !  
E'en this old gray rock where I am seated  
Is a jewel worth my journey here ;  
Ah ! that such a scene must be completed  
With a tear !  
All the picture now to me so dear !

Old stone school-house—it is still the same !  
There's the very step so oft I mounted ;  
There is the window creaking in its frame,  
And the notches that I cut and counted  
For the game !  
Old stone school-house—it is still the same !

In the cottage yonder I was born :—  
Long my happy home that humble dwelling ;  
There the fields of clover, wheat, and corn,  
There the spring with limpid nectar swelling ;  
Ah, forlorn !  
In the cottage yonder I was born.

Those two gateway sycamores you see,  
They were planted just so far asunder,  
That long well-pole from the path to free,  
And the wagon to pass safely under ;—  
Ninety-three !  
Those two gateway sycamores you see.

There's the orchard where we used to climb,  
When my mates and I were boys together,  
Thinking nothing of the flight of time,  
Fearing nought but work and rainy weather ;  
Past its prime !  
There's the orchard where we used to climb.

There the rude, three-cornered chestnut rails,  
Round the pasture where the cows were grazing,  
Where, so sly, I used to watch for quails  
In the crops of buckwheat we were raising—  
Traps and trails—  
There the rude, three-cornered chestnut rails.

There's the mill that ground our yellow grain ;  
Pond and river still serenely flowing ;  
Cot, there nestling in the shaded lane,  
Where the lily of my heart was blowing—  
MARY JANE !  
There's the mill that ground our yellow grain !

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

There's the gate on which I used to swing,  
 Brook, and bridge, and barn, and old red stable.  
 But, alas! no more the morn shall bring  
 That dear group around my father's table—  
     Taken wing!  
 There's the gate on which I used to swing.

I am fleeing—all I loved are fled;  
 Yon green meadow was our place for playing;  
 That old tree can tell of sweet things said,  
 When round it Jane and I were straying:—  
     She is dead!  
 I am fleeing—all I loved are fled!

Yon white spire—a pencil on the sky,  
 Tracing silently life's changeful story—  
 So familiar with my dim old eye,  
 Points me to seven that are now in glory  
     There on high—  
 Yon white spire—a pencil on the sky.

Oft the aisle of that old church we trod,  
 Guided thither by an angel mother;  
 Now she sleeps beneath its sacred sod—  
 Sire and sister, and my little brother—  
     Gone to God;  
 Oft the aisle of that old church we trod.

There my Mary blest me with her hand,  
 When our souls drank in the nuptial blessing,  
 Ere we wandered to that distant land—  
 Now, alas! her gentle bosom pressing;  
     There I stand—  
 There my Mary blest me with her hand.

Angel, said he sadly, I am old;  
 Early life no longer hath a morrow;—  
 Now why sit I here thou hast been told;—  
 In his eye another pearl of sorrow;—  
     Down it rolled,  
 Angel, said he sadly, I am old.

By the wayside, on a mossy stone,  
 Sat a hoary pilgrim sadly musing;  
 Still I marked him sitting there alone,  
 All the landscape like a page perusing;  
     Poor, unknown,  
 By the wayside, on a mossy stone.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

LORD Lansdowne has completely recovered. The Viceroy goes to Mashobra for a few days only and goes into camp on Tuesday, the 21st October reaching Calcutta on Tuesday, the 9th December. His Excellency will be accompanied throughout the tour by Colonel J. C. Ardagh, C. B., Private Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord William Beresford, V. C., C. I. E., Military Secretary, Surgeon-Major E. H. Fenn, Surgeon to the Viceroy, Captain H. Streatfeild, A.-D.-C., and Captain the Hon'ble C. Harbord, A.-D.-C. Lady Lansdowne joins the Viceroy at Jeypore about the 12th November. Others forming the Viceregal party numbering in all 22, join at different points at different times.

The Levee at Government House, Calcutta, has been announced for Tuesday the 16th December and the Drawing Room for Thursday following.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is nearing the end of his monsoon tour. Sir Stuart Bayley arrives at Rungpur to-morrow, and, halting there for two days, arrives at Darjeeling on Wednesday, the 24th.

THE tocsin of his parting rule has been sounded. He has been appointed to succeed Sir Edward Bradford in the Political and Secret Department of the India Office, and leaves Bengal, we believe, by the

close of the year. Who is to be the next king? Several names have been suggested, but there is no positive information yet as to the successor.

MR. Robert Steel, of R. Steel, & Co., and Mr. W. H. McKewan, of Kelly & Co., have been elected representatives of the Chamber of Commerce on the Port Trust.

MR. Lambert takes leave from the 22nd September to 17th October and passes it in Shillong. Mr. Barnard, his Deputy, receives full charge as Commissioner of Police, and Mr. F. L. Halliday, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the Noakhali District Police, acts the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, with the powers of a Justice of the Peace for all the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal's control and those of a Magistrate of the first class in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs.

WE are glad to learn from the Chamber of Commerce that the Bengal Distress Fund has made a grant of Rs. 1,000 each to the Districts of Moorshedabad and Jessore, to aid the people suffering from the inundations.

THE Chamber of Commerce has been assured that the Merchant Shipping Bill will not be passed at Simla but will be taken up during the Calcutta Session of the Legislative Council.

WE find a Barrister-at-law of some years' standing has been appointed an Honorary Magistrate at Chupra with only the powers of a third class Magistrate. In our own neighbourhood, Sealdah, approved native Pleaders exercise 2nd class powers on the Independent Bench of Honorary Magistrates.

THE last of the Civil Service Examinations under the old Regulations will be held on the 1st June 1891, in London.

THE following rule for the Orissa Canals, proposed in August last, has been sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor:—

"All low-lying lands which cannot ordinarily benefit by canal water shall be excluded by the Deputy Revenue Superintendent from a kharif lease of five years, or exempted from assessment.

*Proviso.*—If owing to extraordinary drought in any year during the currency of such lease, such exempted lands, or any portion of them, can and do benefit, the cultivators shall be liable in such year for the crop benefited."

GOVERNMENT has begun to open its eyes to the hardships by exposure to the sun to which seamen while in port are subjected. The following rules have been proposed under the Indian Ports Act, X of 1889. They will be considered two weeks hence:—

"During the months of April to October no European seaman or apprentice shall be employed during the hot hours of the day upon work necessitating direct exposure to the sun.

Masters of vessels requiring work to be performed in bilges, boilers, and double bottoms shall be responsible that such places are free from all dangerous and obnoxious gases, &c., before the men are sent to work in them.

Before sending seamen, apprentices, or labourers into the holds of vessels, the hatches of which have been closed for over 12 hours, precautions shall be taken, especially with vessels loading grain in the rainy season, to ascertain by lowering a light the state of the air in the hold. A rope shall be fastened to the first man sent down, and the same precaution shall be taken in any case where men are sent below to assist in the rescue of men who have become insensible when working in a hold, fore-peak, or locker in which foul air may have collected or noxious gases may have been generated."

The last is suggested by the recent deaths from carbonic acid gas in the holds of vessels.

AT the last annual meeting of the British Dental Association (Eastern Counties Branch), the President, Mr. Kirby, answered the question—What is the reason of the great increase of decay of the teeth of the rising generation?

"He thought that there could be little doubt that the increase of decay which was met with was greater than the increase in the population would account for. The Registrar-General's reports suggested that some part at least of the increase in population is due to the increase in the average length of life amongst us, and this in turn to the diminution in mortality amongst infants and children of tender years. In other words, in consequence of improvements in sanitary and medical

science a considerable number of infants survive the diseases and dangers of childhood who would formerly have succumbed to them. Thus we have added to the population a considerable number of persons who if not actually weak, may be looked upon as scarcely equal, physically, to those who used under harder circumstances to fight through the battles of childhood. And if in the next generation there be an increase in the number of children who are the off-spring of such parents, we may expect to find a general lowering in tone and consequent greater tendency to dental decay. He also considered that another cause which had not received the attention it deserved was the influence of climate, which may be unsuitable to a special race; for instance, the children of English parents born in India often possess fairly good teeth, whilst the teeth of children whose parents and grand-parents have resided there are usually deplorably bad. It may also be fairly said that the children of English people born at the Cape, as well as the descendants of our race in America and Australia, have inferior teeth to our own."

Is that the reason why the British in India shew their teeth to the natives?

\*\*\*

THE *American Dentist* denounces the use of charcoal as a dentifrice, thus:—

"When used as a dentifrice [it is] very much more serious than people would naturally suppose, for although as a cleanser of the teeth, it is very effectual and does no harm to them, it is very destructive to the surrounding tissues, inasmuch that it is entirely insoluble in the saliva, just as much so in fact, as so much steel filings, or powdered glass, and is about equally irritating to the gums. It becomes lodged about the necks of the teeth and creates a chronic inflammation that very often results in the loosening of the teeth and their dropping out of their sockets. Many people have thus lost their teeth which otherwise would have lasted them through life. They have become victims of a popular delusion, a delusion that we have tried very hard to dissipate since we have been in the country, for we find it very prevalent here. We hope that our admonitions will do at least some good, and will dissuade some people from a continuance of the use of this disease producing charcoal, for there could scarcely be anything really more injurious as a dentifrice."

..

CAPTAIN Jorgensen made an iron life-boat, named it *Storm King* and voyaged in it round the world, sailing from England to Australia. For this feat he has received an official reception from the Marine Board of Melbourne.

..

ACCORDING to a Belgian shipping paper, a steamer carried to the west coast of Africa 14 missionaries, 460 tons of gunpowder, 11 cases of gin and 10,000 casks of rum. Such is the way of the civilization of the day—such the means by which it is pushed to the unenlightened corners of the globe! Later on, another vessel, we dare say, will take there a Belgian Father Mathew or finally a Caine.

..

THE woman's-rights movement is not confined to the earth. It flies in the air. We read of an American Amazon, Miss Gladys Van Tassel, who travels in the air and mounts the sky. She is now performing as a parachutist at Batavia, having shewn her power and skill in Australia. She is expected in Calcutta during the "season."

..

THE latest American invention is an electric corset with alarm attachment. It not only moulds the figure, but, it is said, that at the slightest exterior pressure a bell starts a-ringing and refuses to be silent till help arrives. Let none of our European readers import this go-a-head nonsense into our unsophisticated country. Here, it might invite a crowd of people to bid for the fair one.

..

THE *Statesman's* Lahore correspondent under date the 14th September, writes:—

"There has, I regret to say, been another outrage, similar to the one perpetrated by the man Brookes, on the North-Western Railway; the victim in the present case was a widow lady, named Mrs. Murphy. Her statement goes to show that shortly after she left Rawul Pindie for Lahore at night, a European entered her carriage, and, notwithstanding her remonstrances, flung her out of the compartment. She lay stunned on the line with a bleeding head until dawn when she found her way to a village and thence back to Gujarkhan, where she received medical attendance. The story has, as you may well believe, caused considerable sensation in the station. The account if true (we are waiting for further confirmation) would indicate her assailant to be a raving lunatic. At any rate it seems strange that such occurrences should be possible in these days of efficient police agencies. It would, I think, be a good plan if the doors of the compartments reserved for ladies were always kept locked; the key, for the sake of convenience, being made over to one of the occupants of the carriage. Some such thing will have to be done if ladies are to travel by railway at night."

The Police has since reported that the account is not true, there being in the train no such person as the alleged assailant.

At the special request of the Senate, the Syndicate of the Calcutta University reconsidered its own recommendation for a year's disaffiliation of the Ripon College in Law, and reduced the term of suspension from 12 to 8 months from October 1890 to May 1891. The Senate was not satisfied and requisitioned a special meeting for considering the propriety of the amended resolution of the Syndicate. That meeting was held last Saturday, under the presidency of the Vice-Chancellor, the Honourable Dr. Gnanadas Bannerjee. There was an animated discussion of over 3 hours. The Hon'ble Mr. Cotton moved and Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna seconded the following resolution:—

"That the proprietor of the Ripon College having admitted the existence of irregularities in connection with the institution, and having taken steps to prevent their recurrence in future, the Senate, while concurring with the resolution of the Syndicate that the management of the College should be censured for laxity of supervision, are of opinion that the facts of the case do not justify the recommendation of the Syndicate to the Government of India that the Ripon College should be disaffiliated in law from the 1st October, 1890, to the end of the current Session, that is, till the 31st May, 1891."

In support of his proposition, Mr. Cotton deprecated any severity in dealing with unaided Colleges. He was of opinion that

"the resolution of the Syndicate went far beyond the requirements and circumstances of the case. He would admit that the management was to blame; but the penalty to be inflicted was far too severe, and would fall wholly on the proprietor of the College, who was really not to blame in the matter. The penalty would be practically a fine on him of from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. If the Vice-Chancellor had known it, he was sure he would not have imposed such a fine. This was a very grave penalty on a gentleman who had committed no other fault than laxity of supervision. Another point was that it would be highly impolitic to proceed in this way against an independent college."

To make a point and give a hit,

"He alluded to what was done in regard to a Government College just ten years ago, when similar irregularities were discovered, and a very different penalty inflicted. When the Krishnagur College tripped in the same way, the resolution of the Syndicate was that the student should be disqualified, and the law lecturer was called upon to resign. This case was brought before the Syndicate of the time by the then Director of Public Instruction, and the Chairman of the Syndicate in 1880 was Sir Alfred Croft, the present Director of Public Instruction. The speaker asked if the action of the Syndicate in regard to a Government College in 1880 should not be taken as a precedent in the case of an independent college in 1890? Nothing would redound more to the credit of the Educational Department than if their officers would give every encouragement to independent and privately maintained colleges."

This called up Sir Alfred Croft to the defence of the honour of his own Department. He performed his part well, without any bitterness or disposition as if he scorned to take the advantage open to him. He simply vindicated the action of the Syndicate, both in the first instance and again on the last occasion in revising its original resolution, and laid bare the gravity of the offence committed:—

"The speaker then dwelt upon the nature of the offence in this case, which meant violation of the regulations of the University, and allowing candidates to be marked present in the official register of the college when they were not present. In other words the college secured candidates admission by means of false statements. The truth of the charge had been admitted, and the punishment was accompanied by a certain amount of censure. Honest colleges were in this way handicapped, and the difficulty of detection and immunity secured may have encouraged managers of other colleges to commit similar breaches of the regulation. But when such breach was detected and it was found that an offence was committed, not once but repeatedly, and there were circumstances showing a complete disregard of the rules of the University and the obligations of truth, it became plainly their duty to vindicate law and morality by inflicting such a punishment as to prevent the poison from spreading still further. In the first aspect there was the admission of candidates to the degree of the University by false statements; and the second a far worse one, that these offences were committed, and can only be committed, with the connivance and knowledge of the students themselves, which meant that from the time students entered the Ripon College, they were familiarised with arts of deceit, and instead of lessons of public virtue, truth and heroism, they were imbibing the atmosphere of deception. This case was different to the one specified by Mr. Cotton. Here there was systematic and habitual violation. In the case of the student of the Krishnagur College, instead of attending the lectures on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, he attended on Saturdays and Sundays, and the Syndicate even then showed their estimation of the offence, slight as it was, and which had no resemblance to the habitual and systematic offence of the Ripon College. Who was responsible for this deplorable state of things but the management, who, it was found, resorted to dishonest practices? They were confronted with a letter from the proprietor, who disclaimed all knowledge of the irregularities. The speaker fully accepted the disclaimer, but he wished to point out that the proprietor's disclaimer put him out of court and deprived him of being heard in the matter. The late principal of the college also disclaims all knowledge, so they have here irregularities running riot and abounding in the college, and no one had any knowledge, no one was responsible for them. The speaker could only say the management of the college as a whole was responsible; the charge was un rebutted, and the management had failed in its duty to watch over and control its students. It had allowed them



to practise deceit, for which they were afforded opportunities, and thereby rendered them unfit to be affiliated to the University. The laxity of supervision had been a source of great profit and advantage to the management by filling its college rooms with students, and it must accept the consequences it takes up, and not escape the just penalty its negligence involves."

Mr. Tawney took up the cudgels in defence of morality. He surprised everybody by the exhibition of a gift of oratory which no body had ever suspected in him. Such a speech as his delivered in the House of Commons would have made the reputation and fortune alike of the speaker. Here the dispensers of patronage would be culpable in neglecting to strengthen our Chambers—weighed down as they are, sometimes of necessity, by loads of dulness and ignorance—with men of such fine talents and solid worth. The great Professor treated the business with academic though by no means pedantic railery. In a passage of manly eloquence, weighted with crushing sarcasm, which was cheered to the echo, he said:—

"In the course of a long career in the Educational Department he had often had considerable difficulty in getting students to attend 66 per cent. of the lectures on every subject, and he had always endeavoured to carry out the regulations, but he had never known Government colleges to adopt that drastic method which, for fear of giving offence, he should call the 'conjectural emendation of registers.' In many magnificent letters to magnificent Secretaries to Government the governing body of the University had always professed to be doing all it could to inculcate a spirit of truth, and he was certain there were not many present who wanted their sons to practise the conjectural emendation of registers. He did not think it would be difficult to pass from the 'conjectural emendation of registers' to the 'conjectural emendation of opium passes,' the reward for which was seven years' imprisonment. He pitied the Professor of Moral Science at the Ripon College and the Professor of Moral Philosophy if they had to follow the example of this sort of morality. He therefore hoped that in deciding upon this matter the Senate would not look to the question of pecuniary fine, but would return such a verdict as would be for the welfare of the rising generation of Bengal."

Sir Comer Petheram laid down the law that neither the Syndicate nor the Senate could deal with the matter and that it rested entirely with the Viceroy to disaffiliate any institution from the University. He thought the punishment recommended was not too severe for the offence committed and even went so far as to say that the College should not be re-affiliated until it was shewn that there was no danger of a repetition of the offence. He was, however, moved by pity towards Surendranath—who, by the way, had once before received a very different measure from the High Court. He ended by saying—

"There was no security that, at the expiration of the time to which the disaffiliation extended, the same thing would not happen again. The Syndicate had taken up a position of punishment and not of reformation. It was their obvious duty to go to the Viceroy and ask that this connection must cease till the proprietor, co-operating with the Syndicate, shows clearly that the offence will not be repeated, and that, as soon as satisfactory guarantees had been given, the order of disaffiliation might be suspended. Perhaps it was yet possible for the Syndicate to retrace their steps, and by not pressing their decision obviate what would have a ruinous effect on the Ripon College and a most disastrous effect on the University."

Mr. Monmohun Ghose took up this cue. He had been watching the whole business with lively interest as a great leader and a Parliamentary strategist. He now came to the rescue of the reputation of the Congress in jeopardy in its Orator, with this motion by way of an amendment, to wit—

"That with reference to a suggestion thrown out by Sir Comer Petheram of the desirability of satisfactory guarantees for the future conduct of the Ripon College, the Senate resolve that, without proceeding to the extreme length of disaffiliating the law classes of the college, the debate be adjourned for three months in order to see whether the proprietor of the Ripon College will act in such a manner as to justify the University in allowing it to continue its connection therewith."

Sir Henry Harrison, with his known tenderness for his old colleague at the Municipality, seconded the amendment and defended the cause of the Ripon College with his fervid casuistry. At last, the Vice-Chancellor rose. He had maintained the dignity of the Chair throughout, with scrupulous fairness to all sides, and now he summed up in a lucid speech worthy of his reputation. Then the amendment was put. Notwithstanding the efforts visibly made to secure support, it was lost on a show of hands, but a poll being demanded, it was carried on a division by 38 against 35.

This shews a distinct advance in the opinion of the Senate. The first resolution was carried by 10 against one and the second by 38 against 35. The whole matter has now gone up to the Viceroy for final orders. The Syndicate insists on a substantial punishment for the offence detected and admitted. The Senate will be content to let off the offender with a warning. The Viceroy will have to decide whether certificates issued on the condemned registers can be accepted as correct.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

WE rejoice to learn that there is after all no truth in the report that Prince Victor Albert has been suffering from malarious fever caught in India. Although circulated in so many respectable British journals, there was, it is now averred, not the slightest foundation for it. The British Press which early naturalised "interviewing" and has adopted other little Transatlantic methods, seems to be getting American day by day.

THERE is something the matter with the Ameer. The *Civil and Military Gazette* says that "the Ameer lately released 160 female relatives of refugees who were in prison at Kabul, and told them to go to India. They arrived at Peshawar on the 10th instant, and will go thence to their relatives." That has a bad look. The following is unmistakable and truly horrible!

"Colonel Wali Mohamad Khan, Post-Master-General, who was in prison on a charge of embezzlement, has had his eyes put out by order of the Ameer; and Diwan Nehal Chand, who was a Diwan at Kabul, has, owing to disobedience of orders, had the hairs of his beard plucked out, also by order of the Ameer."

Will not our Government stir at such doings?

THE Syndicate of the Calcutta University has ruled:—

"That within six months from the date of publication of the result of any examination, any person may, on payment of a fee of two rupees, obtain from the registrar a copy of an extract from the roll-book of the University showing the number of marks obtained in each subject by any candidate at that examination."

After the discreditable disclosures of late in connection with the marking of examination papers, the University could no longer refuse to give in detail the results of the examination of the plucked candidates when called for. But we are not sure that it is empowered to demand any fee for supplying the information. The only power on this behalf conferred by law is that the "Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Fellows shall have power to charge such reasonable fees for the Degrees to be conferred by them, and upon admission into the said University, and for continuance therein, as they, with the approbation of the Governor-General of India in Council shall from time to time see fit to impose."

AN influentially signed memorial has gone up to the Viceroy for amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act with regard to the assessment of residential houses and recovery of busti rates. This is virtually an appeal from the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor who refused to move in the matter after having passed the law. It is a voluminous memorial and concludes thus:—

"Your Memorialists therefore respectfully submit that they have shewn with regard to the assessment upon houses occupied by the owners—

1stly. That the principle of assessment laid down by the Act is a fantastic, impracticable and indefensible principle necessarily leading to gross injustice upon a very large body of rate-payers in Calcutta.

2ndly. That so far from this principle being supported by the English authorities, upon whom Sir Henry Harrison relies, it is directly opposed to all the authorities referred to.

3rdly. That if this principle of assessment is indefensible, it is a denial of justice to the rate-payers of Calcutta, to defer enquiry for a period of four years, and to subject them in the meantime not only to the harassment and injustice of an arbitrary and impracticable system of assessment, but to the payment of rates which, under this arbitrary system, are imposed; and which they will have in the meantime to pay.

4thly. That with regard to the owners of lands upon which bustees or houses erected by the poorer classes are built, the simple question is whether the owners of the land are to be responsible for the rate assessed upon houses which do not belong to them, and whether any advantage can be gained by waiting for four years to consider this question. If the principle is unfair and unreasonable, a lapse of four years will not change its character.

Your Memorialists therefore pray that should Your Excellency consider that their present representations are founded upon reason and justice, that Your Excellency will direct that such steps as may be necessary shall be taken for the amendment of those provisions of the Act of which your Memorialists complain; or should Your Excellency consider that further enquiry is necessary, that Your Excellency will not allow a period of 4 years to elapse before such enquiry is made, but will at once direct that a Commission be appointed for the investigation of your Memorialists' complaint; and that all further assessments under the Act may be suspended until the Commission have submitted their report."

We do not see how, under the existing law, the Viceroy can suspend the assessment operations in the town, except through the Municipal Commissioners, who too are powerless in the matter. Here is indeed a nut for the Law Member to crack.

THE Anglo-Portuguese Treaty has been the occasion of an unseemly disturbance in the Portuguese Cortes. The members of the Opposition hooted the Foreign Minister and even went to the length of assaulting Major Serpa Pinto. Business was suspended, and on the restoration of order, the Foreign Minister brought forward certain amendments to calm down the popular hostility. They had been previously agreed to at Dieppe by Lord Salisbury at a conference with the Portuguese Minister. How the amendments were received is not reported, but there was a split among the supporters of the African Treaty and the Ministry has resigned. Complaints have been made to the British Ambassador at Lisbon that the crew of an English cruiser in the Tagus were hustled by the crowd and insulted while ashore.

The political excitement at Lisbon assumed grave proportions. There was a serious fight between the police and the people. A state siege was proclaimed. The military were called out. Order could only be restored by firing on the mob and injuring many of them.

OWING to the revision of the cantonal constitution, there was a revolution at Ballinzona, in the Swis Canton of Ticino. It was a slight one, and was quickly suppressed by the troops called in aid, though not without the loss of a Councillor who was shot dead by the insurgents.

IT was reported early in the week that a German official decree promulgated at Bagomoyo, sanctioned unrestricted slave trade in that district, and that there was considerable excitement among the Arabs of Zanzibar. Today we read that a German official at Zanzibar has denied the official decree. At the same time, it is declared at Berlin that it was never intended to abolish slavery immediately in German African territory. This is a construction which the British public cannot easily accept, whatever may have been the intentions kept concealed in the Treaty. Meanwhile, it is reported by a Zanzibar correspondent that slavery is reviving along the coast to an extent unknown during the last thirty years.

THE masters giving in, the Southampton strikes have ended. The firemen and seamen had threatened to boycott the shipping firms which would not agree to their demand for higher wages.

TO force the employers to universal suffrage, the Belgian Workmen's Congress has resolved upon a general strike.

THERE was a meeting of the two Emperors, William and Francis Joseph, at Liegnitz on the 17th. General Caprivi and Count Kalnoky were present.

THERE is cordiality between France and Russia. At the banquet at Jouzac over the late French manœuvres, General Ferron toasted the armies of Russia and France, and said that Russia could afford to disregard all coalitions.

A GREAT maritime disaster is reported. Lloyds' Agent at Hiogo telegraphs that the Frigate Ertogroul, belonging to the Turkish Navy, foundered at sea and five hundred of those on board were drowned.

A FIRE broke out at the Allahambra Palace, Granada. Fortunately, most of the buildings could be saved.

MESSRS. Dillon and O'Brien, M.P.s, have been arrested on a charge of inciting Mr. Smith-Barry's tenants to withhold payment of rent. Warrants are out against Messrs. Patrick O'Brien, Sheehy, and Condon and Father Humphreys.

CHOLERA has made its grim appearance at Aleppo. It is also reported at Massowah and Tokar.

DEATH is announced at New York of Dion Boucicault of dramatic fame.

DR. Leitner is nothing if not combative. He has fallen out with the Joint-Secretaries of the Oriental Congress. We confess we do not see much chance of the proposed Congress being held in London this year.

THE officer in charge of the Paper Currency has announced that during the Doorga Poojah holidays "the Currency Office will be open for business as usual on the 18th, 24th, 25th and 29th October." We believe by the words "as usual" the Assistant-Comptroller General, Mr. Keene, means "usual hours" as on other working days, and not that all the employés in the office will have to be in attendance. Even then, the notice is inconsistent with the instructions of Government accompanying the order for curtailment of holidays. The instructions are:—"In all these offices (to be kept open during the holidays

which will henceforth not be notified under the Act) special arrangements should be made, by contracting the hours of business, by limiting the work undertaken to what is really urgent, by granting leave to Hindu employés wherever practicable, and by utilising as much as possible the services of their non-Hindu fellow-clerks to minimise the inconvenience which may be felt by those who have hitherto enjoyed close holidays on the days which will in future be open." Mr. Keene's notice is proof of the spirit in which the order of Government is to be carried out by officers of his bent of mind. The Assistant Comptroller-General evidently thinks, that these four days not being public holidays under the Act, he is not to be bound by any executive order of Government. Government itself committed the mistake of making a distinction between the Doorga Poojah Holidays under the Act and under orders of Government. The continuity and sacredness of the twelve days being thus broken through, irreverent heads of offices and departments are free to ride roughshod over the non-public holidays. We have reason to believe that the Government of India is not committed to its order against the holidays, and is willing to withdraw the orders recently passed, if shewn to be unreasonable or unnecessary. The Comptroller-General—it is not Gay but Jacob who now rules the Department—has permission to close his office during all the days of the Dussehra vacation if he chooses. He had informed the Government that there was no necessity for his office to remain open and Government has left him the choice to close it or not. If the other heads of the excepted offices would be as reasonable and could shew the non-necessity of keeping their offices open when Calcutta is off business for a holiday-making, there is yet a chance of a full vacation. We hope the Bengal Government will not stick to its own, but follow the liberal example of the Superior Government.

We may here mention that during the last two days' holiday allowed in the Mohurram, the counters opened at the Currency Office did very little business. The work done was not one-fifth of that of the usual business days.

The late Mr. Atkinson—may his ashes rest in peace!—was for the full vacation. He thought that the saying All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy applied equally to office employés and to school-boys—in fact, to all men. He as officiating Comptroller-General predicted what has been found in the Currency Office, and if he agreed to abide by the instructions left by Mr. Gay last year, it was only to prove that for business purposes the Dussehra vacation was a real vacation and little if any business is done.

THE first portion of the Chartered Bank Fraud case still goes on. There is no knowing when it will end. The evidence has closed, and addresses by counsel have been made. The Judge is addressing the Jury to-day at length. If their verdict goes in the accused's favor, there is an end of the matter, otherwise the case will be locked up and reserved for the cycle after the vacation. For the presiding Judge has reserved all the points raised by the defending counsel. They are three in number and cut the prosecution at the root. Here they are:—

"First, whether the charge was sustainable; second, whether the confession was admissible; and third, whether there was any evidence to go to the jury."

Just as we are going to press we learn that the Jury at last unanimously gave a verdict of *Not Guilty*. The prisoner has been acquitted and discharged. His son's turn comes next.

THE Government of Bengal has recorded a highly appreciative Resolution on Mr. Holmwood's triennial report of the Registration Department for the last three official years. The value of this report in the eyes of the Government is enhanced by the intelligent deductions which Mr. Holmwood draws from the statistics which are collected in his report. His observations on the fluctuations in the registration of perpetual leases are pronounced to be of considerable interest and importance. He says:—

"There are two great classes of perpetual leases—those given by zemindars to their tenants and those sublet by tenants to others. These two classes fluctuate independently of each other, and the circumstances of each particular district become a factor in determining their variations. But as far as the first class of perpetual leases is concerned, a general rule, such as would be naturally expected, seems to be at work. The amount of land being limited, the settlement by zemindars with their rayyets in perpetuity has a tendency to increase up to a certain point, and then to steadily decrease as the majority of the lands become settled. This has actually been observed to be the case in the sub-district of Baraset in the 24-Pergunnahs, where the Sub-Registrar is the most punctual and business-like officer I have

under me (which renders his office very popular), and is also a most careful observer and notes facts in connection with registration transactions in the most intelligent manner. He has observed a regular permanent settlement going on during the past two or three years between the zemindars and their rayyets, owing to the zemindars finding it difficult to make arbitrary enhancements or ejections under the new law, and the number of registrations under this settlement has already reached its maximum and begun to decline. I have no doubt that this same cause is at work in other sub-districts, where the usual stereotyped explanation is given, that the zemindars find themselves in straitened circumstances owing to a succession of bad harvests; but it is only in particular districts, like those in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, where the rayyets are prosperous and insist on obtaining some certainty of tenure, that these settlements are at all general."

There is a steady falling-off in the registrations under Sections 12 and 18 of the Bengal Tenancy Act relating to permanent and fixed tenures. The decrease is explained by Mr. Holmwood by the unpopularity of the landlord's fees. The increase on the other hand in the number of registrations of leases, mortgages and sales, is attributed to the indirect effect of the Bengal Tenancy Act. So far as the last year is concerned, it was due also, to a great extent, to the scarcity. While the operations of the Registration Department have been carefully reviewed and commented on in general, one remarkable fact remains without explanation. This will be seen from the following remarks in the Resolution:—

"While the aggregate value of property transferred by registered documents increased by more than 520½ lakhs of rupees in 1888-89, it decreased by more than 412½ lakhs during the past year. There was an increase of nearly 11 lakhs in the value of moveable property transferred, but the value of immoveable property diminished by more than 423 lakhs. It is unsatisfactory to note that no explanation is forthcoming of the wholly unprecedented increase observed last year or of the great fall in the year following. In former years fluctuations in these figures were not considerable, and it is an insufficient explanation to attribute them to general dulness of trade."

On the subject of Mahomedan marriage registration, we are glad to see that the reforms suggested by Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadoor are about to be adopted in practice. The following remarks are made on this subject in the Resolution:—

"The districts of Dinagepur, Pubna, Backerganj, Noakhali, Mymensingh, Bogra, Tipperah, and Dacca showed an increase in the total number of ceremonies registered, while the districts of Khulna, Rajshahiye, Rungpur, Faridpur, and Chittagong showed a decrease. The Inspector-General of Registration thinks that in the majority of districts the Mahomedan Marriage Registrars are slowly but surely gaining ground, and that in those districts where they do not do so, it is owing to their own inferior qualifications or to the active opposition of interested headmen and zemindars. Mr. Holmwood was lately asked for a separate report with reference to the alleged unpopularity of the Act, and he has given his reasons for holding that it is not in any way unpopular, though in certain places it is neglected and in certain others its effects are destroyed by the opposition of a few hostile zemindars, and the Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to agree with the view he has expressed. Some practical reforms suggested by Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadoor, C.I.E., in a valuable minute on the working of the Act, have been adopted by the Permanent Committee and approved by Government, and they will be immediately introduced. The Act is at the same time to be extended, on the recommendation of the Permanent Committee, to the Town of Calcutta and the districts of 24-Pargunnahs, Jessore, and Moorshedabad. As regards the Qazis' Act, the Inspector-General writes that the 'Act does not seem to gain ground much, though wherever the Qazis are energetic enough to establish Naib Qazis and get hold of the professional persons who arrange marriages there is a marked increase in their operations. This is specially noticed in the districts of Eastern Bengal.' The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that district officers will show more interest in the working of this important Act in the future."

IN March 1891, on dates to be notified hereafter, there will be an examination in Calcutta, of candidates for appointment of Deputy-Collectors. The applicants must have passed the B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University, or be holders of satisfactory certificates shewing that they have received education up to an analogous standard, and of not more than 25 years of age. The age restriction does not apply to candidates who are already gazetted officers of Government. Those in the list of candidates registered for appointment as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy-Collectors are also eligible for the examination, provided they have not exceeded the age of 30. It is announced that

"No person will be deemed qualified who does not satisfy the following conditions:—

I.—That he has no disease, constitutional affection, or bodily infirmity, unfitting him, or likely to unfit him, for the Subordinate Executive Service.

II.—That he is of good moral character.

III.—That he belongs to a respectable family.

IV.—That he produces a certificate of ability to ride, signed by a District Officer."

If these conditions were strictly enforced, the Subordinate Executive Service would indeed be an honorable body. But how many not of

respectable family have crept into the service, making the administration a terror to the true respectability of the country. A candidate for the examination must apply to the Under-Secretary in the Appointment Department by the 1st February next with a fee of Rs. 10 and the required certificates. The medical certificate may follow, the fee for which is Rs. 4. The candidates will be examined three days—in English Essay, a classical language (Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian or Latin) or Mathematics, History and Political Economy, Literature and Philosophy, or Physics and Chemistry. The total number of marks for the several papers is 1,100.

Unlike the University Examinations, there are no passing marks. Nor, as in the Civil Service, will a certain number be accepted according to requirement. But,

"After the results of the examination have been ascertained, a list will be prepared of the candidates selected for appointment in the year 1891. The list will be composed as follows:—(a) the first four candidates on the list in order of merit; (b) two others, to be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor from among those candidates who have obtained not less than one-third of the marks; (c) two Special Deputy Collectors or Sub-Deputy Collectors selected by the Lieutenant-Governor for promotion. The names of these eight candidates will be arranged in a combined list in such order as the Lieutenant-Governor may direct; and according to the position assigned to them in that list they will be appointed to fill vacancies in the Subordinate Executive Service as they occur. Should more than eight vacancies arise during the year, the excess appointments will be given to qualified candidates selected by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Selected candidates, not already in Government service, will at once be employed as probationers on a subsistence allowance of Rs. 50 a month."

The admission of the B. A. certificate as a qualification for a candidate is a piece of inconsistency. If University Examinations are worth anything, why is a separate education examination instituted? This departmental Examination is the severest possible condemnation of the University.

THE examination for Sub-Deputy Collectorships will also be held in March 1891. Those whose names already appear in the Government Lists of candidates for Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectorships and candidates selected from the list of applicants for registration are all eligible for this examination. They are also required to produce certificates of health, moral character, social position, and ability to ride. They will be examined in (1) Dictation and language, (2) General knowledge, (3) Drawing and Surveying, (4) Mathematics and (5) Law. Permission to appear must be obtained as in the other examination.

"The six candidates, who obtain the highest marks, provided that they have also passed in the first of the above papers, will be declared entitled to appointment as Sub-Deputy Collectors, and will be appointed to fill vacancies in that grade as they arise. Should more than six vacancies occur during the year, the excess appointments will be given to qualified candidates selected by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Selected candidates, not already in Government service, will at once be employed as probationers on a subsistence allowance of Rs. 30 a month."

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 20, 1890.

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION—THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

OUR approval of Mr. Mackenzie's education policy has given satisfaction to our contemporary of the *Indian Daily News*. Probably it has been somewhat of a surprise. But the day of differences on the subject of Industrial Education is happily no more. Liberal culture is no doubt a fine thing but education in arts and handicrafts is a necessity of the hour. For the rest, there is no suggestion nor possibility of the one being sacrificed to the other. High education has now sufficient securities for its safety, while the terror excited by earlier enthusiasts in the cause of practical education who were prepared even to smother high education in furtherance of their cause is become a chimera. The two may now march together, without any thought of encroaching on each other. On the contrary, they may best flourish as co-ordinates of the same system. This, however, was not the case before. There were extravagant proposals in respect of general education at one time and

revolutionary schemes of technical education. High education came under suspicion and the entire policy by which it had made progress so far was to be abandoned. The Government, it was held, had committed a mistake and must atone for the mistake as far as possible by pushing technical at the expense of higher education. In fact the attitude of some of the exponents of the new policy was alarming, or at any rate created alarm. If therefore the native press did not take to proposals of such enthusiasts in the earlier days of the controversy quite so kindly as now, the fault was not wholly its own. But the heat of the past controversy is over. Both parties have outgrown their vehemence, and for some time past the interests of high as well as of technical education have been held in equally just regard. For ourselves, we have always avoided taking sides in the controversy. In the very first years of this journal, we remember having warmly sympathized with the views of the then struggling party of Technical Education. Where any advocate of technical education was betrayed into avowed hostility to liberal education, we felt bound to remind him of his mistake. We believe that the two should be fitted into one system. Mr. Tawney's idea of placing both under the direction of the University has our complete approval. The one as well as the other requires equally careful nursing, and the most effective nursing is secured by the University. With all the strong hold which high education has got in the country, it yet needs fostering and right direction. The Universities have, indeed, given a mighty impetus to its progress but, nevertheless, the time is not come to leave it without the support of the State. As for technical education, it deserves all the support that the Government and the generous public could give. Already, the liberal professions are overcrowded. The higher schools and colleges are attracting numbers part whereof should have been diverted to practical handicrafts, only if the way were fairly open. There are kinds and degrees of intelligence. There are aptitudes for polite learning as there are aptitudes for practical pursuits. In the absence of schools for technical instruction, all are indiscriminately flocking to our Colleges many of whom should not be there—nor would they be, if means of education suitable for them were provided. Already, the old prejudices against mechanical pursuits are giving way before the pressure of the new order of things. In fact, the time for giving our educational system a wider berth has long come, and our complaint of the neglect of technical education receives its edge from almost our personal disappointment. Our own province is daily being far and farther left behind by sister provinces. To-day it is a report of Nagpore that reminds us of our backwardness. The next day it is a still more brilliant record of another Presidency that puts Bengal to the blush. The success of technical education in the Western Presidency has been of a most marked character. The Technical Schools of Bombay are crowded with students. To many earnest friends of the new educational departure, nothing, we believe, was a matter of more anxious deliberation than the question, Whether means of useful training being at last provided, they would be availed of by the people in sufficient numbers to make them worth the trial? All such anxious fears have now been dissipated in Bombay. The experiment has been a decided success, and Lord

Reay's strongest opponents must give him credit for the success of his educational measures. The students, we hear, are pouring in beyond the capacity of the schools for their accommodation. Additional classes and fittings and furnishings had to be provided, but the influx of candidates continued at a rate which made it necessary to publish advertisements that the institution was full. Full details of the signal success of the experiment in Bombay are going the round of the press, and we refer to them only to emphasise the contrast they afford to the state of things in Bengal. Probably, it may be said that a commercial and manufacturing city like Bombay possesses especial facilities for technical instruction denied to others and no fair comparison with Bombay can lie. Admitted, but what of Nagpore? And has not Mr. Mackenzie's province also distanced us in the race?

There is no good reason, however, why Bengal should lag so far behind. Is it not the wealthiest Indian satrapy? As for financial difficulties, they are difficulties in which every Local Government has a proportionate share. Bengal, on the contrary, is specially fortunate in having its education directed by a man who practically though justly holds the honored position of Education Minister to the Government of India. That Sir Alfred Croft's own province should have so long taken little part in the movement is to us inexplicable. That movement received formal sanction from the Education Commission of which he was a distinguished member, and whatever progress it has been making in other parts of the country dates from the time the recommendations of the Commission began to be carried into effect. It is about three years ago, we believe, that arrangements for practically carrying them out were taken in hand in this province as elsewhere. The arrangements here must presumably have made sufficient progress as the Department was sometime ago said to be on the look out for a suitable house in Calcutta for its technical institute. Some degree of alarm was created by a proposal to convert the old Hindu School into the institute. That proposal, whatever its origin, was indiscreet, and it was met with a storm of opposition. It was evidently abandoned, and well it is the dear old school lives. But since then there is not a syllable breathed about the proposed Institute for Calcutta. Does it hang fire for want of a house or are there more serious obstacles? In the meantime, however, the demand for practical training is getting more pressing. The Shibpore Workshops offer no adequate variety of training. What we require is variety on the model of Lord Reay's scheme, and it is high time a beginning was made.

#### THE INDIAN BUDGET.

THE Indian Budget Statement was, as usual, made before empty benches. There were barely seventeen members of the House of Commons before whom Sir John Gorst unfolded the intricacies of Indian finance. This practice has been condemned on all hands, but in vain. It is truly wonderful that, in the face of the disapproval which it has always called forth from supporters of Government as well as their opponents, it should be persisted in year after year. Under the circumstances a proper debate was out of the question. Mr. Bradlaugh, however, rescued its character by his able criticisms of the financial policy of the Government.

The Under-Secretary of State was at an extra-



ordinary advantage in presenting his Indian Accounts this year. He was in a position to take all critics by storm. Never was a financier in a more fortunate position in laying his budget statement. For, it was a tale of unexpected and unexampled prosperity he had to unfold. The surplus of only Rx. 270,400 estimated by Sir David Barbour was by one bound swelled to an unprecedented net surplus of Rx. 1,870,400. We say net, for the real gain was more considerable. This was due to a rise in exchange. Had it not been for this favorable turn in the value of the rupee, the finances of India would have been, said Sir John Gorst, worse by Rx. 560,000 than they were expected to be by Sir David Barbour last year. Part of this was real loss, *viz*, the loss of Rx. 40,000 on opium, and of Rx. 320,000 on railway receipts from slackness of the export in consequence of the same sudden alteration in exchange, while a part was only apparent loss, namely, a sum of Rx. 200,000 for interest arising out of the proposed conversion of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Rupee Loan into a 4 per cent. Debt. This, of course, was not really a loss, but in the long run a gain to the revenue of India. Taking these outgoings, however, into consideration, the true advantage, said the Under-Secretary of State, which has accrued to the revenue of India from the rise of 2d. in the estimated rate of exchange was no less than Rx. 2,160,000.

Sir John Gorst then discussed the two courses which must suggest themselves to a Government in view of such an overflowing surplus. One was the remission of taxation, and the other the restoration of the surplus which, he said, went by the name of the Famine Insurance Fund. The former course had never a better chance of acceptance than on the present occasion, but it was summarily set aside, and the second alternative commended itself to Sir John's warmest approval. He put the official construction of the Fund and justified his recommendation for its maintenance with consummate ingenuity and made a thoroughly plausible case for his policy of caution. He said:—

"The famine insurance was not a material but a financial insurance, and it was based on the rough calculation that the consequences of famine in India were to impose on the people a burden of Rx. 15,000,000 once every ten years. The fund was supposed to consist of a special surplus of Rx. 1,500,000; but, as the Government of India was a continual borrower for the purpose of making railways and irrigation works, the whole or part of the Rx. 1,500,000 had been employed for purposes for which money would otherwise have been borrowed. The special surplus to which he had referred had never been hoarded, or invested, or kept as a sort of purse which could be drawn upon in the event of a famine occurring. It had always been spent year by year. It would, however, be a great mistake for the Committee to suppose that no money had been applied of late years to the extinction of debt or the promotion of irrigation and railway works; for since the year 1886-87 no less than Rx. 3,440,000 had been applied to those purposes. He was not so sanguine as to suppose that after the statement he had made, the character of the transactions he had referred to would be properly understood. He had no doubt that the name of the Famine Insurance Fund would continue to be used, and that hon'ble members would still talk of the Secretary of State seizing upon the fund as if he were guilty of robbery; but, at any rate, the first duty of the Government, upon the return of financial prosperity, was to restore the famine grant. With regard to the salt tax, in which certain hon'ble members took so much interest, although it was a tax which ought to be and which should be removed as soon as that course was financially possible, he thought the figures which he had quoted would encourage hon'ble members and the Government of India to restore the famine grant instead. As far as the salt tax was concerned, he could only refer to the statements he had made by authority of the Secretary of State, to the effect that the salt duty should be considered as a temporary measure, and that the reduction of it should be effected as speedily as possible. He thought that from the statement he had laid before it, the Committee would agree with him that the finances of India were encouraging and satisfactory; and although it would be extremely foolish to indulge in visions of enormous surpluses, at all events they might contemplate the future with cheerfulness and hope."

Besides Mr. Bradlaugh, there were Sir R. Lethbridge, Sir Richard Temple, Mr. Key, Sir W. Plowden, Sir John Fergusson and one or two others,

who discussed the statement. Sir R. Lethbridge was in the best temper with the Government after the successful issue of his labors in behalf of the Uncovenanted Service and had but congratulations for the Under-Secretary for the satisfactory condition of the finances. He pleased that magnate still further by indulging in an onslaught on Mr. Bradlaugh for his disapproval of the shifting ways of the Government in regard to the so-called Famine Fund. The other speakers aired their respective hobbies. Sir Richard Temple propounded the doctrine that India had the lightest taxation in the world, and wise after the event, thought that a highly technical expression like the Famine Insurance Fund would never have been invented if the Government could divine the perplexities it would give rise to. Sir J. Fergusson denied the heaviness of land assessment in Bombay or the inadequacy of the employment of natives. Mr. Bradlaugh's, as we have said, was the ablest and most elaborate criticism and were it not for him, there would have been no debate worth the name.

#### HOSPITALITY IN A HOUSE OF GOD.

SIR,—In connection with your sub-leader on the eccentricities of a man of God, I beg to relate a story of my own experience which is calculated to show in a great measure that, notwithstanding the thorough and threadbare exposure of the church by Luther, the state of Denmark continues still rotten, and, I am afraid, it will continue to the end of the chapter.

On my way home from office, some time ago, I, together with some of my officemates, was overtaken by a right good down-pour which meant to deluge us literally, if not quite over-flood. However, we took shelter under a church-porico in the neighbourhood of . . . which had already given shelter to not a few under the same plight. Fortunately or unfortunately as you may like to call it, this was a wedding day, and we found among others a man in frocks pacing up and down the landing place, parading his long frock-coat and shining leather boots, brandishing all the while a pretty little cane which gave him much more the air of an eighteenth century cavalier than an ecclesiastic. The gentleman eyed the multitude collected under his very nose with apparent displeasure and sent from time to time a furtive glance at some body or other which convinced all who had eyes to see of the mixed contempt and derision with which he regarded those uninteresting intruders. But we were not in a position to stand on ceremonies, the rain was pouring down in torrents. Shortly, we heard the low rumbling of a distant coach; and directly it came in view, we were most imperiously called to fall back and make a passage; the liveried coachman drew up, the brisk foot-men unlocked the door, and outcame the betrothed pair, seeking under the sanction of the church and its benediction the bliss and comforts of a wedded life. The party entered. But no sooner was the party out of sight, than down came the man in frocks with his cane upon the poor weather-beaten multitude, ordering them to clear out, each and every one of them, on pain of a bruised back or a blackened eye, even though the Heavens meant to rain fire or bring the world to an end. Cleared we all out, as there was no help for it, and preferred the tenderer morsies of an inclement weather to the hard-hitting blows of a mealy-mouthed and charity-preaching Tuck in frocks. But before parting I cried shame to the man, out of the fullness of my heart, saying, inspired as he no doubt was with the utmost stretch of Christian charity, he was nothing but a sheer disgrace to the frock he wore, to the platform he was standing upon, and to the religion he professed. The man was in hysterics—he bit his lips and gave indications that he would tear me outright in pieces, had he but the power.

And such men are expected to breathe consolation to the afflicted and teach erring humanity so that their souls may share the grace hereafter! O tempora! O mores!

JAY KRISHNA BANERJEE.

Calcutta, the 12th September 1890.

\* \* \* In the seventeenth century Defoe wrote the famous lines—

Wherever God erects a house of prayer,  
The Devil always builds a chapel there.

Since then His Club-footed Majesty has evidently advanced in king-craft. He now carries the war into the enemy's camp. Instead of going to the trouble of building separate chapels to spite the church, he now, it would seem, tells off some of his followers for service in the latter.—ED. R. & R.

MONGHYR.

*Jumalpoore, 13th September 1890.*

A river accident took place the other day. The E. I. Railway Co.'s steamer "Margaret," which was flying between Monghyr and Khagariah got aground in the sand. Fortunately, no injury was done to the passengers on board.

The reduction in the several departments of the E. I. Railway is now in full swing. The Traffic Manager Mr. N. St. L. Carter has been served with six months' notice of discharge. The services of Mr. T. Curtis, Accountant and Personal Assistant to the Loco : Superintendent, have also been dispensed with, he having got a month's pay in lieu of notice.

Three European and Eurasian clerks, a dozen native clerks and about a dozen E. and E. I. mechanics from the Loco : Department have already been sent away. This is solely for reduction of establishment. There is a rumour that some more will share the same fate.

Notice under the 55 years' rule is under circulation on the company's employees on the line.

*Budmashes* of the stamp of Benares goondahs appear to have made their appearance at this station. A Bengali Babu attached to Friend & Co.'s shop, whilst going home after closing the shops at night between 9 and 10 P. M., the other night, was waylaid by one of the above and struck with a bamboo stick. Fortunately, the blow aimed at his head escaped its mark and fell on his shoulder. The police had better keep a sharp and vigilant eye on them, otherwise it will be a source of annoyance and danger to passers-by at night.

This place has nowadays become fearfully and unbearably hot. There is actually a need for a heavy downpour.

PUBLIC HEALTH OF ORISSA IN 1889-90.

The Commissioner of the Division reports :---

The year was exceptionally unhealthy, being marked by an unusual increase in mortality in each district, as will be seen from the comparative figures given below :---

		Number of deaths.		
		1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.
Pooree	...	27,833	18,460	43,767
		1887.	1888.	1889.
Cuttack	...	30,708	36,892	51,413
Balasore	...	22,772	20,751	36,604

It seems probable that the excessive heat of the dry season, the capricious rainfall of the year, and the high prices of food-grains, were the main causes of the general unhealthiness of the year. Want of rain in the early part of the year produced a scarcity of drinking-water, while dearth of food-grains compelled the poor people in some places to live on coarse pulses and unwholesome vegetables and roots. The consequence was that the number of deaths increased under the head of almost every disease in Cuttack and Balasore, and that heavy mortality occurred among the under-fed pilgrims who resorted to Pooree. In Cuttack district cholera and fever were mainly responsible for the high mortality of the year, the numbers of deaths from these two diseases having been 14,887, and 20,661, against 3,814 and 16,526 respectively in 1888-89.

In Pooree the largest number of deaths occurred from cholera, the figures being 20,342 deaths, against 1,793 in 1888-89. Under the head of bowel-complaints the deaths increased from 2,032 in 1888-89 to 3,109 in 1889-90. The Civil Surgeon attributes this appalling increase of mortality to the following causes :---(1) To the great number of pilgrims attending last year's festival with a very severe outbreak of cholera at the Rath festival, which continued on to the cold weather; (2) to the famine in the tributary states and in (Ganjam), which, as Pooree is at all times a favourite haunt with beggars, sent crowds of famine-stricken people, who are the readiest prey to disease, to live on the public charities in that town; and (3) to the constant presence of bowel complaints, such as dysentery and diarrhoea, amongst an under-fed and weakly population like the Pooree pilgrims and beggars. The largest numbers of deaths from cholera occurred in thannah Khoorda (6,932) and in the Sudder thannah of Pooree (4,691), and only 632 persons died from this disease in Pooree town. Thus it will be seen that the pilgrims as a rule died on their way to or return from Pooree. The following are the remarks of the Magistrate on this subject :---

"The fearful epidemic of cholera which prevailed last year seems to me to shew clearly how little it is possible to do with the means at the disposal of district officers. Comparative immunity in 1888 was attributed to exceptionally careful sanitary measures at the great festivals, but in 1889, with the same administration, the same arrangements, the same zealous officers working them--Mr. Allen most of the time, and Dr. Walsh all through, from the Dole to after the Rath Jatra--cholera slew its thousands: in fact from April to July there were 16,726 deaths. I believe that the truth is that in an ordinary year, when people are tolerably well fed, careful sanitary arrangements, as far as we can make them, may help to avert an epidemic. In seasons of scarcity, when great numbers of people are under-fed, on any great concourse of men occurring cholera breaks

out at once, and the pollution of the water-supply, to amend which on the whole is in effect beyond our powers, preserves the germs of disease and protracts the epidemic throughout the seasons, or until most of those who by bowel-complaints brought on by chronic semi-starvation are specially exposed to it and have fallen victims."

There is much truth, I think, in these remarks.

The number of deaths from fever in Pooree district was also high, being 4,071, against 2,454 in 1888-89. The Civil Surgeon states that after the excessive rainfall, which accompanied the cyclone in November, fever was unusually bad, and that there was another bad outbreak of fever after the heavy rain in March. The number of deaths from small-pox also rose from 306 in 1888-89 to 1,135.

The Magistrate of Balasore is of opinion that the severe cholera which appeared in his district and carried off 12,993 persons, was indigenous and was not imported by pilgrims. The disease appears to have raged most fatally from April to July, and to have broken out simultaneously in almost every village in the district, though the Chandbally and Basudebpur thannahs suffered most acutely. Cholera pills were distributed, and Civil Hospital Assistants were deputed to afford medical relief. The following extract from the Collector's report suggests an explanation of the probable causes of the outbreak of cholera in the district :---

"The causes are not, I think, far to seek, though they take us back to the autumn of 1888. The October rainfall of that year was an almost total failure throughout the district, and, except in the extreme south, there was practically no rain in November. In their eagerness to save the winter rice, the rayyets used for irrigation purposes every available drop of water, with the result that by February there was little left for drinking purposes. In January, February, and March 1889 there was scarcely any rainfall. May, June, and July were also much below the average, as was also September. It is no wonder therefore that cholera took root in every part of the district, especially in Basudebpur and Chandbally thannahs, which are impregnated with salt, and where drinking-water is always scarce. It should perhaps be noted that these are two of the three thannahs that suffered from flood in August and September 1888. . . . It is certainly worth remarking that Jellalore suffered less than any other thannah. Here the people possess an abundant supply of good water in the Subarnarekha river."

In Cuttack and Balasore the progress of vaccination and the prohibition of inoculation have resulted in a marked decrease of mortality from small-pox, as will be seen from the comparative figures given below :---

Number of deaths from small-pox in--

		1888.	1889.
Cuttack	...	502	212
Balasore	...	474	182

Pooree alone shows a marked increase in the number of deaths from small-pox, the figures being 1,135, against 506 in 1888-89. In the town of Pooree vaccination is compulsory, but in the district it is optional, and is under the supervision of the Superintendent of Vaccination. In the town small-pox broke out badly after the November cyclone, and 54 cases were admitted to hospital. An extra vaccinator was appointed by the municipality. Out of 790 cases in which operations were performed, 684 were successful. In the interior, Banpur, as noticed under the head of public health, is the constant home of this disease, which is imported from the tributary states. Vaccination must be doing something to check it, and the Magistrate believes that frequent representations on the subject have resulted in the work of the vaccinators being considerably stimulated. The people of Banpur, however, are said to be singularly superstitious, and to regard small-pox as a direct visitation of the thakooranee or deity of that disease. Hence they regard any measures to check the disease as an impious interference with divine wishes, and refuse inoculation and vaccination alike. Apart from this passive resistance, Mr. Duke mentions that in small-pox cases the relatives are assembled in the house of the sick person, which is then, as far as possible, closed up from light and air while a poojah is performed over him. This procedure is certainly calculated to spread the disease. I have submitted to Government a proposal made by the Magistrate to introduce compulsory vaccination in Banpur thannah.

In Cuttack, out of 15,834 operations performed 14,746 were successful. The results of vaccination operations in both Cuttack and Balasore were satisfactory.

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## JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

JULY 24.

(Present—LORD WATSON, LORD MAGNACHTEN, SIR BARNES PEACOCK, and SIR RICHARD COUCH.)

BISHAMBHAR NATH AND OTHERS v. NAWAB IMDAD ALI KHAN.

These were six appeals, consolidated by an Order in Council, from a judgment of the Judicial Commissioner of Oude of April 3, 1889.

Sir Horace Davey, Q.C., and Mr. J. D. Mayne were counsel for the appellants; and Mr. Doyne for the respondent.

Lord Watson, in delivering their Lordships' judgment, said the appeals were instituted at the instance of judgment creditors of the respondent, Nawab Imdad Ali Khan, one of the heirs of the late Malka Jehan, the principal consort of Mahommed Ali Shah, the last King of Oude. In all of them the same question was raised—whether a monthly allowance payable to the respondent by the Indian Government, under an arrangement made between the King of Oude and the Governor-General of India in 1842, was liable to be taken in execution for his debts. Mahommed Ali Shah had in 1838 advanced 17,00,000 rupees to the Government of India in pursuance of a formal treaty by which the latter undertook to apply the interest of that sum in payment of allowances to certain members of the Royal family and household, including his consort Malka Jehan, and their respective heirs in perpetuity. In the treaty those allowances were described as "pensions," and the persons entitled to them for the time being as "pensioners"; and on the failure of an original pensioner, and his or her heirs, the Government undertook to devote the lapsed pension towards the maintenance of a mosque selected by the King. Mahommed Ali Shah subsequently advanced to the Indian Government 12,00,000 rupees, which he intended to settle as an additional provision for Malka Jehan and her heirs. Being apprehensive that the lady or her heirs might, if the note or acknowledgment of the loan were issued in her name, be "persuaded at some future period, by evil advisers, to sell the note and squander away the money," his Majesty, by letter dated January 4, 1882, requested the Governor-General, instead of issuing a promissory note in the name of Malka Jehan, to "pay to her, and her issue in perpetuity, the interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, that is, 5,000 rupees a month, so long as 5 per cent. interest may be allowed, and afterwards such reduced interest as may be paid from time to time by the British Government." The letter made special reference to the guarantee or treaty of 1838, and the pensions thereby settled on the ladies of the royal family, and represented that compliance with the request which it preferred "will prevent any new guarantee being entered into, but will merely be the payment of a large sum of interest

instead of a small one." In reply to that communication, the Governor-General, by a letter dated February 15, 1842, intimated his pleasure "in concurring with the hearty desire and wishes" of his Majesty, and gave the assurance that an order would be duly passed for their execution. The Civil Procedure Code of 1882, section 266, enacted that "stipends and gratuities allowed to military and civil pensioners of Government and political pensions" should not be liable to attachment and sale in execution of a decree. If the share inherited by the respondent of the interest on the loan of 1842, originally payable to Malka Jehan, be "a political pension" within the meaning of that enactment, the case of the appellants necessarily failed. The appellants argued, in the first place, that the allowance payable to the respondent by the Indian Government was not a pension, and, secondly, that if it were, it was not "a political pension" in the sense of the Civil Procedure Code, inasmuch as it was not a pension bestowed by the Indian Government in respect of political services or for political considerations. Their Lordships considered that the Governor-General in assenting to the King's letter of January 4, 1842 expressly agreed to apply the interest, arising upon the new loan, in augmenting the pensions already secured to the Queen and heirs by the treaty of 1831, such augmentation being subject to the same conditions and under the same guarantee as the original pensions. In that view, it was impossible to say that the increase was not a pension, or that the heirs of Malka Jehan, the present recipients, had not been recognized as pensioners by the Government of India. Although a settlement in the terms of the King's letter of 1842 creating pensions in perpetuity could not, under the Mahomedan law, be validly made by a private individual, the arrangement of 1842 took effect as a contract or treaty between two sovereign Powers. It was probable (although the point was not one which it was necessary to determine in the case) that the enactments of section 266 of the Code were not meant to cover pensions payable by a foreign State when remitted for payment to their pensioner in India; but those enactments certainly included all pensions of a political nature payable directly by the Government of India. A pension which the Government of India had given a guarantee that it would pay, by a treaty obligation contracted with another sovereign Power, appeared to their Lordships to be, in the strictest sense, a political pension. The obligation to pay, as well as the actual payment of the pension, must, in such circumstances, be ascribed to reasons of State policy. For those reasons they considered that the respondent's pension was protected from execution by the provisions of the Code, and they would therefore humbly advise her Majesty to affirm the judgments appealed from. The costs of the respondent in the appeals must be paid by the appellants.—*The Times*.

NOTICE is hereby given under Section 351 of Act III (B. C.) of 1884 for general information, that the Commissioners of the Baranagar Municipality, at a Special Meeting held on the 23rd February 1890, have framed a set of bye-laws subject to the provisions of the said Act, and that a copy of such bye-laws together with a translation thereof in the vernacular has been kept open, for one month from the date of this notification, in the office of the Commissioners during office hours (11 to 5 P. M.) for the inspection of the inhabitants of the Municipality.

It is hereby further notified that, after the expiration of the said period of one month, the Commissioners of this Municipality intend to submit the said bye laws to the Local Government for confirmation.

P. C. BANERJEE,  
Chairman.

BARANAGAR MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
The 8th September 1890.

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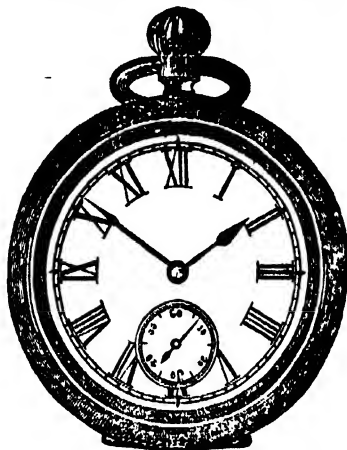
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Removes and prevents all SUNBURN, REDNESS, FRECKLES, TAN, etc., and  
RENDERS the SKIN DELICATELY SOFT, SMOOTH and WHITE.  
It entirely prevents it from becoming DRY and WRINKLED, and PRESERVES the  
COMPLEXION from the scorching effects of the SUN and WIND more effectually than any  
other preparation. The IRRITATION caused by the BITES and STINGS of INSECTS is  
wonderfully allayed by its use. For imparting that soft velvety feeling to the skin, this  
delightful preparation has no equal! Sold by all Chemists.

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Is almost too remarkable for CREDENCE.

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**LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS AND BOWELS,**  
They invigorate and restore to health Debilitated Constitutions, and are invaluable in all Complaints incidental to Females of all ages. For children and the aged they are priceless.

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**For Sore Throats, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds,**  
Glandular Swellings and all Skin Diseases, it has no rival; and for contracted and stiff joints it acts like a charm.

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(Opposite the Police Court,)

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**HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY,**  
THE  
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**DISPENSARY IN ASIA**  
OF PURE HOMŒOPATHY ONLY,  
WHICH  
INTRODUCED TO THE EAST THE  
TRADE IN  
**INDEPENDENT HOMŒOPATHY**  
and maintains to this day  
THE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY OF  
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**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.**

B. & Co. beg to draw the attention of their constituents and the public to the neat little turned

**WOODEN CASE**

in which every phial of medicine that goes out of their Establishment is packed.

These cases while they ensure the bottles against breakage will also be found very convenient and useful.

No EXTRA CHARGE.

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Strong, accurate, pretty, open-faced Nickel silver short winding Keyless Railway Regulators, of small size, jewelled, enamelled dials, bold figures and Candian Gold hands, with tempered machinery and dust tight hinged cases for Rs. 7-8 per V. P. P. with spare glass, spring, box and guarantee. Warranted to stand rough usage. Can be easily repaired. Have no appearance of cheapness about them. Others sell at double our rates. Mr. A. R. Mehta from Bandora says:—"The 7-8 watch I purchased from you two years back, gives correct time as yet." Acting Superintendent, Government Farm, Khandesh, says:—"A watch maker has valued your Rs. 7-8 watch for Rs. 15." Mr. J. Sutcliffe, R. W. Fusi. Regt., Lucknow, says:—"Some valued it at Rs. 15 and were completely surprised when I told them it only costs Rs. 7-8." Pretty Candian Gold Chains, Locketts, Pencils, complete shirt Studs and Rings set with scientific diamonds, rubies, &c., at Rs. 2 each. Mr. J. A. Yelmore, Satur, says:—"The best goldsmith of this place values the chain for Rs. 7 and the locket for Rs. 10." Mr. G. Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutla, says:—"A German valued the diamond ring at Rs. 50 and the ruby at Rs. 30." **WESTERN INDIA TRADING CO., BOMBAY.**

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To the rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick, they are alike welcome.

They destroy the virus or contagion of small-pox, measles, typhus and typhoid fevers.

They cleanse your homes and clothes and purify the air. They keep your body clean, teeth strong and skin pure. Your bed free from bugs, your drains inodorous, and closets free from bad smells.

They may be used with safety, and with happy results in the sick-room, kitchen, and every other part of a house.

Agents:—**DYCE, NICOL & CO.,**  
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**Rivers Steam Navigation Co.**  
**"Limited."**

This Company's Steamer "PUNJAB" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 16th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 13th instant.

**CACHAR LINE.**

The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 16th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 13th instant. The river having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Cachar.

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**GOALUNDO**

and

**DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM**  
**DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.**

A daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over half a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. train (Madras time) from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta via Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels via Kannia only.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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Advertisements (three columns to the page and 102 lines to the column) are charged by the space taken up, at the rate of 4 annas a line, each insertion. The lowest charge for any advertisement is Rs. 2, except Domestic Occurrences, the lowest charge for which is Rs. 5.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1890.

} No. 443

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

IN the absence of the usual Contemporary Poetry we have much pleasure in opening our columns to-day with the following bit of parable :—

### TIT FOR TAT.

THERE was a cruel darkey boy  
Who sat upon the shore,  
Acatching little fishes by  
The dozen and the score.

And as they squirmed and wiggled there  
He shouted loud in glee—  
“You surely cannot want to live,  
You’re littler dan me.”

Just then, with a malicious leer  
And a capacious smile,  
Before him from the water deep  
There rose a crocodile.

He eyed the little darkey boy,  
Then heaved a blubbing sigh,  
And said, “You cannot want to live,  
You’re littler than I.”

THE *Englishman’s* Debrooghur correspondent says that “owing to the outbreak in Lushailand, Mr. McCabe has been ordered there, and one hundred men of the Lakhimpur Frontier Police, under a Native officer !

THE great Brahmaputra, which a fortnight before was in full flood, in fact as high as it had ever been known for years—parts of the Bazaar, the neighbourhood of the cutchery gate, the Red Road by Dr. White’s bungalow, and some tea gardens having been under water—has now dropped and is actually lower than it had been for months. So dry indeed the Britishers up there feel that they are crying for ice—ice of all things at this time in Assam—and have doubtless telegraphed to Messrs. Cutler Palmer, Kellner, &c., and the Great Eastern Hotel for large supplies capable of appeasing the thirsty soul.

WE learn from the *Englishman* that—

“A telegram from Jeddah announces the arrival there of 43,000 pilgrims from the holy places of Islam. The reports from the Governor-General of the Hedjaz and the Governor of Medina are favourable as to the health of pilgrims arriving from Egypt and Damascus. At Jeddah on the 25th of August there were thirteen deaths from cholera ; on the 26th eleven ; and on the 27th a like number. No new cases occurred at Revendix on the 24th and 25th of August, and none at Mardin on the 26th. At Mecca on the 26th no cases were registered.”

BABOO Mohendro Nath Bose of the Subordinate Judicial Service ends his service with the close of the month. That enables Government to reward Baboo Amrito Lal Chatterjee hitherto overlooked, with the appointment of Judge of the principal Courts of Small Causes, Magura, Jhenidah and Narail. It was recently rumoured that this

prize appointment would be abolished with the retirement of the present incumbent. The hand of the destroyer has been stayed for the time at any rate. Baboo Purna Chundra Shome, Officiating Additional Subordinate Judge, Patna, replaces Baboo Amrito Lal, as Subordinate Judge, 24-Pergs.

THE Lieutenant-Governor records in the Official Gazette his thanks to Syed Mahomed Mehdi Hossain Khan *alias* Badshah Nawab, the eldest son of the late Nawab Looft Ali Khan, of Patna, for his offer “to make over Government securities, of the nominal value of Rs. 2,000, to found a scholarship of Rs. 5 a month and two prizes of Rs. 10 each for award to Behari Mahomedan students of the Anglo-Arabic School in Patna in commemoration of the late visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to that school.” The scholarship and the Prizes, as the donor wishes, will be designated “Badshah Nawab Bayley Scholarship and Prize.” The Collector will be entrusted with the administration of the Fund. It is satisfactory to find an inheritor of a rich patrimony thus proving himself useful to his fellow-men. This is an offer also to draw out the other two brothers.

AMONG the good points of Mhow is the Billiard Club open to all sections of the community. It signalised the completion of its fourth year with the usual annual dinner on the 20th of this month. The chair on the occasion was taken not by the President, Khan Bahadoor Khory, though he was there, but by Khan Bahadoor Bejonjee Sorabjee. Some forty-five gentlemen sat down, natives and Europeans, but whether they all discussed the dinner, whether, for instance, the Hindus merely watched the interesting operation while the others were lustily engaged in demolishing the mounds of meat and drying up the streams of wine, we do not know. The health of the Sovereign of the Empire was first drunk. After the loyal duty well-performed, the clubbers were re-called to themselves and their own health and happiness, the chairman proposing President Khory and the members. In the course of his speech Mr. Bejonjee expressed a wish to see Mr. Khory, one of the leading pleaders in that part of the country, called to the English bar. Is that to be taken as a hint of an intention on the part of Mr. Khory to go to Europe for the purpose? The barrister’s gown would certainly become him, but he himself said nothing, contenting himself with stating the financial position of the club and asserting its claim as the only institution in that quarter which brought together the different races and sections of the community.

RAJA Moorly Manahar Bahadar of Hyderabad has proposed to his Government the establishment of a poor house and orphanage.

THE cost of the Forth Bridge is put down at £3,322,640. We are afraid *le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle*.

PETROLEUM threatens to drive gas out of the market. The Town Council of Monmouth has decided to use the former for the public lamps in place of the latter.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

VESUVIUS is on fire, being in one of its periodical fits of passion. A large stream of lava is pouring down one side of the mountain. Another crater has formed and a second mouth was visible emitting smoke. Lord and Lady Dufferin have just returned from a visit to the volcano.

\* \*

It has been calculated that

"There are 3,064 languages in the world, and its inhabitants profess more than 1,000 religions. The number of men is about equal to the number of women. The average of life is about 33 years. To 1,000 persons only 1 reaches 100 years of life; to every 100 six reach the age of 65, and not more than one in 600 lives to 80 years. There are on the earth 1,000,000,000 inhabitants. Of these 33,033,033 die every year, 91,824 every day, 3,730 every hour, 60 every minute, or 1 every second. The married are longer lived than the single, and above all those observe a sober and industrious conduct. Tall men live longer than short ones. Women have more chances of life in their favour previous to 50 years of age than men have, but fewer afterwards. The number of marriages is in the proportion of 75 to 1,000 individuals. Those born in the spring are generally of a more robust constitution than others. Births are more frequent by night than by day; also deaths. The number of men capable of bearing arms is calculated at one-fourth of the population."

\* \*

HERE'S a method—German—for converting wood into mirror:—

"The wood is first submitted to a bath of caustic alkali for two or three days at a temperature of about 175 degrees, Fahrenheit, then dipped in hydrosulphate of calcium for 24 to 36 hours, after which a concentrated solution of sulphur is added. After another dip in an acetate of lead solution at about 100 degrees, a shining metallic surface is given by polishing when dry with lead, tin, or zinc."

We hope this is no learned Teutonic joke against our excellent contemporary who with the self-ignorance of genius daily wears on its forehead the inscription *Veluti in speculum*.

\* \*

JAMES BULLOCK, a simple boundary-rider of Salisbury Plains, New South Wales, received as a marriage present 2,000 shares in the Atlas Engineering Company, of Sydney. Instead of proving a blessing, these shares proved a curse. The Company was pronounced a bankrupt and a call of 8s. a share was made on the shareholders. Bullock loses £800.

\* \*

DR. John Murray who recently visited the Sahara is of opinion that—

"Like other deserts it is an area of inland drainage, none of the streams flowing into the sea; and the evaporation is in excess of the rainfall. Its area is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million square miles. The range of temperature is sometimes very great, the thermometer falling from 100 degs in the day to freezing point at night. In summer the prevailing winds blow into the Sahara, and in winter out of it. Being surrounded by hilly tracks the moisture in these winds is partially precipitated before they enter the desert."

\* \*

THE following appears in a medical journal, the *Hospital*:—

"Probably the best time for the average civilised woman to marry would be any age between 24 and 26. It is not said that no woman should marry earlier or later than either of these ages, but youth and health and vigour are ordinarily at their highest perfection between these two periods. Early marriages are seldom desirable for girls, and that for many reasons. The brain is immature, the reason is feeble, and the character unformed. The considerations which would prompt a girl to marry at 17 would, in many cases have little weight with her at 24. At 17 she is a child; at 26 a woman. Where a girl has intelligent parents the seven years between 17 and 24 are the period where mind and body are most amenable to wise discipline and best repay the thought and toil devoted to their development."

These generalisations may not strictly apply to this country or its people, but they are highly suggestive to our condition.

\* \*

THE following is going the round of the press:—

"An extraordinary cure is reported of an influential Chinese leper, who was placed in the body of a newly-killed buffalo and not removed therefrom until it became cold, and then only to be hurriedly thrust into the warm carcass of a second slaughtered animal."

There was nothing extraordinary in the operation. It is an old recipe known throughout the East, and is to be found not only in treatises on medicine but also in veterinary works. It passed into Europe too, we believe. It is perfectly worthless, of course.

\* \*

FOR presuming to offer an illegal gratification to Captain Ellis, Government Architect, Madras, a Mahomedan contractor has been sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment. The Millennium may not be a myth after all. Indeed, when Commissariat men are squeamish and P. W. D. men actually refuse "tips," we feel ourselves within a measurable distance of it. The poor Captain is much to be pitied. He is a fish on a high and dry bank.

MR. T. Clarke, Coffee Planter, Tenkasi, thus explains away his assault on the native lady at the Courtallum Falls:—

"As the withdrawal of the complaint which Mr. Krishna Iyer made against me in connection with the Courtallum Falls incident and of my complaint against him has excited some remark, perhaps you will kindly publish the following account of what occurred. On the evening of the day before that fixed for hearing the complaints Mr. Krishna Iyer met me out walking, and introduced a gentleman with him as a Vakil whom he had summoned from Tinnevely, by whose advice he said he asked for an interview to discuss the subject of the complaints with a view to an amicable settlement. I referred him to Mr. Thompson, Barrister, of Palamcottah, in whose hands I had placed the matter, and who was to be in Courtallum the following day. Accordingly the next day Mr. Krishna Iyer met Mr. Thompson in my presence at my house, and discussed the matter for some time, but without result, as he required an apology, which I refused on the ground that though I admitted having touched the lady at the Falls accidentally, I denied any act which could possibly be construed into even a technical assault. At the hour fixed for the hearing we met again at the Joint Magistrate's Court, when Mr. Krishna Iyer waived his demand for an apology, and Mr. Thompson accordingly agreed on my behalf to the withdrawal of both complaints."

\* \*

THE editor of the *Tribune* has published in the *Pioneer* the following apology in connection with the Warburton prosecution for defamation:

"Whereas I, Sitalakant Chatterjee, editor of the *Tribune* newspaper, offered, on the 6th September 1890, in the Court of Mr. T. J. Kennedy, Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, in the case for defamation brought against me by Mr. J. P. Warburton, late District Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, to apologise for the statements which appeared in the issues of the *Tribune* of the 4th, 7th and 25th June last, in respect to his mother, in any form he might choose to dictate, and whereas Mr. Warburton has not up to this time furnished me with any such form and whereas I am anxious to publish my apology as soon as possible in order to keep my promise, I do hereby declare that the said statements, though made *bona fide* and without intent to defame, were nevertheless wholly uncalled for and utterly unjustifiable, and I do hereby withdraw them without reservation and sincerely apologise for their insertion, and express my deep regret that I should thus have cast imputations on the reputation of Mr. Warburton's mother and hurt the feelings of Mr. Warburton and his children."

That does not end the prosecution. The case has been adjourned to the 1st proximo on account of the illness of the magistrate. We hope Mr. Warburton will be better advised and will not prove vindictive.

\* \*

RAO Bahadoor Narayan Bhai Dandekar, Secretary of the the local Female High School, obtained a summons against one Shankar V. Kelkar, for defamatory articles in the *Poona Vaibhab* against that school, in connection with the case of one Luxmi, the wife of Mahadev Pandurang Agaste. Shankar apologised, and the Rao Bahadar, not intending to be vindictive, withdrew the prosecution.

\* \*

MADURA is just now passing through a municipal difficulty. The corporation of 22 members has at its head a rather strong, if not very laborious or circumspect, chairman Mr. M. V. Appasawmi Naidu. After the usual preliminary quarrels, matters have at length come to a head. Eight members have boldly come forward to try conclusions with their Chief. After preparing a paper full of charges against the chair—which though alleging irregularity and wilfulness do not necessarily involve any one's good faith—they required the Chairman to convene a meeting for considering them. But Mr. Naidu would do no such thing. He would not let the Town Hall be degraded to a bear-garden. With a spirit that Warren Hastings might envy, he denounced the enemy as a set of traitors! He would not allow them the triumph of sitting as judges over him.

\* \*

FOR appearing in his court in a state of intoxication, the Judicial Commissioner of Rangoon has suspended Mr. Reid, a barrister-at-law, from practising in his and the subordinate courts for a month. He was called upon to shew cause why he should not be suspended "for his grossly improper conduct," and pending orders he was not allowed to practise. In reply, Mr. Reid addressed the Registrar and offered a full and unreserved apology and promised never to misconduct himself again. The Judicial Commissioner, while not intending to be harsh, still thought that some punishment was necessary and inflicted one month's suspension, with a warning of a severer order in case of repetition of the offence.

\* \*

WE doubted the competency of the University to charge any fee for any extract from the Roll-book giving the number of marks obtained by a candidate at any examination. The *Statesman* takes up the

matter and improves it with its diurnal effulgence. The writer makes a distinction so fine as to be almost Hibernian, saying "As, however, the law does not compel the University to furnish the information, the question rather is whether it is at liberty to sell it, than whether it has the power to demand a fee for it."

To our simple thinking, the University, in the absence of any law to the contrary, has the discretion to supply the information, but it certainly can never charge any fee for other than the purposes specified by law.

The levy of the fee may be reasonable, but the question is, Can the University, under the present law, create a source of income?

THE Director of Public Instruction has notified that the Transfer Rules for Colleges, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 21st May 1890, apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Law Departments of Colleges. We suppose, the University must adopt them, making the rules applicable to other than Government or aided educational institutions. One cannot help connecting this notification with the recent debates in the Senate and Syndicate over the Ripon College.

AT the last examinations, two Bengalis, one Burman and one Christian have passed in the second division of the Degree of Bachelor in Engineering; and one Christian in the first and six Bengalis in the second division have obtained License in Engineering.

THE Honours in Law Examination for 1891 will begin on Monday, the 2nd March.

THE next Half-yearly Examination of Compounders will be held at 7 A.M. on Monday, the 10th November 1890, at the Temple Medical School, Patna.

13TH December next has been fixed for election of Commissioners in all the Municipalities in the Patna Division in which the elective system is in force.

BABOO Preo Lal Dey, son of Rai Bahadar Kanyelal Dey, has been appointed to succeed the Jew millionaire, Mr. E. S. Gubboy, who has resigned his office of an Honorary Presidency Magistrate.

WE find that Mr. H. M. Rustonjee of the Independent Bench at Sealdah has been invested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class. In Calcutta, as a Presidency Magistrate, he has full powers.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

OBVIOUSLY Kathiawar could not afford to remain aloof from the demonstrations of loyalty in other quarters in regard to the military defence of the Empire. Accordingly, we find the foremost states in that Province have come forward freely—as the phrase goes—with their assistance. The Nawab of Junagadh has offered to keep ready 150 foot and 50 horse, wearing the Nawab's uniform, drilled by his pensioned non-commissioned officers or by British ones, and going annually for a few days to Rajkote or any other neighbouring place to learn with the contingents from other states. The Thakoor Sahib of Bhownugger's offer is in keeping with the character of a Kathiawar Chief. He will maintain 300 good horses for transport, with men and gear, ready to take the field at three days' notice, the expenses of keep and recruiting during such service being paid by His Highness. While not so engaged, they will be employed in the work of his state. The Thakoor Sahib will also with his military Police assist in keeping the peace of the Province, in case it should be necessary to withdraw the British garrison of Rajkote.

THE Ninth Oriental Congress which was to be held next year in London with Sir Henry Rawlinson, Honorary President, Sir Mount Stuart Grant-Duff, President, Sir George Birdwood, Vice-President, and Dr. Leitner, Professor Douglas, Dr. Bullinger, and Mr. Hewitt, Bengal Civil Service, Secretaries, is not likely to be—that is, at the appointed time

and place. Too many cooks without a controlling *chef*, or at least one commanding by personal weight the loyalty of the rest, have spoiled this Oriental *curry*. There is a split in the camp, caused by the irrepressible Doctor whose chief title to distinction among *savants* rests on his claim to have discovered the Dards. Dr. Leitner wanted to rule the roast—without caring to *curry* favour with his fellow *cuisiniers*. His colleagues in the Secretariat would not allow this. They were all equals, they contended, with co-ordinate authority. He said that he was not only one of the Secretaries but also a delegate of the founders of the institution at their meeting at Paris, when the first of the series of Congresses was held. That delegation, he argued, gave him the privilege of directing the policy and arrangements. The other Secretaries and others scouted the pretension. From private letters we knew how bitterly the contest was raging in Oriental learned circles in Great Britain. Matters at length came to a head with a formal letter from the other Secretaries headed by Vice-President Sir George Birdwood to the address of the two Presidents. The writers complained of Dr. Leitner and declared that unless he went out of the Secretariat it would be impossible to carry out the necessary arrangements for the Congress. In reply, they were requested to reconsider the matter and try to hit upon some *modus vivendi*. After fresh consideration they stick to their first letter.

The difficulty with respect to the Congress is augmented by the attitude of the French towards the Germans. It is believed that the French will hold a Congress next year in Paris.

DURING 1889, 171,103 persons died from cholera in the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, of whom 92,027 were males and 79,076 females. These figures give the mortality rate of 2.59 if the population be taken at 65,859,534 as in the last census report of 1881 (or 2.29 if the present population of Bengal be estimated at 74,482,274 according to the principle adopted by the Registrar-General of England for estimating population in intercensal years by adding the increase in the last census to the number in the preceding report) 2.81 and 2.38 respectively per 1,000 of the population. In the previous year, the mortality amounted to 111,391 or 1.68 per mille. The average of the preceding five years 1884-88 was 139,942 or 2.12 per mille, and that of the decade 1877-88 was 122,769 or 1.91 per mille.

The mortality from fever was 589,252 males and 512,269 females or a total of 1,101,521 persons. This represents a death-rate of 16.72 per 1,000 against 1,092,102 or a death-rate of 16.53 in 1888. The increase therefore in 1889 as compared with 1888 amounted to 9,419 or .19 per mille. The mean of the previous 10 years is 934,203, or a death-rate of 14.12 per mille.

OF the three modes of disposing of the dead—Hindu, Mahomedan and Parsi—the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal gives his preference to cremation as undoubtedly the best and having everything to recommend it, not only from a hygienic, but also from an economic point of view. He pronounces the laying within the walls of an open tower—the Tower of Silence—as not insanitary, while interment he considers very insanitary. India continues as of old the teacher in civilization of the nations of the earth.

THE natives of India have been given by their European fellow-subjects in the country the reputation of being the most litigious people in the world. Herein our European friends only show their innate modesty. The passion for the law of some of them is not a whit inferior to that of any class on earth. It is shown in contrary, not to say contradictory, ways. They set the law in motion, taking shelter under, or advantage of, it, or they take it in their own hands, as they list. Their greatest dramatist has left the type of the most outrageous love of law. If Shakespeare sought in a member of the Synagogue for his representative of the most cruel hankering after technical justice, that was perhaps natural in a Christian of a period when the prejudice against the people of God was far more strong and rampant than it now is. Shakespeare, however, who could wed a fair daughter of Christendom to a swarthy Moor after a course of true mutual love, was too sublime a soul for the small partialities and prejudices which distract and degrade common men. A deeper consideration will vindicate his truth to nature and accuracy of fact in the Merchant of Venice as in Othello. If Shylock was a Jew, he was a European Jew.



THE two leading Faculties of Law and Medicine in the persons of two of their most eminent representatives are just now showing a characteristic example of Christian forbearance and learned moderation to the litigious natives. It is no great interest—no point of principle—on which these gentlemen are at loggerheads. They are fighting like Kilkenny cats over a harness. We now seem to comprehend the import of their national saying, "Nothing like leather." It appears that the great Congress orator, Mr. Eardley Norton, of the Madras bar, sold a carriage and pair for Rs. 5,000 to Dr. Lawrie, of the Nizam's Service, the same who has introduced into that native state the detestable practice of vivisection. The carriage and pair were sent and the money was paid, but Mr. Norton claimed an additional sum for the harness which, he says, the doctor had agreed to pay. For this difference, the lawyer has gone to law, having sued the doctor before the Superintendent of the Residency Bazar, Hyderabad. The defendant in answer, admitting the averments in the plaint, pleads a set off on account of breach of warranty by plaintiff in respect of the horses. That is, he keeps the price of the harness by way of compensation for the inferiority of the animals. A more miserable *baga-telle* could not be conceived for a couple of gentlemen to fall out about. And the case is characterised by the Anglo-Indian press as an "interesting" one—after Dr. Lawrie's description of his experiments on the poor dogs.

POLITICALLY, India is still a child. And the child is now making itself hoarse after the Parliamentary whistle. As it is just possible that, unable to stand the juvenile screaming, the guardians may yield, it is useful to watch what use is made of the instrument by boys—if not absolute infants—in other parts of the globe. A very good field for such observation is provided in the newly recognised Continent in the remote waters of the junction of the South Sea, the Southern Ocean and the Indian Ocean, in which a number of European communities have sprung up, all provided with representative institutions. A scene which lately took place in the New Zealand Parliament is not calculated to invite respect. From it we gather one thing. A Parliament may be an embarrassing luxury to an insufficiently advanced community, but it is apt to be a diverting institution. At a capital which cannot support a theatre, it may be a good substitute—on one side at least. But let us present a specimen of the "humours" of the New Zealand Chamber:—

"A vote of £150 having been proposed for the introduction of chamois into the island, an intelligent legislator, named Kerr, was eager for information as to what 'these shammies' were on which the Government proposed to spend so much money. Other members volunteered the intelligence that the chamois was 'a kind of goat' and 'a species of small deer,' and a Mr. Turnbull seems to have seized the opportunity to perpetrate a huge practical joke. He sent to the library for a book by 'a well-known author who gives a very interesting account of the animal and its habits,' and handed the volume to Mr. Kerr, who forthwith commenced to read aloud the passage pointed out to him. Mr. Turnbull wished to draw the line at this, and endeavoured to persuade Mr. Kerr not to take the House into his confidence, but that gentleman insisted that he would read it out: he was 'going to see what these things are.' The feelings of the House may be imagined at having gravely read out to them from 'The Tramp Abroad,' Mark Twain's description of the 'chamois' as a microscopic object which 'ran about people's clothes.'"

That not only reveals the educational status of the House but the ethnology of its composition. The English in India are well-known to be mostly Scotch. Are the Anglo-Saxons of New Zealand, too, chips of the old block of the pine of North Britain? Or, are they *khass* Teutons? That story reminds us of the German scholar who, in a Latin note to a learned work of his, supports an impossible narrative in the text by a reference to a similar wonder related in the History of New York of the veracious Dutch chronicler Dredrich Knickerbocker—that being the name assumed by Washington Irving in his character of a Rebelian fabulist.

BOMBAY is mourning the death of a true and valued Parsi—Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, C.S.I. His father Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoi commenced life as a godown keeper on a salary of Rs. 20 a month, but soon left his hole to set up for a broker, and did so well as to be able to give away one lac of rupees in charity during life and at his death two lacs more. The son was worthy of the father. A shrewd man of business, he made more money and could be more charitable. He kept his head in the cotton mania during the American War, and saved not only himself but also many others by his advice. He made an endowment of Rs. 40,000 to the Poona Medical School and of Rs. 20,000 to the

Ahmedabad Medical School and paid Rs. 12,000 to the Calcutta Zoroastrian Corpse-bearers' Fund. His latest and greatest charity was four lacs for a school for the poor Parsi boys. He was not unmindful of his own. In 1872 he settled in trust a large portion of his property valued at 30 lacs for the benefit of his family, not forgetting even in this connection to found a charity fund. He leaves an only son Mr. Nanabhoi who succeeds to the trust property and a grandson, who under a will, inherits the other properties and a large sum of money. He was a rare specimen of a prudent good man of whom India may well be proud. We can wish his heirs nothing better than that they may follow in his footsteps.

THE vernacular paper *Sakti* of Dacca assumes the resolution of the Senate on the Ripon College as final, forgetting that the matter has been referred to the Viceroy for final orders. It characterizes the justice of the Syndicate as vindictive and reminds its readers that it is to such justice that Nund Coomar was sacrificed on the gallows. Yes, but then the Bench on this occasion is not all British and the Impey is not of the unspeakable *Saheblogues*.

THE friends of our townsman Kassim Ariff Saheb will be relieved to learn that he has safely returned to Calcutta with his family. The Steamer "Deccan" was not allowed to take the passengers to Jeddah, and so she has returned to Bombay with the passengers from Kamran. There were more than 1,200 passengers on board, and out of them nearly 150 have died of cholera, and the rest have returned to India, without being able to perform the Hajj, and having suffered no end of discomforts and privations.

✓ VANITY, thy name is woman! It is the same in every land, and has been in every age. No people nor class—no stage of civilization—is free from the characteristic foible of the sex. The fair ones go to extraordinary lengths—take extreme measures—resort to unheard of devices—to outshine one another. The goddesses stoop to anything—stick at nothing—to recommend themselves to the male gods. They put on fantastic dresses and burden themselves with ornaments of infinite variety, according to taste. They use cosmetics, lubricate themselves with oils and greases, and wear charms. They do not hesitate to bore their very persons, poor delicate innocents! To bring down their shapes to the conventional standard of elegance, they even submit to Procrustean tortures which invite fatal wasting and painful diseases and hurry them on to a premature grave. Intellectual, moral and social advancement makes no substantial difference. The African beauty making herself more hideous than Nature formed her by filing off her teeth and passing a ring through her breast, is but the barbaric analogue of the daughter of civilization who dies of consumption from constant compression of her limbs in a desperate effort to pass for a figure she is not.

✓ THE ladies of Paris have now surpassed themselves. They were in good odour enough already, and now they are odour itself, thanks to their ingenuity! The fair creatures are not always scrupulously clean in their persons, while the diet of strong meat and drink must, we suppose, have a prejudicial effect on bodily fragrance—upon the attainment of that purity and freedom from odour which is the best condition of the body. At any rate, the perspiration must emit a repulsive smell which in persons of a scrofulous diathesis becomes absolutely offensive. Under the circumstances, the ladies hitherto were wont to spend an enormous quantity of perfumery in order to swamp the stinking effects of sweat and sweeten the person. But now—in their own phrase—*on a change tout cela*. They still use perfumes, but instead of sprinkling them on the person externally and on the clothing, they take them internally. We do not here refer to the practice of drinking spirituous scents—essences—as stimulating drink. We mean the introduction of them directly into the blood. It is said that the ladies in France have taken to inoculate themselves with scents. They take hypodermic injections of the richest perfumes. They are permanently profoundly perfumed all over. There is no risk of evaporation—no loss by drying—nay, no weakening by washing.

You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will,

But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

In fact, the Peris are perfume itself.

There is, however, the risk of sweet scents falling into discount and

desuetude. Those who are invited to the feast may come  
To loath the taste of sweetness, whereof little  
More than a little is by much too much.

Men in weariness frequently sacrifice life. What wonder the world  
may be of lavender and rose! This queer unnatural inoculation can-  
not, we are afraid, be good for the health. God forbid that the sylphs  
should

Die of a rose in aromatic pain!

TWO military honors are announced for the royal family. The  
Duke of Clarence is Gazetted Colonel of the Poona Horse. So far  
so good, if foolish enough. But what shall we say to the next creation?  
The Duchess of Connaught has been appointed Honorary Colonel  
of a Prussian Infantry Regiment once commanded by her father Prince  
Frederick Charles. Evidently, there is no Salic law in military suc-  
cession—on paper.

AT the manoeuvres in Silecia, the Emperor William displayed high  
military genius. So did Louis Napoleon in his pamphlet on artillery,  
though he betrayed the white feather on the day of the *Coup d'Etat*, and  
again at the height of the Austro-Italian War.

THE Cape of Good Hope Bank has failed with liabilities amounting to  
three millions sterling. There is distress in the colony. Many have  
been ruined.

MOUSSA Bey has been exiled to Medina.

THE advance of the Mahdists on Suakim has been repulsed by the  
forts without any loss of life.

NINE Germans landed at Vitu. They were opposed. The natives  
would not have them. The Germans to prove their superiority opened  
fire. The natives attacked and killed eight of them.

DURING the trial of Mr. Dillon, in the Police Magistrate's Court,  
Tipperary, a crowd attempted a forcible entrance. The Police batoned  
the intruders out, who shewing resistance—many heads were broken.  
Mr. John Morley who was present escaped unhurt but his Liberal soul  
highly agitated.

IT is said that at the request of the Czar, Sir Collin Scott Moncrieff,  
K.C.M.G., C.S.I., goes immediately to Merv on inspection of the irriga-  
tion works, returning to his post in Egypt in November. Russia has  
always shewn the Oriental readiness to seek talent wheresoever it may  
be found, irrespective of nationality or creed. That indeed is the  
secret of her rise. We only could never understand her neglect of  
Vamberry. Was he a hopeless case from the first?

MR. W. L. Jackson, one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, who had  
just returned from Ireland after traversing a thousand miles of country  
there, claims to be in a position to speak correctly on the potato blight.  
He thinks the reports of Irish newspapers very much exaggerated.  
His estimate is that the crop on the whole is satisfactory, though  
deficient in the home districts. But what are "home districts"? Is it  
a telegraphic freak for "some"?

ALL seems over with the Latter-day Saints. Their pride—the domestic  
institution—is gone. Their Prophet himself has eaten humble pie, with  
a tolerable face. The latest news from the Salt Lake City is that the  
Mormon President on behalf of the Church has abjured polygamy.

THE Vice-President of the Liverpool Moslem Society, in a letter to the  
*Times*, protests against the play of Mahomed on the English stage as  
offensive to the Mahomedan subjects of the Queen, and appeals for  
Government interference. We are afraid the vulgar part of the British  
would stick to the offence from a foolish feeling of independence. But  
a Conservative Government ought to be strong.

THE tension between the Turks and the Armenians is increasing. In a  
conflict at Van, forty persons are reported to have been killed.

NOTWITHSTANDING the declaration of Germany against immediate  
abolition of slavery, several Arabs have been arrested in Zanzibar for  
slave-trading. The Sultan means to punish them severely.

THE Australian strikes continue. Her Majesty's ships *Orlando* and

*Curaçoa* have arrived at Sydney, ready to land a force of Marines if  
necessary to quell any disturbance.

FLOODS and fires are reported from many quarters. In Switzerland,  
the villages of Ruthi and Moos have been destroyed by fire. Three-  
fourths of the town of Colon in Panama have been burnt down. The  
fire was followed by looting and rioting. At last the military restored  
order by killing and wounding many. Father Nile, as from of old,  
has overflowed his banks and flooded the Damietta district. In France,  
the Rhone, Ardeche and Herault rose and swamped vineyards,  
meadows and factories. Many bridges and houses have been swept  
away and several persons crushed and drowned to death.

SIMLA has ceased to be the desirable residence it formerly was. Year  
by year, it is going down, though the pleasure-seekers and the property-  
owners will not see the glaring truth. There have been deaths from  
cholera and smallpox. It has been exceptionally unhealthy for the  
unacclimatised Viceroy. We are grieved to learn that Lord Lans-  
downe is still suffering from fever. He had had several attacks. The  
visit to Mashobra has been postponed, if not abandoned. By present  
arrangement, we regret his Lordship is pinned to the place. He must  
endure the horrors of the Hills till the 21st October, when he moves  
out on the winter tour. It is expected that the tour in Rajputana will  
restore his health. A very neat programme, surely, for a patient! But  
then he must get quit of the nasty fever, to begin with. Towards that  
he must quit the place, *instantly*. We are afraid his Lordship is de-  
pending too much on drugs. That is usually a frail reed, but most of  
all in malarious fever.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has for some days been keeping the com-  
munity in some excitement. The telegraphic announcement of his  
appointment at the India Office was confounding enough, and the mys-  
terious wording of the telegram heightened the sensation. He next  
followed it with a surprise *in propria persona*, by a bold unexpected *coup*  
on the metropolis.

Sir Stuart Bayley cut short his visit to Rungpur by one day and  
made a private entree into the capital on Wednesday—to the in-  
finite disappointment of the respectable gentlemen who have con-  
secrated themselves to the office of salaaming high officials and  
promising officers in and out at every turn. When these good souls  
after no end of enquiry satisfied themselves of the Ruler's return, they  
immediately ran to Alipore, but only to find the gates of Belvedere  
closed against them. Distracted they descended from their coaches  
to learn, if possible, their offence. They discovered that the great  
man was not there. They came away and devoted themselves to dis-  
cover the patron. They found out that to avoid them he was lurking  
in a snug corner—between the Bengal Office and the E. I. Railway.

The Lieutenant-Governor left town for the hills yesterday. The  
monsoon tour has not been favorable to his health. For some days  
he has been suffering from low fever. He stayed with his son-in-law  
designate, Mr. Gladstone of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbutnot & Co.

ANOTHER notable miscarriage of justice has alarmed the whole town.  
The High Court has whitewashed the depredators of the Chartered  
Bank, and they are now free to enjoy the fruits of their skill *minus* the  
law charges. The father and son—the cashier and his assistant—in the  
Bank prosecution for embezzlement and cheating and abetting have  
been acquitted and discharged. The Jury knocked the prosecution  
on the head by bringing in a verdict of not guilty on the charge of em-  
bezzlement against the father. No evidence being offered on the other  
charges, both the accused were discharged on a formal verdict of  
not guilty being recorded. The Jury at first disagreed and informed  
the Judge that they could not possibly be unanimous. Mr. Justice  
Prinsep knew better. They were asked to retire as they had not deli-  
berated long. This time a spirit of harmony descended on their souls.  
In little more than half an hour they came back all of one mind. The  
most charitable theory is that the nine gentlemen were tired of this  
protracted trial and returned with an unanimous verdict in favor of  
Shama Churn Sen. If that was the truth, it speaks little for their  
sense of duty. The trial will be long remembered for the varied  
scenes enacted in open court. The result has been a surprise, though  
glorious to Mr. Jackson, the defending counsel. The Judge reserved  
all the points raised by counsel, and yet left the case to the Jury on the  
evidence to which exceptions had been taken. The verdict saved  
both prisoners and Judge—the former a long suspense followed by

a lengthy getrial, and the latter from investigation by a full court of the proceedings of the session court. As the eminent stenographer Mr. Kirkpatrick was engaged throughout by the defence, we hope a full report of the proceedings will be published in a permanent form.

THE prosecution of Mr. W. G. L. Rice, late Deputy Commissioner of Magwe, Upper Burma, for criminal breach of trust as a public servant in respect of Rs. 8,000, has also fallen through. The jury would not find him guilty.

THE Maharaja of Manipur has been threatened by a show of revolution into abdication. A rising was reported to have taken place in that principality on the night of Sunday the 21st. The Maharaja's four brothers,—sons of Kirti Sing by different mothers—who hold between them all the important offices and are jealous of each other and of the Maharaja, but who seem to have combined on the present occasion to get rid of the common object of hate—seized the palace, the magazine and the four seven-pounder mountain guns—the present of the Government of India. The Maharaja, more given to religion than government, was alarmed, and saved himself by a flight to the Residency, and has since put an end to the disturbance by abdicating in favor of the Jubaraj. He immediately goes on a pilgrimage to Brindabun.

MORE stirring news comes from the State of Cambay. There was a collision between the military and the rayyets, in which the casualties were 13 killed, 20 wounded and 200 captured. The origin is traced to the new system for realization of rents in money instead of in kind and money. The rayyets suspected the Dewan Shamrao Narayan Laud to be at the bottom, and petitioned the Nawab for abolition of the tax and the dismissal of the Dewan. The Nawab appointed a Panch to enquire and report upon the grievances. The rayyets still smelt the Dewan there and again petitioned the Nawab, who accepted the responsibility of the measure and pointed out that such taxation was no new measure as it was prevalent in the Bombay Presidency. Thus disappointed in their own chief, the people applied to the British in the Political Agent, who declined to interfere. Failing of redress in all quarters, they took the law into their own hands. They issued orders for the closing of the local courts and shops and, arming themselves, paraded the streets, defying all authority, and refusing to disperse till they had their own terms as set forth in their petition to the Nawab. Their impunity emboldened them to grow furious. The patience and timidity of the Durbar being at last exhausted, the military were called out to be received with showers of stones and arrows. The military were then let loose, with the result we have stated already.

BLOODIER still have been the disturbances at Goa—over the elections. Accounts are contradictory. But all agree that at Marmagao troops fired on the mob killing and wounding many.

WE are truly pained to learn that Baboo Nagendranath Gupta, the clever young editor of the able and spirited Karachi paper *Phoenix*, has been sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment, in addition to a fine of Rs. 500, on a charge of defamation against Dr. Corkery, the Civil Surgeon of Shikarpur. The poor ignorant printer too is mulct in the sum of Rs. 100. The charge had once been thrown out by Mr. Steel, the District Magistrate of Shikarpur, and the accused acquitted. There was an appeal and a retrial was granted. We sincerely hope another appeal will restore Mr. Gupta to liberty and career of usefulness in Young Egypt. After a previous acquittal the sentence is cruel in its severity.

It is said that Rao Bahadar V. J. Kirtane has resigned the Dewan-ship of Indore, and that Rao Bahadar Bedarkar, of Poona, succeeds him, provided the Foreign Office accepts the arrangement.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment* are particularly recommended to persons who have to pass their lives in confined and crowded places; hundreds of thousands of our fellow creatures toil from morning until evening in factories and workshops to the detriment of their health, and the deterioration of the race. They suffer in consequence from indigestion, flatulence and want of appetite, and these complaints, if neglected, bring about nervousness and failure of the vital powers. Holloway's remedies can be used by such sufferers to their very great advantage, as they are mild in action, and certain in their effects. No one need therefore lose a day's work when using them, a matter of consequence to those whose daily bread depends on daily toil.

THE juvenile patriotism of Poona has assumed the form of a pledge to wear Indian cloth only. Some of the students of the Deccan College have formed themselves—so says the *Mahratta*—into an Association for the purpose. This sort of folly threatens to be the ruin of our country.

WE read in the *Mahratta* that some two hundred cultivators met at Zambare's Chowdie and resolved upon a memorial to Government praying for relief from enhancement of the land tax and closing of waste lands hitherto allowed for cattle-grazing.

THE vacant Jute-inspectorship of the Calcutta Municipality has attracted unusual attention and, what is more, causes trouble. Before the post could properly be said to be vacant, canvassing had commenced, and immediately the vacancy was established the Chairman was besieged with applicants and applications. The post was never advertised and yet the applications numbered about eighty. The subject was discussed at several meetings, and it is not yet known what will be required of the new incumbent, for it is decided that the new man must be more than a Jute inspector. By law, the nomination must be made by the Chairman and he may be required by the Commissioners to send up three names for the selection of one. The Chairman, it appears, at first selected three, but there being no request then from the Commissioners, he sent up only one name from the office, withdrawing the other two. Of these two nominees of the Chairman, one was Baboo Dhirendranath Chatterjee, once a license Inspector of the Corporation. The *Saturday Herald*, the organ of the India Club, commented on this nomination, as it now appears, in the interest of a member of the Club and municipal license inspector, hinting that Baboo Dhirendranath had left the municipality under a cloud. The Chairman's next nomination excludes Baboo Dhirendranath and takes in Baboo Jogendra Chandra Bose, the license inspector who is said to have had some hand in the comments of the *Herald*. The appointment of a Jute Inspector comes off on Thursday next. In the meantime, Baboo Dhirendranath has obtained summonses against the editor and proprietor of the journal, Baboo Sarat Chandra Roy, and the license inspector, Baboo Jogendra Chandra Bose, for defamation. The application was moved in a pretty long speech by Baboo Amarendra Nath Chatterjee, a Pleader of the High Court, and a well-known speaker.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 27, 1890.

### THE INCOME TAX.

THE Income Tax threatens to be a permanent plague. At any rate, it has got an indefinite extension of term. It is perhaps as well there should be no more any delusive, tantalising prospect of its early termination. Rather than sicken on hope continually deferred, it is better to know that we have nothing to expect, so we may adapt ourselves to the situation as best we can. For this clearing up of an ambiguous point, we are indebted to the strategy and energy of our Chamber of Commerce. In protesting against the imposition of the Income tax on foreign consignments, the Chamber, it will be remembered, tackled with the general policy of the tax itself. They justly contended that it was adopted as a temporary measure, being expressly rested upon a peculiar financial emergency for its justification and, that this being the case, it ought to be abandoned with the disappearance of the emergency which had necessitated its imposition. The Chamber did well in taking up this general position against the impost, while protesting in especial against the taxation of foreign consignments. This tax has been a source of oppression and demoralization out of all proportion to its financial advantage. The determination, therefore, now for the first time openly expressed, of continuing it has taken the public by surprise. The debate preceding the passing of the present

Income Tax Act left a strong impression on the public mind that it was not to be anything more than a temporary expedient. There was indeed no formal pledge given as to the period for which it was to continue, but the whole tone and spirit of the official speaking was as good as a promise and produced all the reassurance of a pledge. A native member of the Imperial Council went the length of bringing forward a motion for fixing the term of the Act, a motion which was withdrawn as a superfluity in view of the prevailing disposition then manifest in the Council not to prolong the operation of the measure beyond the period of especial emergency. Paradoxical as it may sound, the very fact of a specific motion like this having been brought forward is proof of the then prevailing tendency of opinion in the Council in regard to the tenure of the tax. The mover of the proposition had no doubt been encouraged by this very tendency of the debate to seek to give it a definite shape and form. For the rest, there has been nothing in official or extra-official utterances on the subject since the enactment of the Act to contradict the popular belief in its temporary character. On the contrary, that belief has been more than ever confirmed by the spirit of all subsequent references made to the subject in more than one debate on the Budget Statement in the Imperial Council.

It is therefore with no small disappointment that we have read the explicit announcement of an altogether new and different policy in the Government of India's reply to the Chamber's memorial. It is now vigorously denied that the Government has ever encouraged the belief that the present income-tax would be abolished or reduced in preference to any other tax which is now levied or which was levied in 1886, while a plain warning is given that no such hopes should be indulged in for the future.

Looking to financial considerations alone, there is no prospect of the Government of India being in a position to abolish the income-tax within any measurable period.

The financial outlook, notwithstanding favorable exchange, is described as far from reassuring:—

"The Governor-General in Council would be very glad to be in a position to reduce or remit taxation, and no pressure of public opinion will be required to induce him to relieve the tax-payer when it is seen that revenue can safely be surrendered. \* \* \* At the present moment the ordinary revenue and expenditure of the year promise to turn out considerably worse than the estimate of March last; and though the rise in exchange will no doubt do much more than counterbalance the deterioration in other respects, it must be recollected that doubts have been expressed by some authorities whether the purchase by the American Government of a limited (though considerable) quantity of silver will have a permanent effect upon exchange, and the future is still quite uncertain in respect to this important drain on the public treasury."

The payers of income-tax have by no means the first claim on a permanent surplus. The Chamber have got a sharp rejoinder to their plea for relief from the tax. The Government has given them a smart rebuff. It is distinctly stated that

"There is no class of the Indian community which receives greater benefits from British rule than do the commercial, banking, manufacturing, official, and professional classes, and it would in the opinion of the Government of India amount to a serious political scandal if these classes, by the abolition of the present tax, were absolved from contributing to the wants of the State in a degree bearing some proportion to their wealth."

Nor is the decision of the Government on the especial prayer of the Chamber more favorable in the long run. The assessment of consignor's profits will indeed for the present be in abeyance, but it does not seem likely that it is abandoned finally. Enquiries will be made into the system by which the practical difficulties of the assessment of such pro-

fits are overcome in England, and should such enquiries show that the English system may be followed here, the present orders will be withdrawn. The Government conveys its views on this point as follows:—

"I am to remind the Chamber that, by a recent ruling, the taxation of the profits made by consignors resident in foreign countries has been declared to be legal in England, and that the Revenue Commissioners have taken steps to enforce the decision. The Governor-General in Council is not aware whether the objections to which the Chamber draws attention have been found to exist in practice in England, or, if they exist, how they have been overcome. Steps will be taken to obtain information on these points, but meanwhile, as the Government of India is not aware at present of any means by which the difficulty referred to in paragraph 16 can be met, it has decided, in accordance with the wishes of the Chamber, to keep the orders for the assessment of the profits of consignments in abeyance."

The whole is a message of despair. Coming after the Under-Secretary of State's Budget statement, it will cause little surprise. With such an overflowing surplus as the turn in the exchange has unexpectedly produced, the Government could, if so minded, have given relief at any rate to the lower classes of income tax assesses. But it is not to be. And arguments can never be wanting to justify a policy of caution.

### THE RAJPUTANA STATES.

THE last year's Rajputana report is, as reports usually are, generally satisfactory. British methods of administration are being followed, civilization advanced, and the states brought up to a level with the surrounding British territory. Crime is no longer as rife as before. No cases of witch-swinging, of kidnapping or of Sati are reported, while only one case of infanticide occurred during the year. Cattle-lifting and other forms of dacoity are indeed still prevalent, but they show a marked diminution. The management of criminal tribes receives great attention. The Bhils are evidently much looked after and are not a little improved, for, in spite of indifferent harvests, their conduct has been generally quiet. A school has been for some years at work for the education of Bhil children. The interests of these tribes are anxiously watched by the Agent to the Governor-General, and it is not possible for the Durbars to neglect them. The settlement of Moghies, another criminal tribe, appears also to have been successful.

The British officers appear to have attained a fair measure of success in the settlement of boundary disputes. These disputes are often of an inveterate kind, and afford unusual difficulty to the British Agent. A great improvement has, of late, resulted in this respect from the establishment of Border Courts, and many disputes of long standing are reported to have been adjusted by their intervention.

The Public Works Department in Rajputana has been steadily developing. The total expenditure, excluding the outlay on Imperial Irrigation works, amounted to a little less than 34 lakhs of rupees. In the chief states, the works are under the supervision of officers lent by the British Government. The Postal Department also shows steady increase of work. There are in all about 224 Post-offices in the different states, of which no less than 25 were opened during the last year. These offices are divided into three classes, Head-offices, Sub-offices, and branch-offices—the last being worked by extra-departmental agents, such as Station-masters, School-masters, hospital assistants and even shop keepers. The plan is economical, but not always satisfactory, particularly in the case of School-masters who are generally reported to be above their work. Much trouble accompanied with no



little loss is caused to this department by a curious practice among Marwari traders in the Bombay Presidency. They are accustomed to send heavy anonymous letters containing pieces of iron, bricks, and waste paper to their partners absent on leave. The intention of the senders is thus indirectly to fine their partners for their absence by making them pay the postage, and so to remind them of the necessity of returning to duty. But the heavy (in more senses than one) practical joke does not take. The addressees invariably are wide awake enough to refuse the missives, leaving the Department the unpleasant task of carrying them backwards and forwards, without being able to recover the postage from the senders, whose names are never given.

The general condition of Rajputana during the year was about normal. The rainfall, if not quite seasonable, was sufficient, but the absence of rain in the cold weather with frosts and locusts affected the crops in most districts. The ravages of the locusts were particularly severe in Marwar, Jeysulmir, and Bikanir. As usual, this led to the migration of people, although those who remained were assisted by the Durbar by the remission of rents and the provision of labor.

In Jodhpur, the Railway has proved remunerative. Further extensions are either under contemplation or already fairly advanced. A Survey Party was at work in Bikanir and Jeysulmir during the winter of last year on the proposed railways from Sind. Work has been commenced on two lines of railways, one from Jodhpur to Bikanir *via* Nagore, and the other a loop line connecting Jodhpur and Nawa. The record of irrigation works is also creditable. Altogether, the Durbars show appreciation—sometimes, too much it is to be feared—of the example of the great British Government. Education is eagerly sought after, and the majority of the States are represented in the Mayo College. The college scored signal success last year. Two Rajput youths for the first time matriculated in the Allahabad University. The importance of the event was marked by the successful competitors being loaded with medals.

#### SALT *v.* SALTPETRE.

THE Salt Department has once more turned its fostering attentions to the Saltpetre Refineries of Calcutta. Its last raid had ended in a compromise that left the Refiners free to dispose off their Refuse by either exporting it to foreign countries under official surveillance or transforming it into saltpetre of high refraction by admixture anew with a quantity of the pure material. The intention, however, from the beginning, notwithstanding repeated protestations, was to convert the Refiners into manufacturers of dutiable salt. In no other way could pressure be put upon them than by obstructing the disposal of the Refuse. So that when it would accumulate the Refiners might be compelled to either excise it at Rs. 2-8 per maund or destroy it at their own cost. Finding that the compromise enabled the Refiners to easily get rid of their Refuse, the settlement was "reconsidered." The effect of this "reconsideration" was to withdraw the orders that had been issued about admixture. Formerly, the Refiners could, by admixture, convert the Refuse into a commodity whose refraction was represented by sixty to seventy per cent. Under the orders issued after "reconsideration," no saltpetre could be manufactured by admixture whose refraction would exceed forty per

cent. The revised orders, again, as worded, are exceedingly vague. No limit of refraction has been laid down, with reference to the article manufactured by admixture, within which the Refiners may dispose of the article without official interference.

We understand, again, that the Salt Establishment in Calcutta, with the exception of a European Superintendent, having a very large jurisdiction to supervise and whose stay in the metropolis can by no means be permanent, is innocent of English and corresponds with the Refiners in the Persian language! The latter have to pay for translates of these communications before they can understand them. The officer must be a very old fossil, requiring a thorough shake, who could, in these days, deliberately send a Mogul Fiscal Establishment to the metropolis of British India, for communicating in Persian with the traders and merchants here. How long, we ask, has English education fallen into such disuse in India that the State in one of its important departments of Revenue should be under the necessity of employing men ignorant of English and that in the metropolis of all places?

A case has already occurred of individual hardship, that will best illustrate the spirit of the Department in its dealings with the Refiners. It shows how circumlocution can, when it chooses, be expeditious when the object is to vindicate its own might. We will advert to it in a future issue.

#### INCOME TAX.

No. 4339.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

SEPARATE REVENUE.

*Assessed Taxes.*

To—The Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

*Simla, the 8th September 1890.*

SIR,—The Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the memorial of the Chamber received with your letter No. 444, dated the 20th May last, in which the Chamber protests against the assessment to Income-tax of the profits on goods consigned to agents for sale in India. The Chamber has also taken the opportunity to embody in the memorial a statement of objections to the policy of an Income-tax and to the manner in which the administration of the tax is conducted, and observing that no financial necessity for the revenue obtained from the tax now exists, asks that the question of the continuance of the tax may be taken into consideration.

2. The Chamber's request for the discontinuance of the tax is supported by the arguments stated below :

(1) The tax was imposed in 1886 as a special call upon the country, and, the need for the call having disappeared with a surplus of two and three-quarter crores of rupees and the restoration of the finances to a sound condition, the tax should now be repealed.

(2) The tax is not in any way suited to such a country as India, and in support of this proposition it is stated that, after thirty years of official effort under many and various disguises, the Government has failed to make such a tax acceptable to the people, fair in its incidence, or reasonably remunerative.

(3) Complaints are becoming rife all over the country in regard to the working of the Act; and quoting certain statements made by the Honourable J. D. Inglis in 1871, the Chamber asserts that a large percentage of the population escapes the tax altogether by bribery or false returns, and that it is as true to-day as it was nineteen years ago that "for every man who pays Income-tax twenty pay to get off, and that for every rupee that is paid into the treasury another is paid to the subordinate native officials.....; everywhere throughout the country the people are being demoralised by the tax; everywhere false returns are sent in; everywhere the trading classes are beginning to keep two sets of books"—one set showing accurately the real transactions, the other containing a carefully prepared garbled account to be shown to the "Income-tax assessors."

3. With reference to the first of the arguments advanced in the preceding paragraph, the Governor-General in Council is unable to admit either that the tax was imposed in 1886 as a special and temporary call upon the country, or that the time has now arrived for its abolition.

There is no class of the Indian community which derives greater benefits from British rule than do the commercial, banking, manufacturing, official, and professional classes, and it would, in the opinion of the Government of India, amount to a serious political scandal if these classes, by the abolition of the present tax, were absolved from contributing to the wants of the State in a degree bearing some proportion to their wealth.

The remarks made by Sir Auckland Colvin, in proposing the legislation under which the present tax is levied, show clearly that the main object of Government at that time was the more equitable distribution of the burden of taxation over the Indian community; this is an object the attainment of which is quite incompatible with the introduction of a measure intended to be temporary in its operation, and framed merely to meet the financial difficulties of the day. He said:

"There can, after all is said and done, be no manner of doubt but that one great fact remains established; one great blot on our administration not only still unremoved, but aggravated by the course of events in recent years. It is this; that putting aside those who derive their income from land in the temporarily-settled districts, the classes in this country who derive the greatest security and benefit from the British Government are those who contribute the least towards it. Many opinions of many kinds have from time to time been expressed as to the nature of the advantages and disadvantages introduced into the country by British rule, but on one point all (even the most envenomed and hostile of our critics) are agreed, and that is that it has given greater security to life, property, and trade, and to the amassing thereof of wealth, than any Government that ever preceded it. Yet not only the mercantile and professional classes, to whom this time of sunshine has brought such an abundant harvest, are precisely those who contribute least towards the support of the Government in the light of whose power they bask . . . I know that what I have said as to the immunity of the middle and upper classes from their due share of the public burdens is as a twice-told tale vexing the dull ears of a drowsy man; but it is nevertheless a grievous blot on our Indian administration, which urgently calls for removal, and which, I believe, with patience, prudence, and the exercise of a little fortitude must, and will, be removed. Efforts have, indeed, at various times been made to remedy this scandal, for scandal it is of the greatest magnitude when the poorest are called upon to pay heavily for the support of the Government, and the wealthier classes are exempted; but from one cause or another the measure has never been carried out except for short and broken periods of time."

4. The present tax is a development and extension of the license taxes of 1878, and the history of its origin shows that it did not assume its present form solely in view of pressing financial needs.

The license tax, from which the present tax has sprung, was one of the taxes imposed for the purpose of securing in ordinary years a surplus of revenue over expenditure which would balance the occasional and exceptional expenditure on famine which might from time to time be expected. The taxation imposed took the form of cesses on the land which fell on the agricultural classes, and of a license tax which was paid by the trading classes. The exemption of the official and professional classes from the operation of the license tax caused the Chamber and other public bodies to protest against the continuance of the tax in the form in which it was sanctioned by the Legislature, and these representations had great weight in finally determining the Government of India to extend the operation and enlarge the scope of the tax. This determination was carried into effect in 1886, and the circumstances were thus explained by Sir Auckland Colvin in the Legislative Council on the 4th July of that year:

"The financial policy of the Indian Government since 1878 has pointed steadily at direct taxation. From that year onward, he that ran could read the indications of the time. In point of fact, for the last eight years we have had direct taxation, but in a form so incomplete and so open to criticism that it was impossible not to foresee that it must be, on the first convenient opportunity, replaced by some measure more equitable in itself, and more suited to the circumstances of the country. An attempt has been made, and is still in operation under the form of a license tax, to carry out direct taxation in part, but it is open to the vital objection that it presses most heavily on the poorer among the trading, mercantile, and commercial classes, and leaves the wealthier, besides other whole classes of the upper part of the population, comparatively or absolutely unassessed. Almost from the day of its introduction efforts have been made by public bodies in this country, both English and Native, to obtain, instead of the existing license tax, a more equal distribution of direct taxation, and acknowledgments have been tendered by the Government of the evils inseparable from that tax as at present enforced, and of its determination when a fitting opportunity arose of putting it on a more equitable footing. In point of fact, so far had the matter gone, and so ripe was it for settlement, that if no financial necessities had now overtaken us, we should have been imperatively called upon in any case very

shortly either to abandon direct taxation altogether, or to take some measure of the nature which we now propose to introduce. It was impossible to go on from year to year admitting and deploring the evils of the existing tax, and doing nothing whatever to remedy them. That was how the matter stood till the commencement of this year. We had the choice of abandoning direct taxation or of extending it; and we were in such a position that we could no longer decently delay making up our mind to adopt one or the other."

It will, therefore, be seen that the license taxes of 1878 were an attempt to make a certain section of the community contribute to the cost of government. Their extension and consolidation under the form of the Income-tax of 1886 were undertaken with the object of effecting a more equitable adjustment of that tax, and the financial difficulties of 1886 were the occasion, rather than the cause, of the extension.

5. It is unnecessary to remind the Chamber that no tax can be considered to be final either as regards form or rate, but I am to say that the Government of India has never given any sanction to the belief that the present Income-tax would be abolished or reduced in preference to any other tax which is now levied, or which was levied in 1886.

The understanding on this point is clearly shown by the remarks of the Honourable Robert Steel in the Legislative Council on 29th January 1886, and the reply made by Sir Auckland Colvin on the same date:

*The Honourable Robert Steel:* "The Honourable Mr. Mukerji has given notice of his intention to propose that the duration of the Bill shall be limited to one year. I will not anticipate his remarks, but I will take this opportunity to say that, whatever be the result of his amendment, the payers of Income-tax will now fairly claim that under the present Bill they will contribute at least their full share; and, when any remission of taxation is possible, they will expect that their case shall be considered on its merits along with all other claims for relief which may be put forward."

*The Honourable Sir Auckland Colvin:* "With regard to the duration of the tax, the Honourable Mr. Steel has put the case in an extremely fair way, namely, that if the Government finds itself in a position to make remissions of revenue hereafter, the question of the Income-tax should be put on the same footing and receive the same consideration as any other question of remission of revenue."

6. The Governor-General in Council would be very glad to be in a position to reduce or remit taxation, and no pressure from public opinion will be required to induce him to relieve the taxpayer when it is seen that revenue can safely be surrendered. The surplus of 2½ crores to which the Chamber points was, however, largely accidental and temporary, and cannot be taken into account as a factor in determining whether any permanent remission of taxation is possible. The surplus in the estimates of the current year is only 27 lakhs, and that surplus was secured after allotting only 60 lakhs as the provision for insurance against famine, and of that sum 49 lakhs are a special receipt from Local Governments. At the present moment the ordinary revenue and expenditure of the year promise to turn out considerably worse than the estimate of March last; and though the rise in exchange will no doubt do much more than counterbalance the deterioration in other respects, it must be recollected that doubts have been expressed by some authorities whether the purchase by the American Government of a limited (though considerable) quantity of silver will have a permanent effect upon exchange, and the future is still quite uncertain in respect to this important drain on the public treasury.

7. I am further to remind the Chamber that there are other taxes which have been incorporated into the fiscal system since the Income-tax Act was passed, and that the payers of Income-tax have, by no means, the first claim on a permanent surplus. Since January 1886 the principal measures adopted for increasing the public revenues have been--

- (1) the absorption of the surplus designed as an insurance against famine, which surplus has recently been only partially restored;
- (2) the increase of the duty on salt in India from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ a maund, and in Burma from 3 annas to one rupee;
- (3) the imposition of an import duty on petroleum;
- (4) the imposition of a patwari cess in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

In the opinion of the Government of India, there are several fiscal reforms which should take precedence of the claims of the payers of Income-tax, or should at least receive equal consideration whenever the Government finds that it has a permanent surplus at its disposal.

Having regard also to the origin of the tax, it would be necessary to deal with the claims of the payers of Income-tax and of the cesses on land imposed in 1878 concurrently. Sir John Strachey's remarks on this point in 1880 were:

"It would be hardly possible to maintain the cesses on the land if the tax on trades were abolished. It might be more possible to defend the abolition of the cesses on the land and the maintenance of the tax on trades."

These remarks have lost none of their force, and it will be ap-

parent that, looking to financial considerations alone, there is no prospect of the Government being in a position to abolish the Income-tax within any measurable period.

8. The statement that the tax is unsuitable because the Government has not succeeded in making it acceptable to the people appears to the Government of India to require qualification. No taxation of which the burden comes home directly to those who pay it can be said to be acceptable to such persons. The question is not whether the tax is popular with those who pay it, but whether it is just in principle and fair in application. As to the justice of the principle, there is no room for difference of opinion. As to the fairness of the assessment, the chief shortcomings were due originally to the novelty of the tax, to the difficulty of obtaining information regarding the incomes of the persons assessed, and to the changes from income to license tax, from license to certificate tax, and from certificate to Income-tax again, which were made in the period ending in 1871. These changes were a source of perplexity to the more illiterate classes who were also harassed by the want of fixity in the rate, by the low limits of taxable income, and by the inefficiency, and in some cases the misconduct, of the assessing agency. These features of the tax as it existed in former years have for the most part disappeared. The form of taxation has lost its novelty; a considerable amount of information regarding the incomes of the trading classes has been accumulated; changes in the character of the tax are no longer made; the rate of assessment which was fixed in 1886, and the minimum of taxable income, have remained unaltered; and the assessing agency has been greatly improved. The specially objectionable features to which discontent and hostility to the tax are in great part due have therefore ceased to exist.

9. The Chamber's argument that the tax is not fair in its incidence because a large portion of the revenue derived from it is collected in the Presidency towns is answered in a letter recently received from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce supporting the memorial of the Bengal Chamber. The Chamber writes:

"While accepting the fact, as pointed out in the memorial under reference, that the incidence of the tax is higher in the Presidency towns than elsewhere, they consider that inasmuch as the ports are, practically speaking, the entrepôts for the whole seaborne trade of the country, this is a natural concomitant, and does not mean that the impost is individually less oppressive in the Provinces."

To the Government of India it appears that the collection of a large proportion of the Income-tax in the Presidency towns is not a stronger argument for the abolition of the tax than the fact that the salt revenue is chiefly paid by the population outside these towns is an argument for the abolition of the duty on salt. The increase in the collections in Calcutta in 1888-89, to which the Chamber draws attention as illustrating the rigour with which the tax is administered in that city, was largely due to the discovery that certain traders had for some time been under-assessed, and was not merely the result of an unduly rigorous administration, as is evident from the fact that the number of processes issued fell from 2,283 in 1887-88 to 1,243 in 1888-89. The collections of 1889-90 have exceeded those of the previous year by about a lakh of rupees, while the number of processes issued was no more than 112. These facts appear to testify to the increased efficiency of the assessing and collecting agency.

10. The statement that the tax is not "reasonably remunerative" is of doubtful accuracy. The net revenue, deducting cost of collection, amounted last year to about Rs. 1,500,000 (one hundred and fifty lakhs)—a sum which represents the amount of the provision for insurance against famine, as originally contemplated.

11. As regards the third argument of the Chamber, I am to say that the information before the Government does not support the assertion that complaints are rife all over the country in regard to the working of the tax. The reports on the administration of the Act since 1886 contain but rare instances of misconduct or fraud on the part of the assessing and collecting agency. Even in remote districts the people are becoming less and less inclined every year to submit silently to extortion or oppression, and the assesses in the Presidency towns would certainly not do so.

12. With reference to the Chamber's assertion that the statements made by Mr. Inglis in 1871, and quoted in paragraph 2 (3) of this letter, are as true to-day as they were then, the Governor-General in Council desires me to remind the Chamber that those statements were shown on investigation to be couched in exaggerated language, and that whatever truth was contained in them was found to have been largely due to the assessments having been made by officials of an inferior class. The results of the investigation were made public at the time. No such reason for failure in administration can be alleged at the present day; for in Bengal the assessments are made by a special agency, and elsewhere the orders provide that the assessing officers shall not be of a lower grade than tahsildars and mamlatdars. There can be no doubt that cases of evasion of the law occur in India as they do in other countries, and in connection with the Income-tax as with every other tax, direct or indirect; but, however great the financial necessities of 1886 may have been, the Government of India does not believe

that the Chamber of Commerce would have given its adhesion to the imposition of an Income-tax, even as a temporary measure, if it had really apprehended that such widespread corruption was inseparable from its levy as was stated by Mr. Inglis.

13. The Members of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce represent a community which contributes materially to the Income-tax revenue, and the Government of India will always be glad to receive from the Chamber any suggestions for the improvement of the assessing and collecting agency, or to cause enquiry to be made into cases of alleged malpractices; but it seems to the Governor-General in Council that when allegations of general and widespread corruption are made, having for their object the abolition of the tax and the exemption of a large class from what is only a reasonable contribution to the wants of the State, such allegations would carry more weight if they were supported by specific facts of the present time, falling within the knowledge of the Members of the Chamber or their constituents, rather than by the revival of an exaggerated statement of 1871 regarding a state of things which no longer exists.

14. Turning to the question which has given rise to the present correspondence, I am directed to say that the Government of India as at present advised, entertains no doubt that the tax may legally be levied on the profits of goods which are consigned to this country for sale. Nor does it appear to the Government of India that the levy of the tax on such profits would be inequitable. The Indian trader who purchases articles made in India for resale to the public, as well as the Indian trader who purchases articles abroad for sale in India, alike, pay tax on the profits of their transactions, and there is no good reason why the foreign trader who consigns goods to India for sale should not in his turn contribute to the revenues of the State which offers him a market for his goods, and provides for their safety.

15. All taxes have certain features in common, but the Government of India is unable to discover any ground for the statement that a tax on the profits made by consigning goods for sale to India is practically a duty on imports. An import duty is levied on the quantity or value of all goods imported, and places such goods at a disadvantage as compared with similar goods produced in the country. The proposed tax (which) would not be levied on imported goods, but on the profits of certain transactions, would not place the goods which were the subject of those transactions at any disadvantage, but would merely deprive them of an unfair advantage which they now possess as compared with similar goods produced in India or imported by Indian traders.

16. But while the Government of India considers it necessary to explain the principles which influenced it in contemplating the taxation of such consignments, and to defend the soundness of the course which it proposed to adopt, it recognises the difficulties which necessarily attend any attempt to estimate the profits of such transactions. The assessor has not the means of doing so, and the assumption of a percentage of the value as a preliminary assessment would evidently give rise to error in particular cases, though it might be fair on the average.

The agent in this country could not of his own knowledge state with accuracy the amount of profit, and his action in attempting to estimate the profit would doubtless be resented by the consignor, and would impose an unfair responsibility on the consignee.

The Government of India believes that the consignor could state with reasonable accuracy the amount of profit on each transaction, but the Chamber of Commerce is of opinion that he could not be depended upon to do so in all cases.

Such cases of misstatement of profits on the part of consignors, even if not very numerous, would be sufficient to create doubt as to all returns, and such doubts could only be removed by an examination of the books of the consignor. These books being in foreign countries and at a distance from India, it is obvious that there would be no criterion which could be applied to test the returns of profit, unless at the risk of causing an amount of trouble and inconvenience which would be out of proportion to the revenue to be collected.

17. At the same time I am to remind the Chamber that, by a recent ruling, the taxation of the profits made by consignors resident in foreign countries has been declared to be legal in England, and that the Revenue Commissioners have taken steps to enforce the decision. The Governor-General in Council is not aware whether the objections to which the Chamber draws attention have been found to exist in practice in England, or, if they exist, how they have been overcome. Steps will be taken to obtain information on these points, but meanwhile, as the Government of India is not aware at present of any means by which the difficulty referred to in paragraph 16 can be met, it has decided, in accordance with the wishes of the Chamber, to hold the orders for the assessment of the profits of consignments in abeyance.

If a satisfactory method of solving the question should hereafter be proposed, and the Government of India should decide to renew the attempt to tax the profits of consignments, the intention of Government, and the means which it proposes to adopt, will be made public before orders for assessment are issued.



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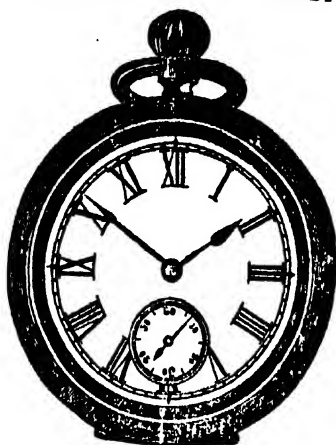
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It is hereby further notified that, after the expiration of the said period of one month, the Commissioners of this Municipality intend to submit the said bye laws to the Local Government for confirmation.

P. C. BANERJEE,  
Chairman.

BARANAGAR MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
The 8th September 1890.

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The steamer "**GWALIOR**" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 30th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 27th instant. The river having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Cachar.

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Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta *via* Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels *via* Kannia only.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1890.

No. 444

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### OUR LADY'S SHRINE.

I.

Mother of purity, and peace, and grace,  
Who offerest from this flower-encircled shrine  
To all who grovel, and to all who pine,  
The comfort of thy heav'n-directed face,

How often have I lingered here a space  
To lay before thy feet some thoughts of mine,  
And muse on all the hands and eyes divine  
Which turned with pity to man's pleading race!

Stands one of these more near to us than thou,  
In this abyss of suffering darkly whirl'd,  
Since he who shared with thee thy Syrian home

Has passed beyond the stars, and wielding now  
The awful pomps of godhead and of doom  
Sits throned as Judge and Maker of the World?

II.

One will so wholly binds and governs me,  
That other wills, and mine the first of all,  
Appear too vagrant, weak, and casual,  
To fix the limits of my liberty,

Or move this way and that my potency,  
As this one does, like signs celestial,  
Which, as some judge, the souls of men enthrall,  
And make them all they have been or shall be.

So knowing this, I need not inly fret,  
If often I behold a clouded face,  
And eyes which seem less gracious than they were;

Since Fate, which knows no lenience or regret,  
Has fixed the path that henceforth I must trace,  
And slays each thought or dream which looks elsewhere.

W. W.

Capri, 1889.

### HORÆ NEAPOLITANÆ.

I.

#### AT LEOPARDI'S GRAVE.

Say, has Death stanch'd at last the bitter ruth,  
Which preyed upon thy heart continually,  
And coloured all thy thought and fantas,  
With pictures of a world perverse, uncouth?

For not Philosophy, not Art, not Faith,  
Which change for us the mode of things we see,  
Might shake thy sadness, or divert from thee  
The Gorgon forehead of remorseless truth.

Yea even Love, which for a little space,  
So much you granted, cheats our human pain  
With fond illusion, quailed before thine eyes:

No daughter of our race relaxed thy chain,  
Pity or Passion kindling in her face,  
Or shared the burden of those weary sighs.

II

#### THE MUSEUM.

Not always will light Fancy be controlled,  
So much I learned when first my feet explored  
These spacious halls and stately galleries stored  
With marvels spared us from an age of gold,

And lingered long where eyes might best behold  
The goddess, with reverted head, who stands,  
Her drapery slipping from relaxing hands,  
And loves the tender curves behind unrolled.

Ah, you have lived too long (I heard her say)  
In that grey world which feeds on bitter bread,  
Self-questionings which all your powers employ;

How should you catch the spirit of our day,  
Which boldly followed wheresoever led  
The fearless feet of Beauty and of Joy?"

Naples, 1888.

W. W.

—Times of India.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE unprecedented persistency and violence of the rains for several days ending in Sunday last, as they interfered with trade and business in general, were not without their effect on the Press. In fact, they caused something like a "silly season." Our leader of Hare Street's house was so battered and his staff and establishment were so damped by the dreadful downpour, that on Monday morning the *Englishman* appeared with this opening editorial paragraph, to wit:—

"Mr. Mackenzie's chances of the Lieutenant-Governorship is (*sic.*) said to be in the ascendant."

Leaving such trifles as "L. L. D." for "LL. D." in para. 6, we come to the leader "Curiosities of Cross-examination" on the Jain Case in the Police Court, and therein we stumble upon such—we do not say grammar but printing as—

"The proceedings were commenced in July, and the case for the prosecution has not it (*sic.*) yet closed."

THE Gold Fever continues, with some abatement. Most of the companies are still at premium.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

MEANWHILE, they have struck oil at Deghbri, Upper Assam. The whole system of hills from the Eastern end of the Himalaya down to the sea is rich in minerals.

DURING the last fourteen years in India, the cotton-spinning and weaving mills have increased from 14 to 137. The number of spindles is given at 3,274,196, the daily average hands employed being 12,721. Bombay contributes just over-half of the total number.

The Nilgiri Railway Company have begun operations. The line is expected to be completed by December 1892. And the Governor of Madras on the 1st of this month cut the first sod of the East Coast Railway and allowed us to expect in no long time through railway communication between Calcutta and Madras.

THE Cashmere Durbar is going in for leprosy. A hospital will be opened at Srinagar at a cost of Rs. 50,000, to accommodate 50 lepers. The cost of maintenance is not stated. This seems to be the recognized mode of currying Imperial favor.

MR. Nolan has been commissioned to report on the crops in the flooded parts of this Province. During his absence on special duty, Mr. Buckland acts the Revenue Secretary to the Bengal Government. This gives an opportunity to Mr. K. G. Gupta to be the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, in addition to his own duties as Junior Secretary.

UNDER the head of sanitation, the *Calcutta Gazette* notifies the appointment of Assistant Apothecary F. W. A. L'Estrange to have medical charge of the Voluntary Venereal Hospital at Jellapahar. This is a significant commentary on the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

THE visitors to the Indian Museum, last month, were Europeans 529 male and 120 female and Natives 29,045 male and 8,330 female, giving a daily average of 1,728 during the 22 days it was open.

THE Ramnad partition suit has closed in the first court—the Subordinate Court, Madura East. The Subordinate Judge Mr. S. Gopalachariar has taken time to consider his judgment, as was to be expected on account of the importance of the suit and the learned and historical arguments advanced on both sides and the mass of evidence—oral and documentary—recorded. The main point is whether the zemindari is partible property or being of the nature of a Raj descendible to a single heir. There is also a will by the late zemindar which complicates the matter. Messrs. Norton, Barrister-at-Law, Sadagopachariar, Desikachariar and V. Bhashyachariar, High Court Vakils, appeared for plaintiff, Dinakarasami Setupati, and Rai Bahadur S. Subramoneya Iyer, C.I.E., the Honourable V. Bhashyam Iyengar, Row Bahadur R. Ramasubbier, Messrs. M. S. Narayanaswami Aiyer and Desikachari, High Court Vakils, and Mr. R. Strinivasa Aiyengar, 1st Grade Pleader, represented defendant, Baskarasami Setupati.

Rai Bahadur S. Subramoneya Iyer, opened the defence to this effect :—

"Plaintiff's case was that the Zemindari in dispute was a partible property as that of an ordinary Hindu family governed by the Mitakshara law, and that he was entitled to a share therein. Defendant's case was that the Zemindari was an impartible Raj descendible to a single heir according to the law of Primogeniture and that Plaintiff was not entitled to any share. Pannai, Siritettu and other lands, also the management of the Devasthanam went with the enjoyment of the Zemindari and rested solely with Defendant. Defendant also alleged that a Will was left by the late Zemindar under which also he was entitled to the Zemindari. If the Court held that the estate was partible, the Will was of no use as Plaintiff's share could not be affected by it. If the Court held that the estate was impartible, the Will would have a most important bearing on the case as evidentiary matter with reference to the partibility or the impartibility of the Zemindari. The principal question was as to the nature of the Zemindari and other properties. With reference to the question of impartibility, he would make the following general observation. No doubt all ordinary Hindu property was partible and as regards impartible properties, a distinction should be borne in mind between properties which are impartible by virtue of the political condition of the family and properties which are impartible by virtue of the custom or Kulachar of the family. In the present case both these conditions were relied on. Defendant contended that the Zemindari in dispute was in the first place a Raj

and therefore impartible and in the second place that the custom of the family was to hold it as impartible. The evidence which related to the latter question would also apply to the former. If it was shown that the estate was descendible to a single heir, it would also go to show that it was a Raj at one time. If it was shown to be a Raj, it was not necessary that its holder should be an absolute sovereign subject to no power. It was only necessary to show that it was a Raj though the holder might be a subject power or feudal chief. The incident of impartibility attached to properties other than Raj, such as a property held under military tenure. When it was said that the property was impartible, it was not meant that it could not be separated under any circumstances, but that the Municipal law did not entitle any one to claim partition. Nobody could possibly question the right of the holder of a Raj to divide it among his sons, as it would be only an exercise of his right of alienation. The Zemindari of Sivagunga was carved out of the Ramnad Zemindari which showed that there might be division, not by the operation of the law of inheritance but by the voluntary act of the holder. Some of Tippoo's territories were divided between various powers, but that did not show that the State of Mysore was divisible. West and Buhler's Hindu Law, 3rd Edition, pp. 735-44 dealt with impartible property (Portion of p. 736 was read out). That showed that the question of partibility or impartibility was to be judged by rules which were beyond the pale of Municipal law. Under political condition came the following properties. 1. Raj. 2. Properties in the nature of a Raj such as property held under Military Tenure or attached to particular offices or for the maintenance of any one."

THE British Indian Association held its half-yearly meeting on Tuesday in its rooms. It was a tame affair and a hole and corner business. There were present two dozen members including the President. The Secretary was supposed to read the report of the period by only enumerating the subjects taken up and informing the meeting that four members have been added to the list. The President very briefly referred to the Bill introduced by Government for the recovery of the land revenue and other public demands, and concluded his address by lamenting "the death of two of its (Association's) oldest and most respected members." The auditory were greatly moved and burst into applause, as reported in the *Statesman*. Not to be misunderstood, we quote from our contemporary :—

"I cannot conclude without referring to the death of two of its oldest and most respected members. I refer to Baboo Denonath Mullick and Mohesh Chunder Chowdhury. I am sure I express the sense of every member of the Association when I say that their loss is deeply regretted (applause)."

The final equality of the two British Indians reminds one of Addison's reflections in Westminster Abbey. In respect of one of the two, the President exhibited a rare example of Christian virtue.

The necrology, however, was only preliminary to the business of the evening. It appears that the rooms of the Association were purchased in 1868 with its own funds and contributions from members and from the Hurish Chunder Memorial and the Grant Memorial funds. The property stands in the name of the then Secretary. Permission was taken at this meeting to transfer it from Bahoo Jotindro Mohun Tagore the Secretary to Maharajah Sir Jotindra Mohun Tagore, Maharaja Sir Norendra Krishna, Raja Rajendralal Mitra, Raja Doorga Churn Law and Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee so that they may hold the same in trust for the Association. Raja Doorga Churn doubted whether the Association could appoint trustees for a property acquired with moneys not all its own, but Baboo Gonesh Chunder who moved the resolution assured the meeting that it could. "Those funds," he said, "were and are entirely under the management of this Association, and it is quite within our province to appoint the trustees for the property, no matter if it was acquired partly by money from 'those funds.' That explanation dispelled doubts and disarmed opposition. Relying on the attorney-at-law, the meeting voted unanimously for the proposition, involving the complete appropriation of the two Funds.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Self Help.—Prior to the discovery of these remedies an easy, ready and reliable remedy for outward disfigurements and inward complications was, practically speaking, unknown. No one need now be at a loss if they should unfortunately suffer from piles, ulcers, sores, tumours, boils, bruises, sprains, &c. Enveloping Holloway's medicines are very intelligible printed directions for using them, which should be attentively studied and immediately followed by all who resort to his treatment. Sooner or later the sufferer will assuredly triumph over the worst diseases. This searching Ointment disperses all those malignant humours which aggravate diseases of the skin, prevent the cicatrization of ulcers, and excite inflammatory tendencies in the system.

THE young Maharaja Jagat Jit Singh of Kapurthala completes his eighteenth year on the 24th November. Sir James Lyall will shortly invest him with full powers as ruler. The Maharaja has already complete charge of the household and military offices, which he is said to control with marked energy and ability.

THEY are for an Eiffel Tower in Melbourne. A company has been started for the purpose with a capital of £100,000.

THE latest American scheme of American proportions is a canal for the drainage of Chicago by carrying the filth in solution to the Mississippi. It is planned to have a fall of a few feet, so that at the Chicago end, the highest point, 300,000 gallons per minute of fresh water from Lake Michigan may flow into it. This enormous inflow of pure water is calculated to carry off the sewage southward, purifying the while the inflow of sewage. The cost is estimated at thirty million dollars to be raised by taxation.

THERE was another interruption to through traffic to Darjeeling. On Tuesday, there was a breach between Tilucpore and Nawabgunge on the Northern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway above Sara. The breach has now been repaired and trains are running uninterruptedly.

THE 55 years' rule has been extended to the East Indian Railway officers. Another rule has been laid down for all guaranteed and assisted railway companies. Usually, gratuities are grantable to officers on retirement occasioned by sickness, accident, or abolition of appointment. Lower is, however, reserved to reward distinguished service. But an officer who has worked full term and retires on account of age, must not expect any consideration, for he must be presumed to have made sufficient provision for himself and family. That is a good argument against pensions. But is the Government prepared to apply it there?

THE Duke of Connaught has been put in command of the important and extensive Southern Division at Portsmouth. But he is on long leave since the 25th August when he assumed the command, the duty being done by the next senior officer Major-General Geary, R.A.

THE bar is an honorable body and is proud of its noble traditions. The Bombay bar means to uphold the prestige of the profession and highly resents anything that casts the slightest suspicion against any of its members. The Advocate-General, (with three other advocates), on behalf of his brother barristers Kirkpatrick and Anderson applied to the Magistrate and obtained a summons for defamation against one Kanjee Luddah. This man is said to have asked commission on a brief of Lord Colin Campbell. On that noble lawyer refusing, Luddah, it is alleged, said that he had received similar discount from other barristers, naming in especial the prosecutors. This is denied by the gentlemen concerned and is considered derogatory to the profession.

AT the last meeting of the Calcutta Corporation, Baboo Amarendra Nath Chatterjee objected to secret voting on the appointment of Jute Inspector, and finding that the meeting was not disposed to accept his advice, left the hall. The present law leaves it to the Commissioners to decide any question either by show of hand or by ballot. Even when, under the old law, open voting was imperative, the Commissioners would decide, as they do now, personal questions by ballot. They confessed that they had not nerve enough to openly disoblige a friend or act according to conscience, and the legislature, sympathising with their weakness, has left them free to choose their own method of voting.

THE *Saturday Herald* prosecution has, we are glad, been compounded. The complainant complained that on the occasion of his candidature for the vacant Jute Inspectorship, the *Saturday Herald* published that, during the inquiry into the abuses of the license department three years ago—an "inquiry which cost more than one inspector his appointment"—Baboo Dharendra Nath Chatterjee (the complainant) who was then an inspector in that department, instead of waiting "for the termination of the inquiry, got rid of his troubles and anxieties by resigning, but now that the matter has been hushed up and almost forgotten, he has been emboldened to seek once more service under the Corporation."

Summonses having been issued against Baboo Sarat Chunder Roy, editor, as the principal defendant, and Baboo Jogendra Chunder Bose, License Inspector, also a candidate for the Jute Inspectorship, as abetter, the parties appeared before the Magistrate to hush their tempest—in a teapot. A letter of apology to the complainant was read in which the editor protests that by all that he had written against Baboo Dharendra Nath Chatterjee he did not intend to suggest anything against his honesty, and if his language is open to such a construction he is sorry for it. The Brahman seems to have been so little prepared for such meekness from the young lion of the Press, that he was dissolved in generosity and not only forgave Baboo Roy but gave Baboo Jogendra Chunder Bose, on his and the editor's declaring that he had had nothing to do with the libel complained of, a certificate of character and his best blessings for the success of his candidature for the post of Jute Inspector to the Corporation—the brazen apple of discord. After these interchanges of politeness, the parties left, more than ever old friends again, not, however, without a speech from the plaintiffs' fraternal counsel. This proved the fly in the ointment. This limb of the law spoiled the Arcadian simplicity and peace of the play with his suggestions of doubt and his dark hints. But he could not spoil the substantial result. And that is a mercy. All's well that ends well, as our good friend deceased used continually to remind the world.

The Brahman's blessing has, of course, come true. Bose has got the Jute Inspectorship.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Emperor William has arrived at Vienna. The reception was enthusiastic, the progress through the streets being a triumph.

THE Socialist law having expired, the socialists of Berlin held high jubilation. It was a humdrum affair, unmarked by any disturbance. The Police was ready for any emergencies, though.

THE French author Jean Baptiste Alphonse Karr is dead.

LORD Wolseley has taken over command of the forces in Ireland from Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar. A grand reception awaited him at Dublin on the 1st.

A GREAT fire has gutted the City Bank, the Athenæum and the premises of six of the leading firms at Sydney. The loss is given at one million and a half sterling.

THE American Senate has passed the Tariff Bill. It admits sugar below the number of 16 standard free and above that number fixes the duty at five-tenths of a cent per pound. Sir John Macdonald, the Canadian Premier, speaking at Halifax, said the Canadians would never be seduced from their allegiance to the British Government by the American tariff. They would find markets elsewhere but never consent to annexation to the United States.

THE Englishman Birchall tried at Woodstock, Canada, for enticing away a young man Benwell, in Canada, and murdering him, has been capitally sentenced. Judicially, Canada is evidently not India.

ON the 29th September, at Naples, Signor Crispi denied to an "interviewer" that the Triple Alliance, lately renewed, operates until 1892. He thought peace was secure unless France broke it. National questions, he said, are giving place to the social question, which will soon dominate the world—till, we suppose, some fine morning the sound of military march and the cannon's opening roar in grim earnest awaken us all to the hard reality

That things are not what they seem, that men are no better than they used to be, that the effect of education is superficial, that civilization has not subdued the national repugnances and antagonisms. Crispi is a long-headed man, but the statesmen of Europe seem to labour under something approaching the delusion which possessed the great Czar Nicholas and, lulling



him into a false security, encouraged him in his extravagant pretensions against the Sultan—pretensions which proved so disastrous to all but most to himself. Is it possible that Bismarck is putting them off the scent? Or, is he too aging at length?

THE owner and crew of the Hartlepool cutter *Isabel*, pearl fishing at Papua, have been massacred by the natives.

THE Northern Spinners' Association, London, is bestirring itself to put a check to the organized system of fraudulent packing of cotton in India. It has called a special meeting for the purpose.

THE English Governor has not survived the cession of Heligoland. The death of Mr. Arthur Cecil Stuart Barkley is announced.

THE Czar feels that he cannot be entirely unjust to his Jewish subjects, at any rate not without fresh grounds. A Commission has been appointed at St. Petersburg to consider their position.

WITH the commencement of the month, the *Indian Daily News* appears in a new garb. The size has been greatly enlarged and broken into two sheets of 8 pages. May the shadow of our contemporary never grow less!

AT Trevandrum, lepers are being segregated in the Charity Hospital, where arrangements have been made for housing, dieting and treating the destitute lepers in the town. As a means to this end, private charity to the leper is prohibited. The Travancore Government considers the disease under certain circumstances contagious, and has advised the citizens not to encourage the visits of the leprous to their houses and neighbourhood by giving them alms.

SOME time back a letter appeared in the *Englishman* praising Mr. Bourdillon, the Collector of Saran, for helping the peasantry with advances for rebuilding their homes washed away in the floods and cultivating their *rubbee* lands. Another writer in the same paper of Wednesday last, without questioning the praise so far as it is deserved, declares that the area of assistance is limited to the property of the Jatipore Concern. He does not blame Mr. Bourdillon who is prepared to do his best, but the Collector is bound by formalities of law in which valuable time is being wasted. He complains of the Zemindars not coming forward to help their cultivators in this time of need in procuring the assistance of the state. They could not have a better guide than the example of the Jatipore Concern. Its Manager, Mr. Churdon, with equal prudence and benevolence got his tenantry together and made them file proper petitions to the Collectorate containing the necessary particulars of their holdings, &c., which he himself verified. The requirements of the law being satisfied as to the applicant's fitness as an object of help as well as to the sufficiency of the security offered, the Collector made the payments. While, therefore, the tenants of Jatipore have set up their homes again and already commenced field work, those of other estates are dancing attendance at the Collectorate about the necessary preliminaries before they can extract any money for their urgent needs. Meanwhile, as must happen in such crises, many a designing well-to-do man, who is well up in the mysteries of courts and *cutcheries*, is forking out money for the purpose of buying up the holdings of distressed husbandmen or swindling some luckless moneylender out of his lien. It is impossible for the Collector to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving applicants, unless loyally assisted by an upright ministerial agency or, above all, a benevolent and active landlordly class. We do hope the appeal to the latter will not go for nothing. But to be of service their response ought to be quick. Every hour is precious.

WE read in a Madras paper that a native hospital assistant was suspended for a year for negligence, insubordination and gross inhumanity. On his expressing unwillingness to rejoin his duties, the assistant has been dismissed from his post and declared incapable of Government service again. Was no other order possible? It is not difficult to understand the *rationale* of the second punishment, yet, in the absence of details, it seems a needless severity. The human instinct is

to sympathise with disinclination to go back to a place which had brought disgrace. How then comes it to be an offence of so deep a dye that nothing short of blasting the man's entire life will meet the case? That does not look like the stern justice of the state but the implacable vindictiveness of an individual official. It *may* be justice, but it is justice scarcely differentiable from wrong. Such justice at any rate is very far from the rule. And well for the state and its servants that it is not so. In such cases, the practice is rather to show the unsatisfactory servant the door than to keep him confined within. It is no use keeping a man pinned to a post which he has come to abhor. To persecute him as this hospital assistant has been persecuted, is to convert him into a rebel and throw him into the arms of the criminal classes.

The Hilsons, whether in the North or the South, would certainly not like to have their pure justice to others exercised towards themselves.

AT Peddumady Gooda, Hosipooram village, Ganjam, a whole family consisting of father, mother and four children fell ill after dining on cakes made of mango kernels. They were all disturbed in their sleep, and they woke up at midnight complaining of uneasiness, giddiness, pain in the stomach and nausea. The symptoms grew worse and worse till they became unconscious. The youngest child died in the morning and two others the next day. The remaining three were removed by the Police to hospital at Varanasi, where the mother died. On the four deaths, the Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of accidental death caused by eating diseased mango kernels. The *Madras Times* remarks—"Mango kernels, it is believed, after rain become poisoned by the growth of a kind of fungus in the kernel." Fungus or no fungus, there is enough ground for caution. We believe the dried kernel is used in indigenous Hindu system of medicine as an antidote to animal poison. Therefore, it is scarcely a harmless thing for other use: probably it is a weak poison which taken in heaps—as a staple food, for instance—may prove fatal. The matter is worth careful inquiry. The kernel, both fresh and dry, should be analysed and tried, and then the diseased kernel, with the fungus or otherwise. Meanwhile, native parents had better, to be on the safe side, prevent their children from chewing the soft kernel of which the latter are fond.

HERE is a typical story of individual British grievance against native states. It is nothing particular—the complaint is scarcely worth the paper whereon it is written—nevertheless, from the ready sympathy and support of European society and of the Press, it may be turned to mischievous use. In native territory, the meanest travelling British subaltern thinks himself somebody. The very deference paid to him in politeness or prudence, turns his head the more, and he insists on the most preposterous terms. Travelling at the best is a discomfort, and mountain-climbing is notoriously a feat of difficulty. But such is the fate of India that the very people who, at no small outlay of money or risk to limb and life, are wont to enjoy their miseries and dangers in the Tyrol, not only fret but cry through the papers that their path in the heart of the Himalayas is not smooth as a bowling green and that they are not provided with a first-class hotel at each stage of their journey. A British Prince would be considered impertinent if he criticised the people and the administration of a Swiss Canton under such circumstances and in such a way as our "Sub." speaks of the Ruler of Sukeyt and his subjects in the following:—

"He had much difficulty in coming up, owing to the badness, or rather absence, of roads, and the invisibility of officials, but going back it was worse. He writes:—'I could not even get a man sent on to warn coolies on the second day in Sukeyt territory. I was doing a double march, and rode on myself to warn at a place called Chindi. I found the lumberdar, and whilst he was getting coolies, my dogs unluckily killed a kitten. However, the owner was quite satisfied with eight annas, and had gone into his house, when out rushed another man in an excited state, and abused me, and the English in general, in filthy terms. I took no notice, and just then my leading coolies arrived from Jhungi, and I looked round for the coolies the lumberdar had collected, but could find none of them, so I went into the village and called them.' He goes on to say that, by way of answer, two men rushed at him, knocked off his hat, and hit him in the face, taking him unawares. He 'went' for both of them, and gave one fellow a black eye, keeping them at bay till a Mandi sepoy came to his assistance, and was in his turn assaulted by the villagers. After some minutes' free fight, they quieted down, when out came a Brahman, named Atma, who harangued the villagers, inciting them to stone Lieutenant— and his servants, at the same time, picking up two stones from a heap of building material. Luckily no one followed his advice. Lieutenant's misfortunes culminated at a village 7 miles from Bhujji. The fracas at Chindi had delayed him so much that he was besighted with

a badly broken bit of road ahead, so had to make for the nearest village, where he and his servants were refused any shelter, and he had to pass the night in a field. Not a fowl was procurable between Sukeyt and Masnobra. Furniture, I may mention, has been bought for all the rest-houses in Sukeyt, but the Rajah has taken possession of it all, and keeps it locked up in a godown, the rest-houses being bare of everything, and out of repair, that a Dillar on the Sutlej being in danger of tumbling down. As for Dost Sikunder Sen, ruler of this ill-governed, or rather un-governed, State, he seems determined to walk in the evil ways of his deposed predecessor, and the pensioned judicial officer, who is his Wazir, is at times unable to see him for three months at a time."

Our Lientenant is by no means singular. He is a pretty fair representative of the class of British tourists in the very region in question. Scores of Himalayan travels have been published filled with the same kind of sad stuff—by ladies and gentlemen alike. The passage quoted may excite the derision of those who do not know, but it is with such writing that the manufacture of annexation begins. It is thus that, for instance, Cashmere has come to grief. Travellers and Travellers' Tales were the first dark omen of her destiny. Let Sen beware of Tourists and his Traitor of a Vizier!

He may have the best reason, as he doubtless had every right, to lock up his furniture. But what is the good of allowing them to rot in his godowns? It were more to the purpose to place them at the service of the all-powerful Sahiblogues. Above all, they are Rakshashes for eating who can not bear hunger. Catch the next Lieutenant you find straying into your hill and stuff his stomach with all the wild fowl and tame you can get and fill his mouth, nostrils and ears with eggs so that he may neither hear nor see anything disagreeable and not say anything to your prejudice!

LEPERS are at the present moment special objects of attention. The Prince of Wales has taken them under his Royal protection. The Government of India is urged to provide them with a special law. Attempts are made in several quarters to raise funds for their benefit—that they may have healthy though remote homes to themselves. Several remedies are being tried for cure of the disease. Here is the result of an attempt to purge a leper of his loathsomeness.

"A native recently attempted to cure a leper at Kishargunge, according to public notice, by causing him to be bitten by a deadly cobra. The reptile killed the leper instantly, and the would be curer has been sentenced by the Sessions Judge to five years' imprisonment."

The would-be-curer is punished evidently for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, by administering a deadly poison although without any intention to cause death. If he had succeeded in curing the leper, would he have been punished for doing an act likely to cause death? How many diseased persons are hastened to their last rest by administration of poisonous drugs to bring them back from death's door. Here was an open act after public notice. The leper must have agreed to the treatment preferring the sting of the deadly cobra to his present sufferings. Is it not strange that the act was not prevented, but the actor is punished for his failure?

We are bound to say that the proceeding of the leprosy-doctor was not the wild irrationality that the world takes it to have been. If he employed a deadly poison to cure a difficult disease, he only followed the legitimate practice. A less strong snake of the same deadly species might not have killed outright, and might, by sparing the life of his patient, have saved his credit and his liberty. If he killed by an overdose, the same is done frequently by the practitioners with impunity.

It will be said that if the Faculty deal in powerful poisons, they follow experience, never prescribing them without having previously seen their curative effects. The convicted practitioner, we dare say, did nothing more nor less. Is it to be supposed that he advised the bite of a cobra unless he had seen the good effects of such a bite? That would be not only a most uncharitable but also an unreasonable suggestion. If he had not had such previous experience, but just launched the dangerous experiment on mere hypothesis, he not only deserved his punishment but much more than he has got, though even in such a case he is not so singular as he might seem. Very dangerous experiments are, we fear, indulged in in hospitals by some of the greatest therapeutists, not without fatal results, which are covered by the license of the Faculty and the prestige of the individual. Be that as it may, it is reasonable to suppose that our unfortunate specialist in leprosy had witnessed at least one hopeless sufferer disgusted with life resort to the cobra as a method of suicide or the only chance of cure and get cured instead of dying. For anything that we know conclusively to the contrary, that may be the true remedy. The failure proves nothing perhaps beyond the insufficiency of the convicted man's experience. Had many cases come under his observation he would have known the limitations of the remedy and the safeguards under which

it should be administered. We know that, under certain circumstances, people escape with life after the bite of the most venomous reptiles—the deadliest cobras. The serpent that will kill a child will not perhaps kill an adult man or a powerful horse. The same dog wounding several persons almost simultaneously will communicate the rabies to some and not to others. Similarly, the same serpent biting in succession several persons has been known to kill some and simply poison others, while a few have altogether escaped any influence except from nervousness. The obvious reason is that in repeatedly discharging its venom the brute not only drained its stock but also exhausted the capacity of its poison glands.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 4, 1890.

### THE WEATHER.

LAST week we appeared under unhappy meteorological circumstances. Like the owl for all its feathers of Keats' St. Agnes' Eve, *Reis and Rayyet* for all its wit and wisdom was a-cold. Not from blasts from the North or dripping snow as in the case of Minerva's pet, but from the moist East wind and the continual downpour from the clouds. The wind was high but fitful, the occasional gusts kept up a threat of violence as if a cyclone was at hand. But the downpour was a downright nuisance precluding business, because preventing all going out. The rain was frightful in its energy and persistency. From time to time it descended for hours in big drops which beat with fierce rage against shutters and panels, deranging the tiled covers in the country, piercing through the thatched roofs of the habitations of the poor. It was a desolating downpour, but not ungrateful to the senses. The air was cool if damp. The *punka* was at a miserable discount. Those who submitted to it did not care to disturb their man in his sweet doze. The Sanskrit poet Kalidasa has displayed in charming verse the glory of the tropical rains. They are indeed eminently poetical. And they put forth all their fascinations last week. It was charming to see the rhythmic fall in quick regular succession of the endless strings of liquid pearls from Heaven. The music too was fine and varied. Sometimes the ear was assailed as by the sound of the car rattling o'er the stony street. At other times one heard the confused peal of drums in the distance. With more or less force the showers continued with little intermission for the space of a full week. Instead of gradually spending themselves, they waxed stronger as they proceeded, till they reached their climax on Saturday and Sunday. This final effort fairly exhausted them. All through, the sun and moon had been maintaining a struggle with the Fluvian Jove, but the latter had been having the better of them. On Monday, however, the great luminary of day at last found his opportunity and shone in all his glory and the moon followed suit with all her effulgence. And such nights have we had! The sun indeed has been since putting forth all his scorching power, as if to make up for the eclipse to which he had been before condemned. This seems to have riled the Lord Fluvius who shows his sign of impatience with a darkening brow from the distant skies. The war may be renewed any day—or hour.

### GOVERNMENT IN NATIVE CENTRAL INDIA.

MR. HENVEY's last report of Central India bristles with interest. Probably he is now the best abused man with the Native Press, nor have we anything to urge one way or the other in regard to his alleged attitude towards that press. His exceedingly well-

written and sympathetic and carefully balanced report of the Central India Chiefs, however, places him in an altogether different light. He keeps a strong hand, it is true, on the administration, but there can be no doubt at the same time of his genuine sympathy for the Rulers over whom he is placed. On the contrary, his report shows him to be the best apologist of native rule with even its defects to which he is by no means blind. He has had an experience of Central India of over two years, and he is entitled to speak with authority on the subject. Now let us see what he says. He says "after an experience extending over two years, I am happy to be able to give a fairly encouraging account of the Central India Chiefs, whose faults and failings have been exaggerated." Among a large number, there must be some bad and others indifferent, but "of the main body of them I can say that I have found them generally anxious for the welfare of their subjects, seldom capable of wilfully doing injustice, and often ready to introduce such measures of amelioration as are within their limited means, and are not incompatible with the preservation of their ancient traditions and usages." The point is fully argued by Mr. Henvey, and his observations are characterised by a breadth and statesmanlike grasp to deserve reproduction *in extenso*. He says:—

"The greatest blot which I perceive is the indebtedness pervading the higher classes of the community. For the peasant, whose rent is taken before his crops are cut, and who has to borrow at exorbitant interest from the village money-lenders, the deepest commiseration must be felt; pity is thrown away on the opium merchant whose difficulties are caused by gambling with time-bargains, but what can be said of the Raja, or Nawab, or Thakur who talks of his *honour* ('*abru*') while the Central India Agency is harassed by the importunities of his dunning creditors? Until public sentiment on this subject undergoes a radical change, until it is realised that hopeless insolvency arising from extravagance is an indelible disgrace, compared with which the inability to endow a marriageable daughter is a mere trifle, there is small hope of social regeneration—small hope indeed from sumptuary regulations which no one can enforce. But when all is told, I am not prepared to assert that the general condition of the people of Central India is less happy and comfortable than it is in many districts of British India. Paradoxical as the statement may appear, it has often occurred to me that the average well-being of the lower classes of an Indian community may perhaps be in inverse proportion to the efficiency of the Government. In a country where early marriages are almost a religious duty, and where natural checks on the growth of population have been either removed or mitigated, the tendency is to multiply up to the margin of bare subsistence. On the other hand, in a country already emptied in the so called 'time of trouble' and not re-filled, owing to the want of confidence in the intentions of rulers, each cultivator is a precious possession, and the very paucity of the people, reinforced by threats of emigration, is a substantial guarantee against grinding oppression. It must be admitted that in theory most land in Central India is excessively taxed, and that if the Chiefs were wise they would sacrifice present revenue, in the sure hope of immense returns in the near future, by combining general and immediate reductions of assessment with the offer of liberal terms for bringing waste land into cultivation. But in practice the Central Indian Chief is a very tolerable landlord, and what with laxity of administration, pliability of officials, and recourse to all sorts of shifts, evasions, and concealments, the Central Indian zemindar manages to keep himself up to a decent pitch of ease and prosperity. I cannot otherwise account for the compact and well-stocked villages which I have everywhere seen, for the careful tillage of the soil where circumstances are favourable, and for the rarity of complaints. Disappointed suitors are sometimes heard to say that justice is dead, and that even her daughters, locally known as *riyat* (influence) and *rishwat* (bribery) have been solicited in vain. Remonstrances are now and then received from Thakurs and country gentlemen whose privileges are slighted by unsympathetic Mahiattas, and who are thus occasionally converted into most desperate and dangerous marauders. But I never hear of wholesale emigration into British territory, nor of numerous villages deserted and in ruins, nor of anything that betokens despair among the peasantry. Perhaps some parts of Gwalior may be an exception to this rule, but the Gwalior Durbar is patiently endeavouring to apply a remedy by revising demands which, in the declining years of the late Maharaja Jyaji Rao Sindhia, were immoderately raised."

We are thoroughly prepared to accept Mr. Henvey's apparent paradox. The very laxity of Oriental rule often affords compensation for its graver defects.

Mr. Henvey has earned our approbation by his moderate views in other directions. He is no thorough-going reformer after British models, but sees the wisdom of adopting measures to the cir-

cumstances with which he has to deal. The settlement operations which are at work in some of the States are condemned by him as out of place in backward Native Territory. Modelled on the British system, they are somewhat too elaborate and costly, and above the level and beyond the working capacity of the local executive agency through which they must eventually be carried into practical effect. He therefore recommends a summary settlement, the main object being "to encourage the Durbar to do their own work, in their own way, as far as possible, with their own indigenous agency, and not to press upon them elaborate reforms which are unsuited to the country and which might not survive the minority of the Chief."

The greatest blot on the administration of these as also of the Rajputana States is the large prevalence of dacoity. Mr. Henvey is far from slurring over this dark side of his picture. His report is thoroughly manly and straightforward and more than ever free from the usual characteristic of official reports of being overlaid with the colour of the rose. In speaking of education, for instance, he says roundly "the darkness is Cimmerian." For the prevalence of crime, he assumes the full responsibility and offers the following practical explanation:—

"But if any one will take the trouble to examine a large map of Central India, and mark how jurisdictions are intermixed, he will be surprised, not that dacoities are frequently committed by small gangs of professional criminals, uncivilized Bhils, Wilayati desperadoes, and discontented Rajputs, but that peace and security are at all possible amid the conflict of authorities and in conditions which are so favourable to the escape of offenders....."

"I have never missed an opportunity of impressing upon the States and especially upon Gwalior, my conviction that much of the worst and most dangerous form of dacoity is due to agrarian disputes, to the maltreatment of proud and impoverished Rajputs, and to disregard for the privileges and sensibilities of the natural leaders of the people. I have urged that this evil cannot be cured by repression alone; that repression must go hand in hand with conciliation, and that it might even be worth while to convert marauders into protectors of the tracts in which they have influence by the grant of lands on favourable terms or of liberal allowances."

There is no doubt that the intermixture of jurisdictions is largely responsible for these discreditable state of things, but there is no help for it excepting, as Mr. Henvey wisely says, in advising and urging the Durbars to co-operate, instead of mutually obstructing. Mere rules and regulations will be no panacea as is often imagined. Mr. Henvey therefore looks in the first instance to the good sense of the Chiefs themselves, failing which he will have no choice but to adopt measures which cannot be palatable. He says "the Chiefs are well aware that if, by reason of indifference and obstruction, crime should become intolerably rife, the alternative of organising an international police under British supervision is within the region of practical politics." At present, however, his warnings are having effect, and we trust the threatened encroachment upon the liberties of the Chiefs may not actually take place.

#### ACTIVITY IN INDIGENOUS LITERATURE.

THE extraordinary expansion of the press in India in our times could not well go without its special evils. For one thing, we are deluged with a mass of publications, a very few good or passable, but most of them absolutely bad. A legion of chevaliers of industry has sprung up who are authors in despite of Nature and Art. You are confronted by publicists who cannot parse and poets innocent of prosody. You are attacked by philosophers by dozens and politicians by scores. The activity of the Native Press, in both the vernacular and Sanskrit departments, is out of all proportion to its capacity, giving a handful of wheat to a bushel of chaff. There are not only pretenders in the field but also swindlers in plenty, and between them they are plying a brisk trade to the injury of true letters.

We see no prospect of abatement of the nuisance except

in destruction from its own plethora. The vernacular newspaper press is often but its newspaper organ. The native English press is not always in the best hands and is easily induced to lend its alliance to the evil cause. Even the European journals in India themselves, in their weakness as well as their ignorance, are ready to play into the hands of unprincipled puffers.

For our own humble part, we endeavour to do our duty with discrimination and as much firmness as may become poor Bengali human nature. If we have not the heart to condemn, we show by neglect our left-handed appreciation. And this is our treatment of most of the publications that reach us. From time to time, we take up a book or tract for dissection, by way of a pointed warning, and in order to teach aspirants to authorship what is expected of them. For the most part, silence is kind and wise—for all interests. For trash may thrive under punishment, as certain races multiply in squalor and wretchedness. Condemnation is a constructive commendation.

Among so many provoking intruders, it is a delightful relief to meet with an occasional arrival of a different class. Such a welcome visitor is Pandit Avinas Chandra Kaviratna. He comes armed with credentials. He has occupied a special department—indigenous medical literature, but he is no usurper. He is neither a swindler nor an ignoramus. A Brahman by birth, he is a Pandit by education and a physician by profession. From almost the commencement of his start in life, now a good many years, he has devoted himself to the diffusion of the great works in medicine and surgery in Sanskrit and to the professional enlightenment of his fellow-practitioners of indigenous medicine. Although he does not give away his books and pamphlets gratuitously, he is scarcely less a literary philanthropist than the famous publisher of the Mahabharat. Without any grants from Governments or Princes, he has produced with wonderful despatch an astonishing mass of literature in a difficult department. He issues a Bengali medical magazine on a novel plan, embracing all the systems of cure known in this country. He supplies the indigenous branch, while the European methods are represented by some of the ablest Bengali medical men, of the allopathic and homœopathic schools. No better agency could be devised for improving what may be called the class of hedge-doctors. This work singly, in which he has been engaged for years, with the munificent aid of a single family once in the foremost rank for liberality, entitles the Pandit to our gratitude. The nation, as John Bright reminded us all, lives in the cottage, and surely the improver of the medical practice for the multitudinous masses of Bengal is not a common benefactor. In his more ambitious work, which is no less striking in volume or interest, he has been all alone, either in a literary or a pecuniary way. The names of his several publications would fill a page and their aggregate letter-press a small book-case. He first brought himself to notice by his edition of the great work of Charaka, the Galen of Hindu Medicine, in two bulky volumes of 1,500 pages. By this the whole body of native practitioners and the learned throughout the world were for the first time placed in possession of the whole text of the most valuable relic of old Hindu science, long sought for but never found. The Pandit has enhanced its value by giving a translation in Bengali. This translation is a free one, on purpose. It is impossible to understand these ancient works without the constant guidance of scholia and commentaries. It would have swelled the proportions of his undertaking to add the commentaries. Nor would such addition have brought Charaka any nearer the business and bosoms of most Bengalis, whether learned or unlearned. Author and commentators, in original and in translation, were too much to expect, and would have been too much of a good thing. Pandit Avinas Chandra adopted the golden mean by issuing his author only, with a translation embodying the explanations and amplifications of the commentators. He has thus achieved the maximum of usefulness with the minimum of cost or waste. He next took up Susruta, the leading work in ancient Hindu Surgery. This has been several times attacked with more or less success. An imperfect text, long since out of print, was brought out at great cost for the old Council of Education, in 2 vols., half a century ago. Some thirty years ago, a translation in Latin was published in Germany, but without any text. In India, of late years, at different places, a few *fasciculi* have

been issued, with or without gloss or translation, but completion has not been attained in any case that we know. This Pandit's design goes farther. He is publishing by parts Susruta Samhita in original with the famous commentary of Dallanacharya. The authority of these works is not confined to Bengal, but extends throughout the Continent of India. In order to bring knowledge to all parts of the Empire, he is printing Susruta in Devanagari character which is understood over a wider area, and is translating his author not only in Bengali but also in Hindi, the *lingua franca* of all Northern India. He has already issued many parts of the several series. He is a man of wonderful elasticity. While proceeding with his various engagements, and specially with his arduous Hindi Susruta and Charaka Samhita with the scholium of Dallan Acharya, he has taken up a suggestion thrown out by Dr. Max Muller, and has issued proposals for publishing an English version of Charaka. In fact, we have before us the first *fasciculus*. The specimen of translation of the opening chapter seems well done, and is enriched with notes by the translator. It is preceded by an able introduction. Such a man would be a rare worker in any land. Surely, in this land of Lotos he is a treasure. He is engaged in a Herculean Undertaking, but he is full of confidence, and we have no doubt that, with the legitimate support of the public, he will bring it into honourable completion.

Another worker, though in a different field of literature, but of equal energy and perseverance, is another Brahman, Baboo Ram Gopal Sanyal. There is little in common between the labours of the two, yet it may be said that Sanyal is doing for contemporary biography and annals something of the service that Kaviratna is doing for ancient Hindu medicine. Let no body smile at our remark. The facts of the day may be as hopelessly buried as any long-past transactions. They therefore do a distinct service to us and posterity who take pains to record for all time the interesting matters and personalities of the passing hour. No matter, if the recorder is not a brilliant penman. It is enough that he has eyes to see and ears to hear. The brilliant moulder and manipulator—not always a safe man!—will appear in due course. But without the humble labours of the pioneer, all the genius of hereafter will avail not. Babu Sanyal has for some years occupied the field of the preliminary witness. He first published a Life of Kristodas Pal in English, and then a Life of Hurris Chunder Mookerjee in Bengali. He next issued a collection of the most notable state papers, Government Resolutions, &c., relating to individual grievances which stirred the sympathies of the people during the last few years. He has now brought out a Bengali Life of Kristodas Pal. This is no translation of his book in English but an entirely new work, which will interest those who have read the previous memoir. It is not still without inaccuracies, but some new information has been added.

#### THE SILLY SEASON.

If the excessive rains of last week caused a "silly season" (see our opening paragraph of "News" &c.) the extraordinary following heat during this week has continued it. Wednesday's *Englishman* contains an important letter on the India Government's reply to the Chamber of Commerce's representation on the Income Tax. "Civis"—as the Correspondent signs himself—writes well and forcibly, but his letter is disfigured by a terrible blunder. Referring to the abolition of the Tax, by Lord Northbrook, after an exhaustive inquiry which established that it was partially oppressive and wholly demoralising, and to the solemn promise then made that it should never be reimposed, the writer says—

"Now I fail to see why the present Government is not as much bound by this promise as it professes to be by Lord Dalhousie's engagement to the terms of the Permanent Settlement."

To what "profession" of the "present Government" does "Civis" allude, as not in harmony with its contempt for the promise of the Northbrook administration on the subject of the Income Tax? There is not a word about the Permanent Settlement in Mr. Secretary Sinker's despatch to the Chamber. A passage quoted in paragraph 3 from Sir Auckland Colvin's speech contains part of a sentence evidently leading to the immunity from general taxation enjoyed by holders of landed property under the Settlement. But the latter part of the sentence in question has been carefully expunged and the excision marked by three asterisks. We have no time to refer to the original



source for the full speech, but surely so well-informed a Civilian as Sir Auckland Colvin, who had besides been one of the ablest Settlement officers in the N. W. Provinces, did not father the Permanent Settlement on Lord Dalhousie. We do not even think that "Civis" himself consciously committed the mistake. If the name occurs in his MS. it was a mere slip of the pen. Such slips are common in contributions received at every newspaper office—communications scrawled in haste and dropped into the post office without careful perusal by the writers. It is the office of the editors to correct them as they correct the grammar. The neglect or inability to remove the single flaw in "Civis" gives an able letter an air of "griffinage," which detracts from its just weight and gives the official class an easy opportunity for a gratuitous laugh at the expense of "these mercantile scribes."

"Civis" complains of the manner no less than the matter of the Government missive at the head of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. He says:—

"I hardly think the Indian Newspaper Press has sufficiently represented the sense of indignant surprise and disappointment produced in the public mind by the recent reply of the Government of India to the Chamber of Commerce in relation to the Income-tax. Seldom has a State paper been drawn up in so high-handed a fashion. Instead of welcoming an expression of public feeling and opinion on an important subject, the Government adopts an attitude of lofty rebuke, practically informing its correspondents that they are meddling in matters too high for them, and that it can govern the country without their help. The remarkable sentence in which it states that it will remove (and I presume impose) taxation when it sees fit and proper to do so, without any need for action or suggestion on the part of public bodies (or words to that effect) is as ill-imagined as it is ill-advised. What constitutional Government has ever thus claimed to act without reference to public opinion, and has not rather made public opinion the fitting guide of its action? When Mr. Lowe (as he was then) withdrew his proposed tax on lucifer matches, what but a strong adverse expression of public opinion, and that of one class, caused that withdrawal? This surprising document is devised in a thoroughly bureaucratic spirit, and the loss of 'touch' that it reveals between the Government and the people, forms a strong additional indictment against the practice of the great Government of a great country shutting itself up for the best part [part] of the year in a distant mountain solitude, where it 'lies beside its nectar,' and where the suggestions or complaints of an 'ill-used' Chamber of Commerce seem to it but 'like a tale of little meaning, though the words are strong.'"

A common misprint like "past" for "part" were scarcely worth notice but that our contemporary had a keen eye for the notes that disfigured the optics of his neighbours.

The special editorial department of the leading journal is no more free from reproach. It is the same on Wednesday as on Monday. In the same issue of the 1st instant the leading article, after speaking of the Hindus, refers to the "Mulwaris." We never saw the word before. We cannot be sure about hearing till we know the pronunciation. It is always a puzzle to the world to determine the sound of the Oriental words and proper names occurring in the *Englishman*. Although our contemporary is afflicted with the Hunterian malady, the writers on the journal are many of them free and the rest discover but a faint touch. Nor is there sufficient scholarship on the establishment to exhibit a uniformity of spelling in the paper. According to the Hunterian transliteration which the *Englishman* professes, "Mulwari" is in plain English Moolwari or rather Moolworee. We know no such thing. Indeed, Moolwori or Mulwari or Malwari, it is all the same to us—a mystery. Nor, for this matter, is anybody else wiser than our humble Indian self. Our contemporary has made a notable ethnological or anthropologic discovery. An Indian sect or tribe under one or another of the names and different to the Hindus is a new contribution to knowledge. Is it possible that the writer refers to the Mār-wāris? Then, it is an offence to speak of them as a non-Hindu people.

So many shortcomings, typographical and literary, within a fraction of a single day's broadsheet, seem to show that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark. We need not pursue the ungracious task any more. We will only end with a crowning brace of blunders. Our contemporary gives an account of the "College of Pandits at Nadiya." The opening sentence is startling. We are told—

"Nadiya is the chief seat of Sanskrit learning in Bengal, and from its essentially religious character has been called the Oxford of Bengal."

Is Oxford such a religious centre? Whatever it may have been in the long past, since the rise of the Tractarian movement it has been the house of heresy. Latterly, the acute eye of Mons. Taine detected the reigning proclivity to Mill and Comte. Never, perhaps, in this century was it a place distinguished for "its essentially religious character." One would suppose from the *Englishman* that Oxford was the British Mecca or Benares. After several paragraphs of an account which seems to be native work, by one who knows, our contemporary

mentions the Report of the College and remarks that it is published in English. We have not seen it. Perhaps, it is a continuation of the lingual policy to exclude the Report from the observation of native journalists even though publishing in English. Our contemporary reserves his greatest surprize for his final paragraph. In this, he informs the world

"Sir Warren Hastings was the only English Governor-General who succeeded in winning the hearts of the Pandits."

Unfortunately, the world is ignorant of that glorious baronet or knight.

## MOORSLEDABAD.

*Moorsledabad, 28th September 1890.*

The criminal cases which arose out of the unfortunate disturbance on the occasion of the last Mohurram here, details of which have already appeared in your columns, have at last been heard and disposed of by the District Magistrate Mr. Luson, to whose file they were transferred by the Sub-divisional Officer of Lalbagh owing to the latter's unwillingness to try them himself, he being an eye witness to the occurrence. The most prominent members of the Berhampore bar were engaged on both sides. The depositions of the Deputy Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police and the European Police Inspector of this city were taken. They all confirmed to a word the statements made by me in my previous letters. The Sunnis have been found guilty of being the aggressors and punished with fines. Not a single charge could be brought home to the Shias and they have therefore been acquitted. The case of pronouncing the *Taburrah* thereby wounding the religious feelings of the Sunnis has been withdrawn. It is hoped that no mishap will in future take place in the performance of the Mohurram ceremonies. The Mahomedan Sub-Inspector of Police has been transferred. The ensuing *chehelum* or the obsequial ceremony on the 40th day which comes off shortly will, it is proposed, be celebrated under Hindu police escort under the personal superintendence of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police.

I cannot help regretting the evil outcome of this troublesome occurrence. It appears that while the enraged feeling of one party is gradually and quietly settling down to its normal state, that of the other still continues in full swing and threatens to take a permanent shape. A Sunni defence association has, I hear, been formed and established at Berhampore under the presidency of Raja Zillur Rahman Khan, Zemindar of Talibpore, in this district, with the object, among others, of stopping once for all the reading of the *Taburrah*. It is monstrous to think, in these days of British rule and religious toleration, of one sect trying to preach crusade against another. Instead therefore of wasting their money and energy in such trifling sectarian disputes, it were wiser for the promoters of the association to devote their resources to the improvement of educational and political status wherein the Mahomedans unfortunately still lag behind their infidel fellow-countrymen. Printed prospectuses and appeals for funds are, I hear, in course of circulation throughout the length and breadth of India.

The Nawab Bahadur of Moorsledabad, G. C. I. E., whose early recovery from his dangerous illness had been eagerly looked for by the inhabitants of this district, has recently placed himself under the Yunani system of treatment, having already had enough of the European ones. A Hakim has been brought down from Lucknow on a monthly salary of Rs. 500, exclusive of board and lodging. We hope the Great Dispenser of all good will grant the Nawab Bahadur speedy restoration to health and spirits. It was not long ago that His Highness contributed Rs. 1,000 towards the relief of the sufferers from the late floods and ordered the postponement of collection of rents from the tenants of his Sambhulpur mahal. While sorely ailing, he commemorated the joyful occasion of his promotion to the G. C. I. E. ship by awarding handsome and liberal increase to the pay of his Minister, and his English and Persian Secretaries and by the distribution of alms to the poor. One omission though there was, it was naturally due to his extreme mental dejection caused by his prolonged illness that his poorer officers and menials were excluded from a share of his favor. As His Highness takes a great interest in their welfare, hopes may yet be entertained that when he comes round he will surely extend his bounty towards them and thereby earn their lasting gratitude and regard.

After a week's foul weather we have been blessed with a day of brilliant sunshine. For days it rained cats and dogs with scarcely any intermission. The river has again risen. Low land crops have already been totally destroyed by inundation. People therefore looked upon the high land crops as the only means of saving themselves from the impending famine. But unfortunately for them these are reported to have rotted by last week's rain. Articles of food have become dear and at places unavailable. Such is the miserable condition of this part of the country. Let us see what steps the Government will adopt to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

I have to record with extreme pain and regret the untimely death of our wellknown townsman Moulvi Syud Mobaruck Ali.

which took place in Calcutta last week. A son of the late esteemed Nawab Jafer Ali Khan, the deceased was a member of the Sub-executive Service and had served in the districts of Midnapur, Burdwan, Bhagulpore and the Sonthal Pergunnah. He was stricken with hemiplegia last year and after long and careful treatment partially recovered from the attack. He went to Calcutta lately for a short change and there was a relapse to which he succumbed. He leaves behind a son and a brother to whom I offer my sincere condolence and sympathy.

The Congress High Priest the Hon'ble Pandit Ajodhya Nath came here a few days ago and delivered a series of lectures at Berhampore and Azimganj. He came with the object of collecting subscriptions for the Indian Political Agency in London. His mission has been to some extent successful.

The second triennial term of the local self-government of this city is approaching its close. Speculations are rife as to the constitution of the future Municipal Council and the selection of its Chairman. It is proposed in some quarters to have a Mahomedan unofficial chairman next time. The trial of a Hindu (the present incumbent being Kumar Ranajit Sinha of the Nashipur Raj) has proved successful. Some are of opinion that the Kumar should be reelected, while others are for an official chairman. It would, however, be a pity if the old capital of Bengal be found unworthy of managing its own affairs by its own people without the help of an official magnate. If the electors are strong enough against pressure from interested circles and return good representatives, there is no fear of being trodden under official sole.

### SULTAN ABDUL HAMID.

(From the *New Review*.)

For more than a hundred years the spirit of our Western civilization has knocked at the door of the Moslem world in Asia without being able to show any striking result, or a result which can be called adequate to the efforts made. The reasons of this comparative failure are manifold and have been frequently discussed; but there is, nevertheless, one main cause which has not been duly considered. This is the relation between the people and their princes in Mahomedan Asia, a relation which is quite peculiar; for free and independent public opinion does not exist in Asiatic society, and the masses, accustomed to follow blindly their leaders, accept only the innovations and reforms of which their rulers or ruling classes have furnished an example. Hence the axiom: Look at the prince and you will know his people; and hence the undeniable fact that all the changes effected by our Western culture upon the various peoples in Mahomedan Asia are nothing but the reflex of those produced on the individuality of the respective princes.

In the list of the said princes Sultan Abdul Hamid occupies the foremost place, inasmuch as Turkey can justly be described as the Mahomedan country most advanced on the path of modern civilisation; a circumstance mainly due to the efforts of the present Sultan. It is about thirty-one years since, whilst living in the house of the late Rifaat Pasha in Constantinople, that I was called upon one day to give the first rudimentary lessons in French to Fatma Sultan, a daughter of Abdul Majid, and the wife of Ali Ghalib Pasha, living at that time in a *yali* (summer residence) on the European side of the Bosphorus. The way in which I imparted the first notions of that foreign tongue to the Imperial lady was certainly a peculiar one. My pupil was seated behind a curtain in the harem; in fact, I never saw her face, and having been ushered into a room belonging to the Mabeyin (the intervening portion between the harem and selamlık) I strove to do my best to fulfil my duty by reading a sentence or two in Turkish translated into French, which I heard repeated by a soft feminine voice behind the curtain. It was while engaged in this somewhat strange mode of teaching that I made the acquaintance of a young prince, about sixteen years old, called Hamid Effendi, who, on a visit to the house of his favourite sister used to attend my lessons, and with his pure Oriental face and expressive eyes had attracted my attention. I hardly spoke to him, for it is against Oriental etiquette to address a prince, but his countenance and his reserved and dignified manners left an indelible trace on my memory.

Nearly thirty years had passed when, after a long absence from the East, I again visited the Turkish capital. Great changes had taken place in the Ottoman Empire, as well as in my own life. We both had grown older, and when the present ruler of the valiant, but sadly misunderstood, Turkish people expressed the desire to make the personal acquaintance of the European who had devoted his whole life to the language, history and ethnology of the Turkish race, I was not at all surprised that the shrewd prince did not recognise at once the quondam *Topal Kbadja* i. e., lame teacher as I was usually called, a short recapitulation of by-gone events, however, sufficed to revive dimmed memory. I had a long and interesting conversation with Sultan Abdul Hamid, whose career I had attentively followed, and I can thus say something about the personal character of that greatest and most influential amongst Mahomedan rulers, a prince who in the future is destined to play a delicate and important part in the history of our times and who is,

I am sorry to say, so often misunderstood by the public in general as well as by the political world.

Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, now in his forty-eighth year, unites in his character the leading features of his grand-father, Sultan Mahmud, and of his father Sultan Abdul Majid. From the former he has inherited unbounded zeal and activity; and from the latter a rare degree of affability and kindness of heart. I do not exaggerate in stating that history can hardly show an Oriental prince so distinguished by untiring love of work and untiring energy as the present Sultan of Turkey. From early morning till late at night he is engaged in state affairs; and he not only examines every important matter, but occupies himself also with minor details, and pays attention to petty questions, to the detriment of his health and the course of government. I found him one day on his *canapé*, having at his right a large pile of Turkish newspapers together with translations from the foreign Press; and on his left several bundles of state papers submitted for his perusal and ultimate decision. Whilst talking to me he continually glanced to right and left, betraying an anxiety to go through his papers, and I became fully convinced of the truth of what I heard from Sureya Pasha, his first secretary, that he had never put his signature to a paper he had not read and considered carefully. Of course, with such a painstaking and searching ruler, the power of the Ministers is very limited, and the present statesmen of Turkey have naturally dwindled down to weak and helpless officials. This is certainly the reverse of the medal, but it must not be ascribed entirely to suspicion and want of confidence, as is generally assumed in the diplomatic circles of Pera and in the leading circles of Europe. A prince who witnessed the dethronement of two of his predecessors; who, by his shrewdness and sagacity, has carefully studied the intrigues of the Palace and of the Eastern official world; who knows that in his foreign relations everybody is against him and nobody for him—such a prince it is hardly fair to reproach with excessive caution and scrupulousness, or to ask to submit implicitly and unconditionally to his surroundings. As one of the few Europeans whom the Sultan has favoured with his confidence, I have been often asked whether his experience and information are equal to his activity, and whether he does not over-rate his capabilities. Well, candidly speaking, I must say that the education of Sultan Abdul Hamid, like that of all Oriental princes, was defective, very defective indeed; but an iron will, great judgment, and rare acuteness have made good this shortcoming, and now he not only knows the multifarious relations and intricacies of his own much-tried Empire, but is thoroughly conversant with European politics, and I am not going too far in stating that it has been solely the moderation and self-restraint of Sultan Abdul Hamid which has saved us hitherto from a general European conflagration. During the late Bulgarian troubles he was asked by Russia and by the central European Powers to validate his rights in Eastern Roumelia by an armed intervention; but keeping in view the adage, *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*, he answered with the Arab saying: "Peace is the best of all judges," and acquiesced in one of the most crying acts of injustice rather than appeal to arms.

As to his personal character, I have found the present ruler of the Ottoman Empire of great politeness, amiability, and extreme gentleness. Always anxious to disarm his declared enemies by civilities, he is particularly grateful to those who have been attached to him for a long time, and as to his politeness towards European ladies visiting his court, he fully deserves the title of the *Ré-galant nomme* of the East. When sitting opposite him during my private interviews, I could not avoid being struck by his extremely modest attitude, by his quiet manners, and by the bashful look of his eyes. He carefully avoids in conversation all allusion to his position as a ruler, and when unavoidably obliged to mention the beginning of his reign, he invariably says, "since I came to this place-----." Whether his behaviour be the outcome of his personal character, or the result of his conviction of the changes produced by the democratic tendencies of our age, even in the East, we need not inquire. Suffice it to say that Sultan Abdul Hamid is the very personification of a *roi bourgeois*, who is anxious to do away with all the encumbering etiquette of Oriental court life, and who likes to show himself plain, civil and unaffected to his visitors. Even to scenes of Oriental pageantry, inseparable from Royalty in the East, he has imparted more than one feature of modern European court life. He drives himself at the official parades, his dress is scrupulously plain, he has discarded the aigrette worn on the *fez* by his predecessors as a sign of Royalty, and it is only at the Imperial state dinners that luxury, but not greater than that usual at Western courts, is exhibited. The highly-finished plate is of pure gold and silver, the ornaments are rare masterpieces of jewellery, the dishes of exquisite French cookery, and although every guest has before him several glasses, it is only the non-Mahomedan to whom the servants serve wine. The Sultan and his Mahomedan guests drink only water. On such occasions the Sultan, often having at his right and left European ladies, shows particular politeness and amiability, for in the art of conquering his guests by signs of particular favour, Abdul Hamid is really incomparable. On one occasion I was presented with a dish of strawberries, laid out in various

lines according to the different shadings of the fruit, headed by a bit of paper bearing the inscription, "From the plants reared by the hand of his Majesty." On another occasion the servant brought me an apple and a peach of extraordinary beauty, and I had a gracious word from the Sultan, whilst during my last invitation to his table I was greatly struck to hear Hungarian national music played by the Imperial band in the adjoining saloon, and on looking round a servant accosted me with a message from His Majesty that the Hungarian airs had been studied by the band by special order for that evening.

As a ruler I found Sultan Abdul Hamid quite an exception to his *chers frères* in the East, and in some respects in advance of some of our European princes. A monarch who sits down with his Minister of Finance, ready to spend several hours in revising accounts, in devising new measures, and in examining most scrupulously minute details, is certainly a rarity. "We are all tired and exhausted," said one of the ministers to me, "but the Sultan never is, and if he yields to our entreaties it is only for our sakes and not for his own." There are from five to ten chamberlains and officers passing continually between his private rooms and the office of his first Secretary Sureya Pasha, who has to send in, *viz.*, to present, every private letter and every document arriving at the palace. The Sultan, owing to his extraordinary memory recollects events long ago forgotten by his Ministers. The past of ten or fifteen years is as fresh in his mind as if it were but yesterday; and in spite of the twenty-one years which have elapsed since his visit to Europe, he still remembers vividly the streets, public places, and buildings of the chief towns, as well as the dresses and features of the persons he met, with an accuracy which is really astounding. Good memory is for the rest peculiar to gifted Asiatics but the characteristic which distinguishes Sultan Abdul Hamid from other Eastern princes is decidedly the modern tone of his views on religion, politics and education. A firm believer in the tenets of his religion, he likes to assemble round him the foremost Mollahs and pious Sheiks, upon whom he profusely bestows Imperial favors; but he does not forget to send from time to time presents to the Greek and American patriarchates, and nothing is more ludicrous than to hear this prince accused by a certain class of politicians in Europe of being a fanatic and an enemy to Christians: a prince who by appointing a Christian for his chief medical attendant; and a Christian for his Minister of Finance (I mean Mavrogeni and Agob Pashas) did not hesitate to entrust most important duties to non-Mahomedans. As a further proof of his toleration we may refer to the fact that Sultan Abdul Hamid is the first Ottoman ruler in whose hospitality not only European princes and ambassadors and distinguished visitors from the West, but his own Christian subjects, amply partake. He is the first Ottoman ruler who has publicly encouraged the art of painting and of sculpture, in spite of those arts being strictly forbidden by orthodox Mahomedanism, and during one of my visits he pointed with a certain pride to two pictures in his saloon as having been painted by Moslem pupils brought up in the School of Art at Stamboul. These two pictures represent Soyud, the place in Asia Minor where the Ottoman Empire was founded and the mausoleum of its first ruler, namely Sultan Osman. As another instance of the Sultan's liberal views I may mention the foundation of a museum, where statues illustrating the Greek mythology are exhibited, statues held in horror by pious Mahomedans, and to look at which even is a deadly sin according to the precepts of the Koran.

What Sultan Abdul Hamid has done for the instruction and enlightenment of his people is the admiration of every one who visits Turkey. It is not my intention to recapitulate here what I said last year in London in a public lecture delivered in Exeter Hall, but devoting continual attention to this subject I can state with full confidence that if the Turks continue steadily on the way inaugurated by their present ruler, and if political complication does not offer any hindrance they will soon reach a level of culture by which they may secure a firm basis of mental and economical development and future political existence. "It is for this purpose," said the Sultan one day to me, "that peace is now the object of my desire; peace alone can cure the manifold evils and shortcomings of the past; order and security can only be introduced by civil officers trained and educated in the school of modern social and political life." In accordance with these views it is gratifying to find at present hundreds, nay, thousands, of young Turks earnestly striving to acquire the rudiments of the European languages and science. A new spirit has taken hold of the whole people; the language and literature have undergone an essential change: whilst I am writing this paper, I have on my table various Turkish books and treatises on social economy, history, astronomy, geography, &c., which are sent to me for review, and some of which are really admirable. Of course there is much, very much, to be done yet in the way of public instruction, for the great bulk of the people is totally ignorant and neglected, but educational progress does not permit of leaps and bounds, and we are only doing justice to the praiseworthy efforts of Sultan Abdul Hamid in mentioning that he is sincerely bent upon the amelioration and the mental development of his subjects.

Where the actual ruler of Turkey meets with the sharpest criti-

cism is decidedly in his policy of holding aloof from all alliance with any of the European Governments, and the somewhat rigid measures he applies in the Home rule of his country. As to the former we have to consider before all the rather doubtful effect of close alliances in the past and the danger in the future. Quite recent historical events have shown that the Porte had more to suffer from the hands of her so-called friends and well-wishers than from the aggressions of her old enemy. These deplorable results have quite naturally roused suspicion and a well-justified cautiousness, and we cannot wonder if Ottoman statesmen for a long time hence hesitate to cast in the lot of their country with any of those dubious allies, and prefer to protect the interests of the Empire according to their own notions and at their own discretion. In fact they cannot risk any other new experiment, for another war of the same issue as the last one would deprive Turkey altogether of any choice and ruin her entirely.

As to the second objection raised against the personal rule of the Sultan, and particularly against the Police system spread like a net over the whole Empire, I beg to remind the reader that Turkey is an Eastern country composed of men of different creeds and nationalities, who abhor each other and are ready to fall upon each other at the slightest loosening of the grip of the Government; in fact, of Orientals easily excited and fanaticised, who cannot stand comparison with Western people accustomed to liberal institutions. Only dreamers, ignorant of the cruel testimony of practical life, could think that a free constitution would fill up at once the gulf deepened by many centuries of religious animosity and widened by the hard rule of the conqueror over the conquered. No! such a thing would be even in Europe a sheer impossibility. And in reference to the charge of ruthless despotism laid upon Sultan Abdul Hamid I will quote his own words. He said to me one day: "In Europe the soil was prepared centuries ago for liberal institutions; and now I am asked to transplant a sapling to the foreign, stony, and rugged ground of Asiatic life. Let me clear away the thistles and stones, let me till the soil and provide for irrigation because rain is very scarce in Asia, and then we may transport the new plant, and, believe me, nobody will be more delighted at its thriving than myself." As to the much-rebuked Police system and to the host of spies paid by the Sultan, I beg to remind the reader that this host exists only in the fertile imagination of the inhabitants of Pera and Galata, and perhaps also in the brain of Turkish Nihilists, for that species is likewise represented on the Bosphorus. In Pera and Galata, those gathering-places of European adventurers, the most absurd rumours are credited and thence diffused over Europe; in fact, these goodly representatives of our kith and kin could hardly exist without inventing bewildering and startling news, if for no other purpose than to furnish material for hungry newspaper correspondents and credulous diplomatists. In some Pera circles they told me of twelve hundred, in others of sixteen hundred spies paid by the Sultan. Spies are suspected in all classes of foreign and native society, on the Tramway, in the church, in the public garden and even in one's bedroom; but on enquiring closely into this matter, need I say that the whole was a gross exaggeration, and that secret agents are employed only by certain court officials in furtherance of their dirty dealings and intrigues which are well-watched by the Sultan, but which can hardly be frustrated by him so easily as people in Europe imagine.

It would lead me too far indeed were I to dwell on all the absurdities spread in Europe respecting the personality and the government of the present Sultan. I am fully aware of having exposed myself through these lines to the charge of being a flatterer, and of seeing everything in roscate colours. Well, the discrepancy between my experiences and those of others will be easily explained by a proper estimate of the different means of observation at my disposal. Turkey is separated only by a few days' railway journey from Europe, but the Turks themselves are as distant from, and as inaccessible to Europeans as they were centuries ago. Let us approach them well-armed with linguistic and historical information, and without pre-conceived notions or prejudices and I am sure the experience of many travellers will tally with my own. Foreign visitors to Turkey will then learn that a talented, gifted, and patriotic ruler like Sultan Abdul Hamid can accelerate the march of civilisation, but cannot work wonders by transforming suddenly an Asiatic society into a European one. We did not emerge suddenly from the gloomy shadows of mediæval barbarism and ignorance into our present state, and we cannot expect Asiatics and Mahomedans to do a work in decades for which we required centuries. We must not shut our eyes to the deplorable conditions under which Turkey is labouring; we must not lose sight of ruined villages, neglected roads, decaying towns, choked harbours, and an impoverished population; but we can be, nay, we must be, indulgent, and instead of always finding fault with the Mahomedan Turk, whilst we are ready to pardon the cruelties committed and vices practised by his Christian neighbour, we really should begin to discard all political bias in our judgment of an Eastern prince and of his people.

A. VAMBERY.



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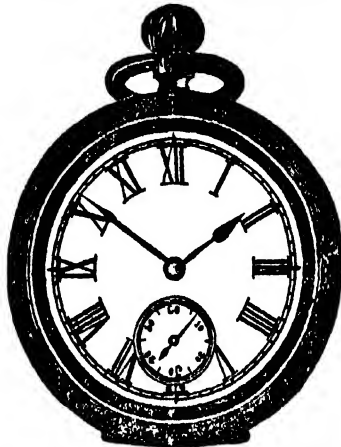
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**NOTICE** is hereby given under Section 351 of Act III (B. C.) of 1884 for general information, that the Commissioners of the Baranagar Municipality, at a Special Meeting held on the 23rd February 1890, have framed a set of bye-laws subject to the provisions of the said Act, and that a copy of such bye-laws together with a translation thereof in the vernacular has been kept open, for one month from the date of this notification, in the office of the Commissioners during office hours (11 to 5 P. M.) for the inspection of the inhabitants of the Municipality.

It is hereby further notified that, after the expiration of the said period of one month, the Commissioners of this Municipality intend to submit the said bye laws to the Local Government for confirmation.

P. C. BANERJEE,  
Chairman.

BARANAGAR MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
The 8th September 1890.

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**Rivers Steam Navigation Co.  
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This Company's Steamer "NEPAUL" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 7th instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 4th instant.

CACHAR LINE.

The steamer "GWALIOR" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 14th instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 11th instant. The river having risen, steamers are now able to proceed as far as Sylhet and Cachar.

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Business Communications (post paid) to be directed to "The Manager," and Literary Communications and books and pamphlets (carriage paid) to "The Editor" of "Reis & Rayyet."

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1890.

} No. 445

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

RAMA BAI THE ROYAL SUTTEE.

Translated by Mr. H. A. ACKWORTH, B.O. C. S.

Hearken ! I sing the witness  
Which former times afford  
How cherished patient Ramabai  
Her god-descended lord,  
And how the righteous Nana  
The laws of heaven ador'd.

Hearken ! The gods had bless'd him  
With gems beyond compare,  
Viswasrao, Madhoorao, and he  
Narayanrao, made up the three,  
Who died a direful destiny,  
A cluster rich and rare.

And twixt the younger two so strong  
The love, their story might belong  
To those twin lords of ancient song,  
Whom the same mother bare.

How was the double emerald split ?  
I know not, nor can mortal wit  
The secret dark declare.

Madhoorao on his throne of state,  
A peaceful prince, in Poona sate ;  
No army muster'd, but his hand

Unsworded stretch'd o'er all the land.  
The foeman shrank before his fame,  
Vast tribute to his treasury came ;  
Surat, and Bessein's lofty wall,  
With sword undrawn, before him fall ;  
Kolaba seized, before him flee  
The banners of the Portuguee ;  
The Angria's sails were torn, and they,  
The captive chiefs, in Poona lay ;  
Madhoorao's fame transcends the stars,  
They vainly gnaw their prison bars.

Hearken ! I sing the witness, etc.

Deep as the ocean's depth profound  
Which shipman's plummet may not sound,  
The prince's judgment pass'd the ken,  
His deeds the power, of mortal men.  
Skill'd leader of his horse was he,  
He march'd for Theoor merrily,  
The rattling kettles clang'd with glee  
Behind him and before :

In howdah ceil'd with royal state,  
And fram'd with glittering glass he sate ;  
An elephant upbore  
The stately load, and stepp'd along  
Majestic through the shouting throng,

While sounded shrill, and loud, and long,  
The trumpets' deafening roar.  
Hearken ! I sing the witness, etc,

The prince from Poona with his spouse,  
To Theoor came to pay their vows ;  
Before the god Gunputti there  
The lady promise plied, and prayer ;  
The sacred image to enfold  
She vow'd with pure and solid gold,  
His coronet with gems should shine  
A crest of gold should crown his shrine,

"If, heavenly lord, thou give  
"To me the bracelet dower, and deign  
"One year prolong my husband's reign,  
"One year to let him live."

So pray'd she, and the turbans set  
With work of gold, and gemm'd aigrette,

Or pearl, or emerald plume,  
She offer'd, and with weeping eyes  
Implor'd the mercy of the skies

To mitigate her gloom.

That night an answer came in sleep,  
A dream disturbed her slumber deep,

And Gunputti stood by :  
"Not mine the power, or mine the deed  
"Thy husband's life to spare or speed,  
"On Shriputti rely ;

"Count me but lord of 'modaks' child,"  
The vision vanish'd as she smil'd,  
And so the night went by.

Hearken ! I sing the witness, etc.

Next day, that Wednesday dark and drear,

The lady left her anxious bed,  
She sought her lord, his tent was near,

Alas ! her noble lord was dead.

But never tear bedimm'd her eye,

The lovely lady Ramabai ;

With firm and rapid step she trod,

Her vow once more before the god,

Her latest vow to pay,

Through the glowing gate of fire  
Which open'd from her husband's pyre,

To tread the darksome way.

For through the land the summons went  
Of pious Ramabai's intent,

And east and west the call was sent,

And speeded south and north ;

With sacred basil haste to deck

Her friends their lady's graceful neck,

Cast off the gauds of worldly pride,

Her final garb she bade provide

For that dread journeying forth.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

She yielded to Gopeeka's prayer  
 Narayenrao to summon there  
 And Raghoba they call ;  
 How youthful prince may best behave  
 She taught with many a precept grave,  
 And Raghoba with solemn word  
 She charg'd his nephew's throne to guard,  
 Word that should fruitless fall !  
 Calmly she check'd the tears that fell,  
 Calmly she bade her last farewell ;  
 And while the assembled crowds proclaim  
 Their Madhoo's beloved name,  
 And shout through heaven his glorious fame,  
 Calmly she went to meet the flame,  
 And bless'd them one and all.  
 Hearken ! I sing the witness, etc.

Thus Ramabai prepared to tread  
 The footsteps of her husband dead ;  
 In showers the leaves of gold were flung,  
 In every ear the drum beat rung,  
 While all the air was dim and sweet  
 With fragrant powders, as was meet,  
 And all the Peshwa's host array'd  
 The sad and solemn scene survey'd.  
 On Moola's banks the lady stood  
 High by the pyre, absorb'd of mood ;  
 Worshipp'd the Gourds—on Kashi's shore,  
 By Gunga's sacred stream brimm'd o'er,—  
 Then, while all people held their breath,  
 She mounted on the stone of death,  
 And clapp'd her hands : the signal giv'n  
 Fierce rush'd the roaring fire to heav'n,  
 And high her spirit soar'd,  
 In Indra's bark divine upheld  
 Such boon her piety compell'd,  
 Like Sulochana, side by side,  
 She grac'd the heavenly portals wide,  
 With her beloved lord.  
 Hearken ! I sing the witness, etc.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

SEVEN thousand Hindus of Calcutta and the Suburbs have, through the Lieutenant-Governor, memorialized the Viceroy to reconsider the last orders with a view to the maintenance of the holidays on the occasion of the great Doorga Worship Festival. It reached Darjeeling on the 4th instant. On the 8th the Lieutenant-Governor forwarded the memorial to the Governor-General in Council. It will reach tomorrow, but as they are all pious and strict observers of the command as to God's day, it will we fear not be taken up before Monday. Would that the gods of Olympus might relent and grant their favour with godlike celerity, and send the news on the wings of the lightning !

THE Chairman of the Corporation has taken fifteen days' leave commencing from the termination of the Doorga Pooja holidays. He avails himself also of the Pooja holidays and goes to Delhi.

The 12 days' Dussehra vacation having ceased to be public holidays, what will be the Pooja vacation in the municipal office? Not being of "the offices under the Government of Bengal," it is not entitled, under the Notification in the Gazette, to the subsequent four days which have been granted to the Government offices with certain exceptions in addition to the six days' public holiday. Under the Municipal Act, the Chairman is required to be present at the office every day "except upon such holidays as shall be allowed by the Government." The Municipal office must therefore remain open on other days than public holidays. Under the loose wording of the Act, it seems doubtful whether Government has the power to make a special reservation in favour of the Corporation. At any rate, in the event of assuming such a power, Government must notify the fact if it means that the Municipal office shall have the same holidays as in the Secretariat. In his zeal for curtailment of the Doorga Pooja holidays, Mr. Cotton overlooked the direction in the Municipal law of which he

had the working for a time. Will he now rectify the omission? This shows that the care said to have been given to the last consideration of public holidays in Bengal was not enough, nor by any means comprehensive. It is lucky, therefore, that the question is being reopened, if not to fix the Municipal holidays, at least to the prayer of seven thousand of Her Majesty's Hindu subjects, so that the clever Secretary may take advantage of the occasion to attend to the municipal side thereof.

THE Officiating Collector, Mr. W. Maude, of Customs thus notifies the approaching Doorga Pooja holidays :—

"The Doorga and Luckhi Poojah holidays this year are from the 18th to the 29th October inclusive.

On the 18th, 24th, 25th and 29th the Custom House will be open during the usual hours for transaction of all business.

The Treasury on these days will be open.

On the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd, and 27th and 28th the Custom House will be opened on notice being given free of charge from 11 A.M. to 12 noon for entering or clearing any vessel that it may be required so to enter or clear, and for the issue of bills-of-entry or shipping bills covering free goods from or to the same.

The Treasury on these days will be closed."

Mr. Maude ignores the Poojas altogether, and though not entirely, the orders of Government as contained in the notification of public holidays, declaring six days' close holiday. He sticks to the arrangements of the last year, unmoved by recent orders.

The Officiating Comptroller-General, Mr. Stephen Jacob, also improves upon the orders of Government and notifies :—

"Notice is hereby given that the Public Debt Office, the Government Savings Bank, and the Government Account Department at the Bank of Bengal will be open for the transaction of business and for the receipt and payment of money on Government account on the following days during the Doorga Pooja holidays :—

18th, 24th, 25th and 29th October 1890.

The Paper Currency Office at Calcutta and the Comptroller-General's Office will also be open on the above dates."

The orders and instructions of the Governor-General-in-Council are, that only the Office of Issue of the Paper Currency Department and the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General will remain open but partially as regards Hindu employes and hours of business.

The proposed departure last year was not so general. That notice ran thus :—

"Notice is hereby given that the Public Debt Office and the Government Savings Bank at the Bank of Bengal will be closed from the 30th September to the 10th October both days inclusive, but the Bank of Bengal will receive and pay money on Government account on all days on which the Bank is open for business.

The Paper Currency Office will also be open to the public for exchange of notes and coin up to one o'clock P. M. on the 30th September, 8th and following days in October."

THE Agricultural Conference met on the 6th instant, Dr. Voelcker read his report on his tour. He of course strongly supported the proposal to bring out an agricultural expert, but other competent men were required for the actual teaching. One was immediately wanted for the Dehra Forest School and another for the Poona Agricultural College. The Conference of course perfectly concurred.

They then discussed the subjects of experimental farms, the method of conducting experiments, and the formation of practical agricultural classes. Everything, it was agreed, should be regulated and controlled by the advice of the agricultural expert under the instructions of the local Governments. They insisted on the introduction of agricultural primers into primary schools, with a view to ultimate reform of the educational system, and ended with a suggestion for providing high class education in the sciences connected with agriculture.

THE fee for the admission of candidates to the examination for appointment as Deputy Collectors, to be held in March next, is Rs. 15 not Rs. 10 as previously announced. That for Sub-Deputy Collectorship is Rs. 10.

THE Collector of Customs, Calcutta ; the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta ; the Chairman of the Corporation of the Town of Calcutta ; and all District Officers have been supplied with certified measures under the Measures of Length Act II of 1889, and they will have charge of them for the purposes of the said Act. The form of the certificate under Sec. 5, is required to be—

"It is hereby certified, under the authority of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, that this measure is of the length of the standard yard, and that the measures marked thereon as a foot and an inch are of the length of the standard foot and standard inch, respectively."

Mr. Shamrao Laud has resigned the Dewanship of Cambay—for the good of himself and the Nawabate.

THERE are said to be no less than 4,500 women-printers in England.

HERE is a pocket edition of enlightenment:—

"A light can be obtained without the use of matches and without the danger of setting things on fire by taking oblong vial of the clearest of glass tightly corked containing therein a piece of phosphorus as big as pea with a little of pure olive oil heated to the boiling point filling it to a third. The light can be used by letting in air by the removal of the cork and recorking. The whole empty space in the bottle will become luminous, and the light obtained will be a good one. As soon as the light becomes dim, its power can be increased by opening the bottle and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter. In very cold weather it is sometimes necessary to heat the vial between the hands to increase the fluidity of the oil, and one bottle will last all winter. This ingenious but old-fashioned contrivance may be carried in the pocket, and is used by the watchmen of Paris in all magazines where explosives or inflammable materials are stored."

GENERAL Vannonsky, the Russian Minister of War, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his entrance into the Army. He was congratulated by the Czar, who, in a letter, said the country undoubtedly requires a strong military organization, not for aggressive purposes but to maintain the integrity and honor of the Russian Empire and—for Peace. Happy old—fogey, to be prized by a Czar!

A NATIVE lad of nine years of age in Jubbulpore is charged with the cruelty of burying alive his younger brother three years old. The child prisoner admits the deed, and accounts for it saying that he had to beg for a living and, as it would be inconvenient to take the younger brother with him in his rounds, he found a safe place for him in the pit. This is mere boyishness. Children very often offend against law without intending to break it, in mere sport or freakishness.

TWO Baboos at Calcutta charged their cook with stealing some money. In the course of the evidence, it appeared that the accused had confessed to them under threats and a promise of pardon. Thereupon, the magistrate Mr. Handley rightly discharged the cook and gently rated the accusers for extorting a confession. Servants may be a bad lot, but masters ought to be better. These Baboos are justly exposed for their pusillanimity.

THE appointment of Nirmal Chunder Sen, son of the late Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, as an Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Behar Opium Agency, is Gazetted. But why is the Babooling done out of his titular inheritance? He is described as Mr. instead of Baboo. But if Baboo be such a bore, why not Bhai? That at least will stamp the Brahmo family and even recall the father.

THE vitality of some of the microscopic organisms is endless. A. de Bary has come to the conclusion that the microzymes may lie during entire geologic periods in such a rock as chalk, and yet retain the power of development.

THE Earl of Kerry, Lord Lansdowne's eldest son, has left India to resume his studies at Oxford.

AT Wheeling, West Virginia, two men stepped upon a wire connected with a powerful dynamo and were dead immediately. Two men more, in attempting to lift the bodies from off the wire, sustained severe electric shocks. At Cincinnati, a lineman inadvertently grasped a live wire and was instantly killed. His hand had been almost burned off. Modern life is hedged in by horrors and dangers and death in countless forms.

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Whilst the inhabitants of our great cities suffer from the effects of overcrowding and all its attendant evils, both physical and moral, the more robust and energetic emigrant will in his turn be liable to suffer in his new home from the want of ready skill and the great medical resources of his native land always at command. The best advice a friend can give is for him to take a supply of these well known remedies as part of his outfit, for by attention to the easily understood and yet ample directions which accompany each box and pot he will never be at fault when taken ill or under any adverse sanitary conditions of life.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

AT Tipperary, on the 9th instant, during the investigation of the charges against the Police for assault on Mr. Harrison, M. P., and others, the Bench disallowed certain evidence as irrelevant. The prosecutors objected to the composition of the Bench and withdrew. This news is immediately followed by the sailing for America the same evening of Messrs. William O'Brien and Dillon while their trial had not ended at Tipperary. They were out on bail of one thousand pounds each which has been estreated. At a conference opened at Dublin on the 6th, it was resolved to do the utmost to assist the evicted tenants and to neglect nothing which might assist in overthrowing coercion. At that meeting, Mr. Parnell was unable to attend. Seven Irish Members of Parliament, including Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien were appointed to advocate the cause in the New World. At the trial of the Irish Members of Parliament at Tipperary, the defending counsel, another M. P., used disorderly language and was ordered to withdraw from the case. There was an uproarious scene and the Court was adjourned, after being cleared.

SIGNOR Crispi continues to speak on the political situation. On the 8th, at Florence, he said that the Italian Government is bent upon maintaining its alliances with the other Powers, and appealed to the country to support the Government in combating the Irridentist party.

THE Grenadiers, accustomed to British fogs and urban blandishments, are not faring well in the remote Bermudas. Several of them have died through enteritis, due to bad water, heat and defective housing.

GOVERNMENT was not prepared to admit the famine in Ireland, though it was ready to do all that was necessary to surmount any calamity occasioned by the failure in a large measure of the potato crop. To this effect spoke Mr. Stanhope at Horncastle on the 8th.

THERE were apprehensions of a rising at Buenos Ayres on Monday night. All the troops were called out, and the fleet was ready for action. The President took refuge in the barracks at midnight. The telegram concludes with the peaceful message that the city, notwithstanding, was tranquil on the 7th.

THE News from New York is disastrous. One of the sections of the immense Dupont Gunpowder Mills at Wilmington, Delaware, caught fire, and five of the other sections followed suit from the concussion caused. Ten people are said to have been killed and twenty, including the head of the firm, injured. The disaster spread to the distance of half a mile, demolishing houses within that area. The country around is desolate.

PARLIAMENT reassembles on the 25th of November.

ALL is up with the cult founded in our times by Brigham Young. The Mormons confess themselves beaten, not in argument but by brute force. And they accept defeat with a good grace. At a Conference at the Salt Lake City, they have adopted the abolition of polygamy. They succumb to the tyranny of the majority and the persecution of a hollow morality. The people that for ages maintained slavery cannot tolerate Mormonism, and the Civilization that pays for and embraces and even officially regulates a colossal prostitution, shudders at the idea of more wives than one.

IRON is failing in Scotland. The production of pig is twenty thousand tons less weekly. The majority of the furnace-men have been paid off, and numbers of them have started for the North of England. There is also a dispute about wages, with the result that of the 84 furnaces of this time last year, only 9 now are in blast, the rest being damped.

THE cotton trade is looking up. The American cotton crop is expected to exceed that of any previous year.



THE old American tariff expired at midnight of the 5th October. The rush of vessels at the Customs was great, the steamer *Etruria* entering with immense cargo just one minute before midnight. The customs receipts were consequently proportionately heavy, being indeed the largest ever collected.

THE preceding day there was a demonstration at St. John's, New Brunswick. The Hon. Sir John S. David Thompson, Dominion Minister of Justice, made a speech and said that the United States wished to coerce Canada into lowering the Union Jack, but her loyalty to the mother country was unswerving.

ENCOURAGED by the new Tariff Act, organizations are being made in the United States to work iron and tin.

GERMANY has stolen a march on Great Britain. The *Times* announces that the Sultan of Zanzibar has accepted four million marks for the cession of the coast line to Germany. O for a Beaconsfield!

THE Salvation Army is mourning the death of the wife of their "General"—Booth.

THE Eastern comet in the English firmament of letters is threatened with an untimely collapse. Poor Rudyard Kipling is suffering from excessive strain, imposed by society and the editors, and has been put to sea in quest of health.

THE project of enacting in England "Mahomed"—the production of Mr. Hall Caine—we are glad to be informed, is likely to be abandoned.

FRANCE has concluded a peace with the king of Dahomey.

THE meteorology of the last week has, in general, been continued in this. The sun is reigning with fire as it were, if not also with sword. The waters are drying up and the overflowing rivers and rivulets and lakes and fens are going down. Occasional showers at places have moderated the intense heat. But the more important moderating influence has been a change in the wind. There is so little of it that, in the still prevailing heat, the change is scarcely recognised, except by the sensitive plants of mankind. But the rainy season is over.

THE Dacca District has, of late years, acquired an unenviable notoriety for storms and tornadoes. At the end of last month, there was a three days' hurricane, and rain at Narainganj. The frail native sheds of bamboo and grass were, of course, blown away. The people believe that men and cattle have been captured by the wind and carried up in the air, nobody knows where.

THE copious showers at the close of last month, have gladdened the heart of the cultivator at most places. In the Gya District, a bumper rice harvest is expected and the cultivation of the Rubbee is being pushed forward with vigor.

THE appreciation of silver is viewed with alarm in Russia. Already, there is weeping and wailing in the South. At Odessa, the great wheat mart on the Black Sea, the rise in the rouble is expected to end in the bankruptcy of most of the merchants and dealers. For the first time in fourteen years, says a contemporary, the Odessa exchange on London was quoted before the last mail left at 8 roubles the sovereign.

Meanwhile, the imposition of high and almost prohibitive duties is deranging the import trade throughout the Empire. The new tariff again is looked upon as a bad omen for peace. It is a defiance of the other Powers. It appears to be a measure of retaliation against Germany. Some years back, Bismarck made the banks of Germany to wash their hands of all Russian stock. The result was a decay of Russian credit and, of course, depreciation of the rouble. Great was the distress and alarm in Russia, which was constrained to borrow largely in Western Europe, in order to maintain her credit. France, with her turn for sentiment even in finance, came chivalrously to the rescue of her ally. Russian funds are now as high in repute as ever—particularly in Paris, where everybody invests in them.

A strange commentary all this on the supposed peaceful effects of the meeting of the Emperors!

ON the 8th October, the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association held their annual meeting under the presidency of the Governor. President Gantz read a report of steady progress, the effect of which was rather marred by a jeremiad against the better classes of Eurasians for their neglect. Dr. Emma Brainerd Ryder, an American lady from Bombay, who seconded the motion of the Catholic Bishop Mayer for adoption of the report, made a long speech on Eurasian female education. Lord Connemara would not let the Eurasians count from his presence on any cash from Government. The prudent President was not to be balked. He had resolved to make capital of the ruling *milord*, and he knew how to. He was sure of the presence of such greatness among them making the Eurasian concern palatable to the shabby-gentility of European and the absurd *sanebloquism* of Eurasian society, and attractive all round.

THE satisfactory progress report of the Kidderpore Dock Works, week after week, has been rudely interrupted by the news of movement in the walls. Here is the official report to the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners by the Superintending Engineer Mr. J. H. Apjohn:—

"I much regret having to report serious movements in the walls of Dock No. 1. On the morning of the 7th instant it was observed that the East wall was slightly bowed. By the same evening this bowing had increased to 10 inches, and by the following morning I found that it had gone still further, and making careful measurements ascertained at the worst place, the upper edge of the wall, to be 5 feet 10 inches out of the straight, the movement extending a length of about 1,400 feet. Since the 8th there has been no further movement in the East wall. This wall has been tilted over as well as moved forward. It was built with a batter of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch to a foot in vertical height, and at the worst place it is now as nearly as possible vertical, and the height being 36 feet this will account for 18 inches of the movement at coping level, showing that the thrust of the backing has actually forced the wall 4 feet 4 inches over the ground.

Early on the morning of the 9th, the wall at the south-west corner, a length of 450 feet, was moved out to a distance of 10 feet in the centre. Since then, there has been no further mischief, and the long straight portion of the West wall continues in a true line.

At the time of the failure the centre of the dock had been excavated to within a few feet of the full depth, but, as had always been the intention, a berm had been left against the walls 16 feet above bed level, which berm it was proposed to dredge out after water had been let into the dock. It was believed that this berm would be sufficient to enable the wall to withstand the pressure of the backing; but unfortunately it has not proved so."

The Engineer, however, takes a hopeful view, and is ready with a remedy. He goes on:—

"The thing to be done now is, of course, to prevent further mischief, and the obvious course is to let water into the dock with the least possible delay. Fortunately, the works are so advanced that this can be done without any serious interference with the completion of them, and I hope by Sunday morning to be in a position to begin filling up from the river, and by Monday, to have water standing within about 6 feet of coping level. The gates of the double passage between the Tidal Basin and the Dock will then be closed, and the former being pumped out, the small quantity of work remaining to be done to the graving dock entrances will be completed. Of course, warning will now be taken, and heavy banks will be left against the tidal basin walls to be afterwards dredged.

Disappointing as this movement of the walls no doubt is, there is no cause for panic or apprehension of total failure. As far as I am aware, no dock walls in the world, unless founded on rock, have entirely resisted the thrust of the backing, and in every case they show more or less of a bow. In the Southampton Docks, recently opened, one of the walls has moved much more seriously than ours have done.

If no further extensive movement occurs within the next two days, I fully expect to be able to make the walls so that they will hardly at all show the movement which has occurred. In the case of the south-west berth, where the quay has been thrust out at its centre for a distance of 10 feet, it will be necessary when the water is in to erect a light coffer-dam in front and cut it back, at the same time strengthening it behind, but the East wall can be worked to a straight coping line from above water level."

Others who seem to know do not share in the same hopeful view of Mr. Apjohn. "Civis" writes to the *Indian Daily News*:—

"It is not difficult to show the cause of this threatened collapse having occurred even before the excavation of the dock had been completed; and whilst in the accounts which have already been made public that cause is stated, no explanation seems to be forthcoming for the mistake that has been committed in backing the walls with the most dangerous material that could have been selected, namely, the treacherous silt and so-called blue clay, which contracts and swells with every change in its degree of moisture, and exerts a pressure-force which experience has already too often shown to be practically uncontrollable. The damage which has occurred, and appears to indicate the possible failure of the dock, is bad enough; but the remedy proposed would appear to be specially designed for accelerating the collapse of the walls. To let water into the dock whilst the walls were whole would form, as Mr. (now Sir) A. M. Rendel pointed out,

a more than doubtful support to those walls, since the wall itself, becoming immersed in water, would lose a portion of its weight which is its chief strength. Attention was also called to the fact that by letting water in front of the wall, it would also be let into the back either by stoppage of the drainage or by percolation, or by both. What then can be the result of letting water into the dock now, when the wall is broken, and free communication exists between the front and the back? The answer is only too simple. The wall will, in a very short time, stand with a fluid on both sides of it, with the probable result that it will slide, sink, fall prone, as a culmination of disaster—the result of error upon error!"

"Merchant" also writes to the same paper and dives deeper, despairing of a wet dock for Calcutta:—

"They are now going to let in water to support the walls. Water is a bad master, and a treacherous servant. A large body of it between rent and torn walls means great leakage both to the river and Tolly's Nullah. The present collapse is the result of the leakage of the rain water caught in the dock. But leakage means percolation outwards, which again means motion in the stratum carrying the leakage. This in turn means the softening and carrying away of the soil, and the creation of a temptation to subsidence which cannot be resisted, and if there be further subsidence—that is a mysterious and miserable IF. It looks very likely that Calcutta will not get her docks this time, and will have to be content to undo the spoiling of the river channels in the port—if she can. You see 'if' pervades all questions relating to the docks; but I have an instinct that it does not pervade the question of commission."

And this is the way of these hasty Indian public works—the hastier the more costly and with the larger opening for patronage! And this is the way that the money of the taxpayer goes who is wholly unrepresented in the Government!

MR. Justice Handley of Madras thus remarks on the Bill to amend the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871:—

"I have only to remark on this Bill that it is open to the objection, which I have often expressed, to legislation by Gazette notification. It may be that in this case no other means can be devised to carry out the objects aimed at; but, if possible, I think, it would be infinitely preferable to amend the Act. It seems almost absurd to invest the Local Government with the power to run 'pigs' into 'cattle' by notification."

The objection I have to such legislation is two-fold—1st, that it makes it extremely difficult for those whom the law affects to know the law; 2ndly, that it makes the work of the Magistracy and the Criminal courts generally more difficult and increases the chance of mistakes.

I have no remarks to offer on the details of the Bill."

Here is the key to modern legislation in India. The several legislatures legislate by delegation of power, and have dwindled into departments of Government. The departmental orders having the effect of law, are not sufficiently published, and Her Majesty's subjects are punished for ignorance of such laws, for ignorance of law is no defence in an action for breach of law. The mere publication in a Gazette is no promulgation in an ignorant country like India. Even Judges and Magistrates are habitually innocent of laws until these are brought to their notice in the course of any enquiry or litigation. The Gazettes are not freely circulated and, as a rule, are not studied. The orders of Government are notified in such a manner that it is not always intelligible to the uninitiated. The Gazettes should be properly edited to make them truly useful if not valuable.

OUR people are so deficient in energy and enterprise, that whoever shakes himself off the dream of the Land of Lotos is deserving of every encouragement. To open a shop is no great matter even in sleepy Bengal, but there are shops and shops, and there may be enterprise and originality even in the retail trade. We have therefore received with pleasure, and do not hesitate to notice, a business pamphlet entitled *Lahiri, Ray & Co.'s Catalogue and Price Current of country-made and Foreign Perfumeries*. The concern is native on the face of it. The language, like some of the articles offered, is "country-made." The literary man on the establishment forgot that "country" would have done just as well, nay, better. If "country-made," why not "foreign-made"? The true counterpart of *foreign* is *Indian*. Besides, "country-made" is not necessarily the same thing as *country* used as an adjective, and, in respect of perfumes, is decidedly misleading. And what a cruelty to be ever licking poor perfumery into a horridous plural! This is not quite the trifle that our people might take it for. Such a flaw repels respectable men. It suggests a want of care or of judgment—shows undue confidence and a neglect to take proper advice. Such exhibitions are, we regret to say, common, even in publications of greater pretensions than trade circulars. And it arises from a lamentable cause. We, most of us, do not know English—the genuine article—and, what is worse, we do not know that we do not know. But after all, the English is not the point in the matter under notice.

The most noticeable feature of the business is the "country-made perfumery," by which is meant not the toilet requisites made in this country—not essences, waters, and oils in vogue in the West manufactured in India—but Oriental perfumes in fashion among Orientals. Herein is the peculiarity of this establishment, and hence our patriotic interest in it. It is easy to overlook the distinction, and those who are not accustomed to observe the conditions and characteristics of different arts and industries, will be apt to miss it. But all who are familiar with the geography and ethnology of the internal commerce of India, will at once recognise the departure taken by Messrs. Lahiri, Ray & Co. There are perfumery shops in plenty in China Bazaar and Chadney Chowk and elsewhere kept by Hindus of Lower Bengal, where Piesse's and Rigaud's and Delcroix's goods are sold under queer names. But this is the first shop opened by any of them for the sale of Indian perfumery. For the first time, we now see a Bengali Hindu in this line. Macaulay in a memorable sentence has declared that the millions of Bengal do not supply a single recruit to the Army. It is easier far to meet with Baboo Sepoys than to discover a Bengali perfumer—even a mere dealer in indigenous scents. In our long experience, we knew one Baboo who, forty years ago, set up a manufactory at Ghazipore and lost by it. Now that one of us has come forward and opened a store, we ought all of us to support him.

We hope Lahiri and Ray will prosper. They have already introduced their countrymen of Bengal to a new trade. If they succeed in their business, they will achieve, without suspecting it, a great work. They will do something to preserve to the country an interesting art. What is more, they will restore a lost sense to their countrymen of the Delta. The invasion of Europeanism in all forms has deprived our poor people of their finer nose. It is no small degradation to the children of Brahma to neglect their superb national perfumes for the ruder alcoholic preparations of Christendom. Is there any water out of paradise superior to the Rose Water of Ghazipore? Attars have more body and may appear far too rich, but a little of them goes a great way and keeps a long time; they are simply abused by extravagance and vanity. And then, they are not to be used indiscriminately—there are times and seasons for *attars*, as for everything. Used with judgment and moderation, they are a continual delight.

Messrs. Lahiri offer 11 different kinds of *attars* for several qualities, priced from Re. 1-4 to Rs. 8 per *tola*, and five oils and two waters, of sorts.

MR. Evelyn P. Pearce writes to the *Englishman* on the cruelty to animals. He says:—

"No one, who has passed through a village, or garden bazar, on bazar day can fail to have observed the sickening sores, on nine out of ten of the pack animals, especially ponies. These unfortunate animals are bought up by moodys and Cachar traders, and worked as long as they can put one foot before the other, in spite of wrung withers, sore backs, and rope galls that make one shudder to look at."

It appears that there is no law to prevent this habitual brutality. A kind hearted planter of Cachar, Mr. Swainson had drawn the attention of the Deputy Commissioner to the subject. He was told in reply that the Magistracy had no power to interfere, there being no Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals in force in the Assam provinces. The Deputy Commissioner, however, offered to forward with his recommendation to the Chief Commissioner any petition that Mr. Swainson might get up, signed by himself and his neighbours, requesting that the Act might be extended to Assam. Accordingly, a petition has been signed by all the European residents of Cachar. Mr. Pearce now calls upon his brother planters to come forward and strengthen Mr. Swainson's hands, by forwarding similar petitions from their different districts.

We hope good Mr. Pearce's appeal will meet with a quick response. It is by such kindness to the weak and the helpless that the handful of Europeans scattered about in the outlying and obscure parts of the country can best recommend themselves to God and man. They will prove their superior civilization and offer an improving example to the multitudes of ignorant and barbarous men around them. We hope something more. Mr. Pearce has principally his own class and fellow-Britons in view. But the movement need not be confined to planters or Europeans. It ought to interest the whole Hindu and Buddhist world. We for our part call upon the rising generation of the natives under the jurisdiction of the Chief Commissioner, to show that it is capable of other views than Congress demonstrations and badgering planters.

Nor is the complaint confined to Assam. The heart-rending scenes which Mr. Pearce has witnessed in Cachar or in other districts of Assam, may be seen everyday in every village market throughout the Bengal Provinces. What a pity that there are so few men like Mr. Pearce and Mr. Swainson, among natives and Europeans, to take pity upon God's helpless creatures—our dumb brethren!

THE Warburton prosecution of the *Tribune* ended yesterday for the moment with the conviction of the proprietor and editor. The printer was let off with an apology. The prosecution, with Afghan vindictiveness, pressed for imprisonment of both Sirdar Dyal Sing and Baboo Sitalakant Chatterjee. It was argued that the proprietor was liable in that he did not stop the publication of the defamatory matter, even though the editor accepted full responsibility. The counsel for the Sirdar contended that the proprietor could not be liable unless it was shewn that the libels had been published on his authority or with his knowledge or consent. The Magistrate found the proprietor not guilty of defamation but guilty of abetting the sale of copies of the *Tribune* containing the defamatory articles, and fined him Rs. 2,500. The editor was found guilty of defamation and fined Rs. 1,000. The orders have been appealed against. In the meantime, Mr. Warburton prepares himself for a suit for damages. In the absence of the judgment, it will not be proper to express any opinion. But one obvious remark suggests itself. In the face of the apology published by the editor, the punishment seems excessive; at any rate, that on the proprietor disproportionate. The feeling in the Punjab is such that even this severe measure is a mercy. Mr. T. J. Kennedy is a good man, and as a magistrate has always discouraged prosecutions for defamation. Almost any other magistrate in the Province would, we suspect, have sent the poor Baboo to jail, if not the Sirdar too, *pour encourager les autres*.

It is to be regretted that the attempt at a compromise failed. The court threw out a suggestion and there was not wanting a common friend to follow it up. Mr. Nicoll, the Secretary of the Amritsar municipality, volunteered in the cause of peace and proposed the terms, to wit, the withdrawal of all matters that had not been touched upon by any Resolution or order of Government and compensation of Rs. 5,000 for wounded feeling. The amount was considered too low by one side and too high by the other and the negotiations fell through. From a remark that fell from the bench, it seems that the court doubted the genuineness of the spirit of apology and thought that a substantial reparation for wounded feeling was required.

We hope the *Tribune* will publish a full report of the case in a durable and convenient form. We wish some one might start a subscription.

"NASO" writes to the *Englishman* of yesterday:—

"Another arrival since yesterday—a northerly breeze—and with it, I noticed, when passing Government House Garden last night the unmistakable jungly smell with which all who have to pass that spot have become painfully familiar of late years.

Have the Councillors in the palace been unaware of it all this time? Or have they accepted it after their summer picnic in the hills, as indispensable with Calcutta air? The continuance of the nuisance reflects little credit on the sanitary authorities, however, who might be expected to exercise special diligence to secure healthy surroundings for a Viceroy, who has already suffered severely from fever.

The annoyance to the public is, of course, of secondary or no importance."

The breeze arrived earlier in the week. As for the smell, it is not dependent on the notherly breeze—even to passengers on the road south of Government House—but on the nose. That is always a rare possession in great cities—the rarer the more crowded and unsavoury the city. In Calcutta, it seems to be *non est*, seeing that the citizens—the White Town men in particular—have been quietly enjoying the stink for so many years. No community in the possession of sound olfactory nerves would have allowed the nuisance to stand for six months. Such citizens would have revolted against the rank jungle, even though a nobleman and viceroy were the cultivator thereof. It is satisfactory to find that there is at least one organ of smell in Calcutta in tact, though not quite at, for it took some days' continual pricking to rouse "Naso." We passed the same way on Monday evening, and were assailed by the stink from the tame wild vegetation, and we there and then made up our mind to kick up a row over this gratuitous infliction.

Another nuisance, though of a more temporary kind, which distresses people in the same neighbourhood, is caused by the renovation of the Calcutta Horse Guards' and Mackintosh Burn & Co.'s premises.

The poisonous smell of verdigris used in painting the exposed wood work, in spite of the pond in front, is truly sickening to passengers along the Esplanade Row. Is the drying paint an irremediable evil?

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 11, 1890.

### THE DOORGA POOJA HOLIDAYS.

A most earnest appeal from the Hindu inhabitants of Calcutta and its suburbs has gone up to the Viceroy against the curtailment of the Doorga Pooja holidays. It is a bulky memorial bristling with facts and practical details, and it makes out a very strong case for the aversion of the doom. It is not too much to ask for retention of the holidays at the minimum fixed by the Government after repeated and deliberate consideration. The size of the document is but proof of the strong feeling of disappointment which has been caused by the unfortunate decision of the Government of Bengal on the subject. The memorialists deny the authority of Pandit Mahes Chunder Nayaratra on questions relating to religious and domestic observances, and it is indeed ludicrous that the Government should rest their decision upon the verdict of a man whose very orthodoxy as a Hindu is a questionable thing in the eyes of his countrymen in general. Indeed, the Pandit himself is far from consistent with himself in the finely drawn distinction he makes between religious ceremonies and social festivities. His communications on the subject are a medley of compromises. While to "curry favor" with the Chamber of Commerce, he is ready to go the length of striking off the *Sasthi* from the Doorga Pooja—the *adhivās* or initial image-worshipping day, the jolly old soul would yet retain some of the holidays on the ground of their popularity as days of festivity. It would have been something if he had applied the same severe standard to the holidays as a whole, that he does for obvious reasons to the grand national festival. But that would have involved him in the execration of both the more religious Hindus and the holiday merry-makers—a measure of heroic consistency for which his shifting ways never prepared him. So he makes a desperate effort to gain the latter's favor by recommending the retention of days which are more necessary for purposes of pleasure than worship. As for instance, in regard to the *Dol Jatra*, the Pandit throws overboard his own standard of purely ceremonial worship, and adopts the noisy saturnalian way of its celebration as the test of its popularity. In respect of the *Kali Pooja* also, the same shifty policy is observable. He says that if one day be allowed for this festival, it should be the day for the water-immersion of the goddess rather than the day of worship. In fact, these indications of vacillation on the part of the Pandit only show how hard it is to draw a line between the ceremonial and the hospitable or festive part of a worship. There are other misleading statements and inconsistencies in the Pandit's letters to the Chamber of Commerce, and the memorialists have rightly devoted their main attention towards showing up the frail character of the support on which the Government have ostensibly relied.

The memorial, though aimed at securing the interests of Hindus in general, is especially drawn up as an argument for Hindu employes in Government offices which are expressly debarred from the full number of the holidays. The hardship entailed

on this class of public servants is peculiarly painful, and they represent by no means such a small number as is generally supposed. The heads of the excepted offices are in strong sympathy with the anti-holiday movement, and in spite of express orders from the Government that the convenience of the Hindu clerks should be consulted as much as possible, arrangements are already being made so as to compel the attendance of a needlessly large number of them. In the face of the Government order recently promulgated, the Currency office has been ordered to be kept open *as usual*, the hours of business are not to be contracted, and far from 3 or 4 Hindu clerks being required in all the offices taken together during the holidays, not less than 25 Hindus have already been ordered to attend in the Currency office alone. The best intentions of the Government are liable to this treatment at the hands of executive authorities, and all for a purely obstinate determination of a few foreigners to have their own way in this matter. The business done by European merchants during the holidays is little or nothing, as will appear, as the memorialists state, on enquiry being made at the Currency office, the office of the Registrar of Assurances, and the Government Account Branch of the Bengal Bank. The only class affected by the holidays is a small one of Christian tradesmen in Calcutta, but any inconvenience likely to be felt by them may easily be remedied with a little forethought and pre-arrangement in so shaping their Bills and Promissory Notes that the due dates might not fall within the holidays. At the most, the interests of such a microscopic number ought not to be allowed to outweigh those of "a far more numerous, though less influential portion of the community." These words under quotation were used by the Government themselves in emphasising their late just and impartial decision on the subject. Language could not be clearer than that in which this decision was delivered, *viz.*, "that the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous, though less influential portion of the community." It was a decision truly worthy of an Imperial Government and consistent with its noble traditions of religious neutrality. These words were penned, no doubt, with a mind to place the controversy finally at rest. To reopen the question after such a final settlement is nothing short of a scandal, and the memorialists have successfully shown that there is no justification or necessity whatever for such an extraordinary course. The Government of Bengal have made a clean surrender to the mercantile community, and it is "merely to uphold the *zid*," as the memorialists say, "of a few alien merchants" that a large class of Hindus are to forego their religious observances and their annual recreation.

#### THE POLICE.

Our police continues to decline in efficiency. Such is the opinion pronounced in the last Government Resolution on Mr. Veasey's report. A review of the work done by the police in 1889 shows, says the Lieutenant-Governor, that they have obtained no marked success in dealing with crime and that there has been a decided diminution of efficiency in the work done in sessions cases.

There was increase both in cognizable and in non-

cognizable crime. Under cognizable crime, there were 316 murders, the largest number ever reached since 1880. The circumstances of some of these cases are painful enough and have no unimportant bearing on the social question which is now occupying so much public attention. They are thus noticed in the Government Resolution:—

"In perusing the brief accounts of important cases given by the Inspector-General, it is melancholy to note that many were due to quarrels between husbands and their youthful wives. In Hughli a school pundit, afterwards shown to be insane, hacked his wife, a girl of 13, about the head with a *katari* because she would not or could not satisfy his desires. In Nadiya a husband killed his wife, a sickly girl of 12, for refusing to cohabit. In Maldah a man throttled his child-wife, aged 11, because she could not satisfy his lust. He was treated with extraordinary leniency by the Judge, who gave him two months' imprisonment for hurt—a sentence enhanced by the High Court to two years for culpable homicide. In Hughli, again, a young wife of 15 refused to cohabit with her husband, and died from the effects of the savagery with which that husband and his two brothers branded her in and about her private parts. In the remaining cases of wife-murder the ages of the victims are not given, but a further case in which a girl of 14 was chopped to death by her father-in-law on suspicion of misbehaviour may be mentioned here."

An equally shocking case of wife-murder occurred in Rajshahye. Mr. Veasey notices it in his report as an illustration of the leniency with which such cases are dealt with by criminal courts:—

"A man chained his wife up and then handed the key to his kept woman, who set fire to the house and let her burn with it, refusing to give up the key when it was demanded. This atrocious crime was, in the opinion of the trying Magistrate, sufficiently punished, as far as the husband was concerned, by a year's imprisonment and fine on a conviction only for wrongful confinement, whilst the woman got an additional year on a further conviction under 304A. Eventually it found its way to the Sessions, where the woman was transported for life, whilst the sentence on the husband, light as it was, was made lighter, though there was evidence to show that he had removed all his property and was no doubt an accomplice before the fact."

As in murder, there is increase also in cases of dacoity, while the results of trials are even more unsatisfactory. Sir Steuart Bayley expresses his strong displeasure with this state of things, and observes that, discreditable as most of the statistics in the police report are, nothing more seriously reflects on their efficiency than the judicial results in dacoity cases.

The worst district for violent crime is Dacca, with Backerganj and Mymensing running next in the train. The Dacca Division has a notoriety for offences against the public peace. In the year under consideration, there was, indeed, an unprecedented decline from 512 to 377 in the number of rioting cases, but even with this great decline, the Division is all the same at the head of the list. As regards cases of murder, Dacca has the same unenviable pre-eminence. A marked feature of the statistics given in the Report of this crime, is usually the very large number of cases reported from the Dacca Division, in which serious crime is always prevalent. The figures for the district of Backerganj alone will bear comparison with those of the whole Divisions of Chota Nagpur, Orissa or Bhagulpur, while Mymensing is not far behind Backerganj. To give Backerganj, however, its due, it must be said that rioting cases do not show an increase, though any credit to which it may be entitled for this must be discounted by the fact that three bodies of punitive police have to be maintained for the tranquillity of the district.

Under theft and burglary, the worst division is Patna and the worst district Monghyr.

As regards the unsatisfactory percentage of convictions obtained in police cases, the Lieutenant-Governor concurs with Mr. Veasey that the results represent a large number of failures of justice. The reasons for these results in the Inspector-General's opinion are expressed in these forcible words: "The



high standard of proof demanded, the latitude allowed to the advocates of accused persons, and the dilatory procedure so much in vogue are all obstacles well known and to be reckoned with in these provinces, whilst elsewhere they may be factors of less importance, but they would not exercise the influence they do if investigating officers were more careful and if supervision were more efficient."

On the subject of discipline in the police force, the following remarks of the Government are conceived in Sir Stuart's characteristic spirit of consideration, and the Lieutenant-Governor has hit the right nail on the head in exposing the light-heartedness with which young officers of the police punish subordinates, old enough to be their fathers and with far greater local knowledge and experience:—

"The percentage of officers punished departmentally shows a slight falling off, but is still very high. It is noteworthy that out of a total of 928 sub-inspectors, so many as 487, or over 52 per cent., should have been thus punished during the year. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with Mr. Veasey in considering that minor breaches of discipline should, as far as possible, be dealt with departmentally, and that a resort to law in such cases should always be discouraged. But he also thinks that District Superintendents should not lightly, or hastily, fine their officers, who are, even at the best, far from being well paid; and generally, in inflicting punishments on their higher subordinates, they should not lose sight of the necessity of preserving their dignity in the eyes of the lower ranks. Sir Stuart Bayley is inclined to fear that sometimes injudicious severity does mischief and deters persons of respectability from offering themselves as recruits."

The Resolution discusses a variety of other matters relating to the work done by the police in the year under report. Great dissatisfaction is expressed with that work generally, and the tone of remonstrance which pervades the remarks of the Government is in marked contrast with the spirit of Resolutions of former years.

#### THE FOODS OF DIFFERENT RACES.

DR. A. J. Crespi has contributed to the *Scottish Review* an article wherein he has swept as into a sewer all the abominations which are used by men for food. Some animals feed on vegetables, others on flesh, others still use a mixed diet. Some live on grass, others on grain, others again on leaves, plants and trees. Some eat insects, others quadrupeds. Some subsist on fresh meat, others on putrid. Man maintains his preeminence by a catholicity of taste. Nothing comes to him amiss. He is simply omnivorous. He does not spare his own kith and kin. But not to keep our readers any more from the Doctor, let us see what he has to say on this head:—

"The most repulsive food which human beings could eat is man. Fortunately, cannibalism, although once very general, is now mainly confined to the most degraded tribes of the South Sea Islands and to some districts of Australia and Central Africa. Lindsay of Pitcottie relates that a man, his wife, and family, were burnt to death, on the east coast of Scotland for eating children whom they had stolen; and during the French Revolution the heart of the unfortunate Princess Lamballe was actually torn out of her body by one of the yelling savages near, taken to a restaurant, and there cooked and eaten. Human flesh is said not to be unpalatable, and this is confirmed by the horrible narrative given by Lindsay: he mentions that, as one of the girls was being taken to execution, she exclaimed, 'Wherefore chide ye with me, as if I had committed an unworthy act? Give me credence and throw me, if ye had experience of eating men and women's flesh ye would think it so delicious that ye would never forbear it again.' The Tannese of our day distribute human flesh in little bits to their friends as delicious morsels, and say that the flesh of a black man is preferable to that of a white one, for the latter tastes salt: other cannibals hold the same."

Dr. Crespi's calling man repulsive as an edible is little to the purpose, unless he had been accustomed to the fare. The Tannese—whoever they may be—know better. And their taste is supported by Tigers. Once these have an opportunity of eating a man, they continue to be on the look out for the same kind of dainty dinner. Dr. Crespi goes on:—

"The lion is eaten by some African races, although its flesh is in small favour with them, while the Zulus find carrion so much to their liking that, according to Dr. Colenso, they apply to food teeming with large colonies of grubs the comprehensive word 'uborni,' which signifies, in their uncouth jargon, 'great happiness.' David Livingstone tells us that the aboriginal Australians and the Hottentots prefer the intestines of animals, and he adds that 'it is curious that this is the part which wild animals always begin with, and that it is the first choice of our

men.' The hippopotamus is another favourite meat of the Africans, when they catch it. Its flesh when young is tender and palatable; but it becomes very coarse and unpleasant with advancing years. The Abyssinians find the rhinoceros much to their liking; so they do the elephant, which is also eaten in Sumatra. Dr. Livingstone speaks of elephant's foot as excellent. 'We had the foot cooked for breakfast, and found it delicious. It is a whitish mass, slightly gelatinous and sweet, like marrow. A long march to prevent biliousness is a wise precaution after a feast on elephant's foot. Elephant's tongue and trunk are also good, and after long simmering much resemble the humps of a buffalo and the tongue of an ox; but all the other meat is tough, and from its peculiar flavour only to be eaten by a hungry man.' The elephants eaten during the siege of Paris were said to be a great success, and the liver was pronounced finer than that of any goose or duck."

In this country, the Kookies and Looshais are fond of elephant-meat. On one occasion an elephant dying at Agartalla in Tipperah, it was buried in a large pit for fear of the decomposed body poisoning the whole place. This simple measure of cleanliness was near leading to much bloodshed at the capital of the principality. A body of Kookies who were then staying there on a mission to the Durbar, who had doubtless been meditating on a cheap but grand banquet for months as they observed the sick elephant gradually proceeding to its inevitable end, now rose in angry protest and demanded what the stupid Bangals—as they courteously call the civilised people of the plains—meant and by their insane mischievous act. They were either not understood or disregarded. Before revenging themselves on the officials, they went to the Maharaja, whom they revered, to deliver their ultimatum. At the Rajbari they were both listened to and understood and their grievance redressed.—Dr. Crespi writes:—

"The people of Zanzibar should stand high for the comprehensive character of their cuisine. Among other delicacies are a small monkey and a fruit-eating bat. Locusts are relished by the Bedawin of Mesopotamia and some other eastern tribes; they are placed on strings and eaten on journeys with bitter and unleavened bread. The Jews, who were prohibited eating many kinds of food which our larger experience teaches us are palatable and wholesome, as well as some that we do not venture to touch, were permitted to have their fill of locusts. The locust is an article of diet to this day, but only of the very poor; it is thrown into boiling water, and eaten with salt. To live on locusts and wild honey conveys a more accurate picture of extreme poverty and frugality to a traveller in the East than to any one else. Locusts, however, are not always cooked; sometimes they are eaten fresh. They are said to have a strong vegetable taste; the flavour largely depending, as might be expected, on the plants on which they have been feeding. Dr. Livingstone, who showed his common sense by not being fastidious, considered them palatable when roasted. Some of the savage tribes of South America are accused of eating everything that by any possibility will support human life. Humboldt saw children drag enormous centipedes from their holes and crunch them between their teeth; but insects and their larvae are favourite foods in many parts of the world. In the West Indies a large caterpillar, found on the palm-tree, is reckoned a great delicacy—and why not, let us ask? To our civilised taste, however, carrion and bad eggs seem foods which no human being could relish. Not so—the Chinese prefer stale to fresh eggs, and the Pariahs of Hindustan fight greedily with the dogs and jackals for putrid carrion. They would relish the roussette, a kind of bat plentiful in Java, which the natives value; but although its flesh is white, delicate, and tender, it generally smells strongly of musk. The Nagus also eat raw meat. Among the Greenlanders and the Eskimo the seal is an important food; and in spite of being coarse and oily, was formerly eaten in England. The porpoise was also an English dish, and its liver is, when fried, still, we believe, relished by sailors. Arctic explorers have found the walrus very palatable, and it is largely consumed by the Eskimo. The Japanese, New Zealanders, and the Western Australians consider the whale good eating; and the Eskimo highly approve of blubber and get through enormous quantities. The crocodile is greedily devoured by the natives of certain districts of Africa. Its eggs in taste resemble hen's eggs, with perhaps a smack of custard."

Raw meat is relished by the Kahars of Behar. Now for our final extract:—

"To come to our own country, where we do not eat sauerkraut and blubber, birds' nests and puppies, we shall nevertheless find some odd foods. The hedge-hog, a favourite dish in Barbary, and not disapproved in Spain, is eaten by gypsies; squirrels, too, are occasionally cooked in this country, and are most delicious and fully as palatable as jugged hare; at any rate we have ourselves stewed them, and we can testify that they are excellent. It is even said that frogs are often eaten in the north of England. In some parts of England snails are still eaten, not as ordinary articles of diet, but at stated feasts. We have in bygone days, when living on the borders of the nail-making districts of Staffordshire, seen men filling paper bags with snails to make soup, and we remember being told that they were excellent eating. The English prejudice against snails is singular, since, from time immemorial, considerable quantities have been collected round London and on the Kent pastures for export to France. In the latter country there is no squeamishness; most people there only regret that snails are too expensive to be indulged in frequently. In Covent Garden the common snail often appears for sale; the purchasers, however, are most exclusively members of the French, Austrian, and Italian colonies of London."

The moral of it all is that no nation has any reason to rail at another on its nasty eating. We are all in the same boat.

## ROW OVER THE DAY OF REST.

SIR,—A war is going on in Hyderabad between Sunday and Friday; and as of old Juno and Venus contested for power and Carthage was the battle field, so of late Phœbus and Venus strive for supremacy and this Abode of Hydra is the scene of action. Phœbus has been for some time encroaching on the domain of Venus and demands his day (Sunday) to keep the sabbath, while Venus is determined to hold her own against the intruder and retain her day (Friday) for devotion. Courts presided over by Europeans, and there are many such courts, are closed on Sundays, while the rest take rest only on Fridays. But happy are those who enjoy two holidays in the week! I need not say how far this goes to interfere with work.

But to resume my parable: Jupiter promised success to Venus, and she got after all her shrines thronged by her devotees. Can not Jupiter who equally rules over the heavenly and the earthly powers and is expected to help Venus equally against her internal and external foes, command his local Mercurius to bow out Phœbus and restore Venus to her old privilege undisputed?

HYDRA.

Troop Bazaar, 1st Oct. 1890.

## THE CHARGE OF DEFAMING MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

The case in which Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Anderson, barristers-at-law and advocates of the Bombay High Court, charge a certain Kanjee Ludda, described as a broker and law agent, with defamation, was proceeded with on Wednesday (Oct. 1) at the Esplanade Police Court, before Mr. Cooper, the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

It will be remembered that Kanjee Ludda proceeded to the chambers of Lord Colin Campbell, barrister-at-law, on the afternoon of the 16th of September, and there requested the learned counsel to accept a brief in a Small Causes Court case, alleging that he would bring him briefs for business in the police and civil courts. Lord Colin Campbell, in anticipating the intentions of the broker, informed him that he was not to expect any commissions from him since it was contrary to the practice of the English Bar. Kanjee Ludda, in asserting that it was not unusual to give such commissions, mentioned the names of Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Anderson as barristers who gave commissions.

The complainants conducted their own case, while Mr. Shantaram Narayan and Mr. Shanjigiri defended the accused.

Mr. Kirkpatrick said he would like to say a word or two with regard to his case against the accused. He was a member of the Bar, and he complained that the accused had made a defamatory statement about him. As his Worship was aware, the Bar was a profession which had always prescribed for its members the observance of certain definite and well-known rules of conduct. These rules were unwritten, but were not the less binding and well recognised. One of those rules, and one of the most essential of them, was that under no circumstance should a member of the profession seek to attract business to himself by giving or offering to give an inducement in the shape of commission or reward of any kind to those who acted as intermediaries between him and his client. That rule was of the highest importance both in the interests of the public and of the profession. It had always existed in England, and had passed with the profession into India, and if it had been found desirable and necessary in England, it was surely most desirable and necessary in this country. The importance of this rule had been emphatically recognised by the Legislature, for by section 36 of Act 18 of 1879 it was made a criminal offence, punishable with fine and imprisonment, for a legal practitioner to give commission in order to procure business for himself. It was true that Act was not in force in the Presidency of Bombay. That he believed was due to the fact that the late Chief Justice, Sir M. Westropp, was opposed to its introduction here. He did not know why he opposed it. He was told that Sir M. Westropp thought it was (not) necessary. They all knew that Sir M. Westropp had the highest opinion of all ranks and branches of the profession of which he was the head. It was to be hoped that he was not mistaken and that there was no one among them who would so far forget what was due to himself and to the profession as to be guilty of an act which the Government in legislating for other parts of this country had considered so pernicious as to be induced to declare it a criminal offence. He knew what the feeling of the Bar of Bombay as a body was on the subject, and if in the presence of the Advocate-General he might presume to speak for the members of his profession, he would state publicly on their behalf that, although the Act was not in force, the rule was, and always had been, in force here; that they considered its strict observance essential both in the interests of the public and of the profession, and that any infringement of it by any member of the Bar rendered him liable to the severest penalties which it was in their power to inflict.

With regard to the facts of the case now before the Court, he complained that the accused had defamed him by stating that he had given commission. Lord Colin Campbell would prove the statement made by the accused. That statement was false, and he challenged the accused to prove it. He knew nothing of the accused. He was told he was a law agent. He had never at any time had business with the accused or with any member of his class. He challenged the accused to prove that he at any time or to any person had given or offered to give commission or inducement of any kind, or permitted any suggestion to be made to him on the subject. It might be said that a false statement of this nature by a person like the accused was a small matter and hardly worth a prosecution. It was a small matter no doubt, but what was said of him to-day might be said of others to-morrow, and the lie that was whispered or suggested to-day would, if uncontradicted, be repeated more boldly to-morrow, and by repetition would gain strength and substance, and come at last to be believed, and so in time a mischief might be done, for which it would be hard to find a remedy. For these reasons, and with the sanction and approval of the Advocate-General and the leading members of the Bar, he had taken these proceedings against the accused. He then called as a witness the Advocate-General.

The Hon. Mr. John Macpherson, barrister-at-law and the acting Advocate-General of Bombay, called, said: I know the rules and profession of the Bar. According to those rules and usages it is certainly not admissible for any member of the Bar to give commissions for professional work. If I knew any member of the Bar doing so, it would in my opinion lower his character immensely. If such conduct was brought to my notice, all I can say is I would take every step in my power to procure the Bar to pass an unfavourable opinion as to such conduct. And I have not the slightest doubt the Bar would do so. The statement that a member of the Bar had given commission I should think clearly defamatory.

Cross-examined by Mr. Shantaram Narayan: It is possible that outsiders may not know of such a rule. If the accused is a law broker, I should think he ought to know of the rule. I do not know whether the accused is a law broker, and I have never seen him before.

Lord Colin Campbell, the next witness called, said: I am a barrister-at-law, practising in Bombay as an advocate of the High Court. I know the accused.

Mr. Kirkpatrick: Was the accused in your chambers on the afternoon of the 16th of September?—Yes, he came to me at 3 o'clock that day. The accused came to my chambers accompanied by his brother Jeena Ludda, and he asked me whether I would take a brief in a Small Causes Court case, which was to come on the following day. In that case he said his brother was the defendant. I had some conversation with the accused about my fee, and finally agreed to go to the Court next day. The brother of the accused then left the room. The accused then told me that he was a broker, and that he would bring me briefs for business in the Police and Small Causes Courts. Hearing from the accused that he was a broker and warned by previous experience, I at once told him that he was not to expect any commissions from me, because it was contrary to the practice of the English Bar. He then began to argue the matter with me, asserting that it was not unusual to give commissions, and he proceeded to name Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Anderson and a native barrister as examples of barristers who gave commission. I said to him, "That is not true. I do not believe that Mr. Kirkpatrick or Mr. Anderson give commissions." After some further conversation, one of Mr. Payne's clerks entered the room accompanied by the accused's brother, and the conversation ended. On the 17th, after the conclusion of the case, in the Small Causes Court, I saw the accused. I took him aside and I told him that I had considered the statements he made the previous day with reference to Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Anderson, and that I had thought it necessary to inform the Advocate-General. By the advice of the Advocate-General, I was about to inform Mr. Anderson and Mr. Kirkpatrick what he had said about them. He admitted in the presence of Mr. Payne's clerk having made the statement, and said what he had heard from other brokers. I requested him to come to my chambers in the afternoon. He came accordingly. He expressed regret for what he had said and implored me to overlook his offence. I told him it was a very serious one, and it was not in my power to do so. I said, "You had better go to Mr. Kirkpatrick and ask his pardon." He continued to implore my forgiveness, and I then called my sepoy and told him to show the accused out of my room. (Laughter.)

Mr. Kirkpatrick: You are acquainted with the rules and usages of the Bar?—Certainly. It would certainly in my opinion amount to professional misconduct if a member of the Bar gave commission. In my opinion he would be guilty of conduct that might come under the definition of cheating in the Penal Code. He would certainly be guilty of dishonourable conduct.

Cross-examined by Mr. Shantaram Narayan: Lord Colin Campbell, the accused is not an English scholar?

Lord Colin Campbell : I think he speaks English remarkably well. I should say as well as any educated native. I believe he brought in Mr. Payne's clerk to give me instructions by Mr. Payne's permission. As far as I recollect, I said to him, "No English barrister gives commission." The accused then said, "Oh yes! Mr. Anderson and Mr. Kirkpatrick give commission." He mentioned another gentleman to whom I have already referred.

Mr. Shantaram Narayan : Did you mean to draw any distinction between English or other barristers when you said, "No English barristers give commission?"—No. I certainly did not wish to draw any distinction at all when I said, "I hope no English barristers give commission." The accused did not actually ask me for a commission. But I anticipated his intentions. There were two cases. The accused opened the conversation by telling me he was a broker.

Mr. Shantaram Narayan : This rule about barristers is known to the profession. Is it known in your opinion to outsiders?—I have heard the Advocate-General express his opinion on that point. I have not heard of any barristers being disbarred here for giving commission.

Re-examined by Mr. Kirkpatrick : Have you ever heard of such a charge being brought home to any barrister here?—No. I have no idea as to what the judge's opinion would be as to a member of the Bar being disbarred for giving commission.

Mr. Henry Clare Kirkpatrick then entered the witness-box, and said : In consequence of information from Lord Colin Campbell, I filed a complaint against the accused. The statement which Lord Colin Campbell informed me about had been made to him by the accused to the effect that I had given commission. This is false. I have never given a commission on any occasion to any person. I do not know the accused. I have never to my knowledge seen him until to-day. In my opinion a member of the Bar who is guilty of giving commission against which there is a rule well known to every member of the profession would deserve to be disbarred.

Cross-examined : If the accused apologised and offered never to act in this way again, I would forgive him. I have no reason to believe that my reputation is damaged, and I make this complaint to show publicly that this statement was entirely false. It is also to make it emphatically known that it is against the rules and usages of the Bar to give commission. If the lie was not contradicted, it would probably gain shape and strength, and perhaps be accepted at last as true. I instituted this prosecution in order to guard against a repetition of such a statement being made.

Mr. Shantaram Narayan : I understand, Mr. Kirkpatrick, that you are willing to withdraw this charge against the accused if he apologises.

Mr. Kirkpatrick : Yes, provided it appears in the terms of his apology.

Mr. Shantaram read the apology tendered by the accused, which runs thus :—"I hereby declare that the statement made by me to

Lord Colin Campbell that Mr. Kirkpatrick has given commission on fees paid to him in respect to professional work is, so far as I am aware, absolutely untrue, inasmuch as I have no knowledge that such commission has ever been given by Mr. Kirkpatrick, and that the statement made by me to Lord Colin Campbell was made without any foundation whatever, and only in the hope and for the purpose of inducing Lord Colin Campbell to give me commission, and I now humbly and unreservedly apologise to Mr. Kirkpatrick for the said statement."

Mr. Kirkpatrick, in accepting this apology, was informed by Mr. Shantaram Narayan that the accused had possibly heard such false statements from other people which no doubt actuated him to express himself as he did to Lord Colin Campbell.

Mr. Anderson, on being appealed to by Mr. Shantaram Narayan as to whether he would accept the same apology, expressed a desire to go into the witness-box and express his opinion on the allegation made use of by the accused. Before doing so, however, Mr. Anderson addressed his Worship, and said : I am not at all satisfied with my learned friend who has treated the accused I think too leniently. I think perhaps he had been a little too good in the end. I feel rather warmly on a matter of this sort, and I feel the mischief which it is likely to create. A man in the position of the accused knows better the absolute falsity of such a treatment. I can only speak in defence of my English brethren with regard to the suggestion of the commission made use of by the accused. Nobody knows that better than the accused and the class of people to which he belongs. I do not wish to appear vindictive. The accused had absolutely no ground for making use of the statement under the circumstances. I will satisfy myself and uphold my honour and that of the members of the Bar by going into the witness-box and swearing to the falsity of the statement, and then allow the course to be adopted which my learned friend has taken.

Mr. John Caussmaker Anderson, barrister-at-law and an advocate of the High Court of Bombay, then stepped into the witness-box, and said : In consequence of the information I received from Lord Colin Campbell, I took proceedings against the accused. The allegation that I have ever at any time given or offered a commission to any person in professional business is absolutely without foundation and untrue. The suggestion has been made to me on rare occasions in the course of my professional career, and I have always advised the person who made it to quit my office with all possible speed. I consider that for a barrister to give commission is an act of the most grossly dishonourable nature, and should, and, I believe, would if it were proved against him, lead to him being disbarred.

Mr. Shantaram Narayan : Do you think that it would be equally dishonourable for a pleader to give commission?

Mr. Anderson : Quite so.

The same apology was tendered to Mr. Anderson and signed by the accused.—The Times of India.

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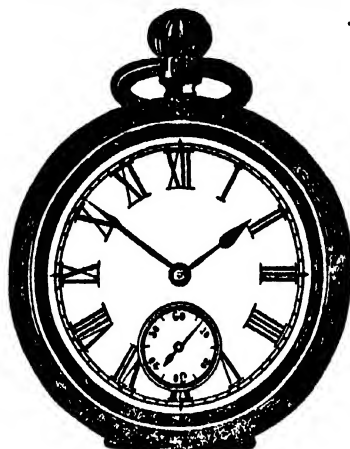
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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1890.

No. 446

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### STANZAS

WRITTEN ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGES, ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE DUSHERA OR GANGAPOOJAH FESTIVAL.

BY THE LATE SHAMA CHURN DUTT.\*

#### I

Is Gunga conscious of her natal day ! †  
Behold what lovely aspect she assumes,  
The wild and furious changed to sportive gay !  
Young virgins deck her marge with flow'rs and blooms,  
And sweet Kokiél the birth-day song attunes !  
The shell now blown, the sonorous metal rung,  
Midst joyous shouts and aromatic fumes,  
Champak and Rose, in chequered garlands strung,  
Are o'er her tranquil breast by reverend Brahmans flung.

#### II

These rites in honour of an aged flood,  
An ancient relic of antiquity—  
How do they tend in minds of musing mood  
The fancy kindling, 'wake the sad dear memory,  
Loved India ! of thy ancient days of glory,  
Departed ever more ! When not, as now,  
Deep sunk in base ignoble lethargy  
Thy spirit slept—when not alas, as now,  
The shameful stain of slave was branded on thy brow !

#### III.

Ah no, it was not thus my fall'n country—  
That brow was then with Fame's bright halo crown'd ;  
Thou wert the hallow'd shrine of Liberty,  
Not more for beauty than for strength renown'd,

\* Baboo Shama Churn Dutt was an Assistant in the Bengal Secretariat, who, after a useful service of the full term, retired on pension to live in the "backwoods" of the North Suburban Town. He would have found life insupportable perhaps with cards for only resource, were it not for the municipal feuds which divided the township. The forces of opposition against municipal administration precipitated into a Rate-payers' Association, of which Baboo Shama Churn Dutt became the scribe. He had been a different being. If he had not exactly been

Nourishing a youth sublime

With the fairy tales of science, and the result of Time ;  
he had certainly been a youth of sensibility, with a romantic turn. He dabbled in verse, contributing not only to native magazines, but also the *Englishman*. He published before the Mutiny a thin little volume of fugitive pieces. But long before his death at Baranagar, about three years ago, *keranigiri*—clerkdom, with its drill and associations—had buried the old—that is the young—Shama Churn Dutt.—ED. R. & R.

† The Dusheera is the anniversary of the day on which Ganga is fabled to have been moved by the prayers of Bhagiratha, to descend from the Himalayas, to wash away the sins of mortals.

The gaze, the dread of wond'ring, trembling nations round.  
Then wore thy Sons the hero's laurel wreath,  
Nor dreaded foes, nor shunn'd the battle ground ;  
Then loath to breathe the bondman's coward breath,  
They dared to die the patriot-freeman's glorious death.

#### IV.

Nor then alas ! as now thy Daughters were  
Mere lifeless images of painted clay,  
Or frigid marble statues, beautiful and fair  
Alone to see, but with the quick'ning ray  
Of love inanimate. Nor then thou lay  
In intellectual darkness shrouded. Thine  
Was ev'ry lore which near or far away  
Enlightened and enriched the world—ay, thine  
Was ev'ry heaven-taught Sage and ev'ry Bard divine.

#### V

Alas ! how changed ! Unhappy destiny !  
Fall'n land ! 'tis Ind, but living Ind no more !"  
Love, Freedom, Virtue, Learning, Poetry  
Have long since bade adieu to once loved shore ;  
And now save thine now murmur'ing, now loud roar,  
All, Ganga ! all is still. My country dear !  
Of thy great splendour and thy pomp of yore,  
Thou now alas ! art but the dismal bier,  
O'er which thy weeping Poet sheds the fruitless tear.

## POMPEI.

#### I.

Think then that twice one thousand years have gone,  
Since this gay Forum heard the last salute  
Of friendly voices destined to be mute  
For ever with the lapse of that day's sun,

And ask if we, whose shadows here are thrown  
This morn of May, advance with firmer foot,  
With will, more clear than theirs and resolute,  
Through this strange darkness where our thoughts have grown.

Has Nature changed ? Ah no ! she triumphs still,  
Like one who guards, less mutable than we,  
The charm and passion of her younger day,

And smiling shows her bland translucent sea,  
And dark and sinister the treacherous hill  
Around whose crest her baleful lightnings play.

#### II.

And then I thought, for in such idle days  
All thoughts besiege in turn the wavering mind,  
How sweet it might be on this earth to find  
What genial Fancy on these walls portrays,

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

A Life which leads us by all pleasant ways,  
Which points to Song, his hair with rose entwined,  
And Beauty with complacent eyes reclined  
By careless Joy and kindling from his gaze.

Who has not yielded to a dream like this,  
And cherished in his sense its afterglow,  
Like fragrance of an evanescent bliss

Which sometimes Time relaxes to bestow,  
Some fugitive caress, some touch, some kiss,  
Which stays with man while years and memories go?

Capri, 1888.

W. W.

—The Times of India.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

LORD William Beresford is come back and joined his post at Simla. Welcome!

THE Hon'ble Mr. Francis Law Latham, Advocate-General, Bombay, has purchased Gad's Hill Place, Rochester, famous as the home of Charles Dickens. The price is not stated.

SCIENCE is up to any feat. Dr. Michaelis, a scientific professor at Aix-la-Chapelle, is said to have taken out patents for the manufacture of *Acetylphenylphenylthiazinsaeure* and its *Aethylphenylshydrazin-bernsteinsaeure*. He ought at once to be created Mahamahopadhyaya ul Mahamahopadhyayas of the University of Dryasdustoborough of Houyhnhnmssthan, or given over for sacrifice at the hands of the Phonetic Spelling-reformers who will doubtless condemn him to get by heart a dozen Slavonic street directories.

THE successive Invasion of the Congress delegates has had one effect at least. Our orators have so bored the good people of England with India that they will have none of it—or as little as possible. Accordingly, the Calcutta Letters have ceased to be a feature of the *Times*. Only the telegrams are published.

IN reproducing from the Jessore *Sammilani* a collection of Rs. 1,573 for relief of distress occasioned by the recent floods, the *Hindoo Patriot* credits Maharani Surnomoyee with Rs. 300 of that sum and thrusts on her a new title—C. E. This condescension on the part of our contemporary is of a piece with that of Sir George Campbell, when as Lieutenant-Governor, out of the depth of his vast learning and long acquaintance with the manners of the people of India, he proposed to send the same illustrious lady—a Hindu widow—a present of embroidered robes and a pair of bracelets.

IT is rumoured at Bjelina, in Bosnia, among the peasants of the district, that Baron Albert Rothschild has been sentenced to death, but that his life would be spared if he could give a substitute to the gallows. The price for the vicarious sacrifice has been fixed at one million florins. The authorities are invaded by numerous applicants who have formed a syndicate, for the division of the million, the victim being chosen by lots. Such is the rage for the divided million that the authorities are unable to convince the syndics of the baselessness of the rumour.

THE will of the late Sir Munguldas Nathobhoy, C.S.I., of Bombay, has been proved in London, the personalty in England being sworn at £5,288. The testator

"directs his executors to build on land belonging to him, adjoining the sanatorium on which he founded a bungalow, to be used as a dispensary, for which purpose he bequeaths to them Rs. 10,000, and for the maintenance of the dispensary Rs. 30,000, and to provide a Hindoo licentiate as medical officer Rs. 30,000. He bequeaths also for the maintenance of the sanatorium Rs. 10,000, and for a temple of Shiva adjacent thereto, and the idols in the temple, Rs. 5,000."

IT is a pleasure to read in the *Times of India* from its Allahabad correspondent that—

"Information of rather an interesting character comes from Arabia that a movement is taking form among a small portion of the more in-

fluent Mahomedans in the North-Western Provinces to discountenance slaying of kine in sacrifice among their co-religionists everywhere. The movement owes its origin to a highly cultured Mahomedan who visited Mecca during the annual pilgrimage of Arafat, and from a benevolent desire to see one of the chief causes of antipathy between Hindoos and Mahomedans abolished. The originators of the movement are men learned in Islamic law, and their line of argument will be that though the cow is so generally selected for sacrifice, yet it is not requisite to the due and proper fulfilling of the requirements of Mahomedan ecclesiastical law, and that though camels and kine have always been so largely selected for the purpose, yet the will of the Prophet imposes no such heavy burden, either upon the poor or upon the rich."

THE following will be relief to millions:—

"Mouth-cancers and cigar-smoking have been closely associated in the public mind since General Grant's death; but a prominent American physician, in a recent conversation on the subject, said: 'The only cases of cancer of the tongue that I ever saw were of persons who never smoked. The majority of them were women, and the half-a-dozen men who were afflicted were not confirmed smokers at all.'"

HERE is a picture of domestic happiness at Leva, in Hungary:—

"A wealthy landowner, named Birik, upbraided his wife during dinner for leading a fast life, and the pair from high words came to blows. Each then snatched a dinner-knife, and a sanguinary struggle ensued, which only ceased when both were too weak from loss of blood to continue the struggle. The wife was stabbed in many places, and shortly afterwards succumbed from her injuries, while Herr Birik was almost disembowelled, and lies in a hopeless state."

A BAPTIST Missionary, at Emden, baptised a servant girl of twenty, in March, in icy cold water taken from a tank on the roof of the church during a heavy snow-storm. The girl did not survive the baptism, and the Missionary was tried, and sentenced to one week's imprisonment.

UNDER the head of "Congress Jugglery," the *Bengal Times* reports—to the Director of Public Instruction in particular:—

"One Dareekanath Ganguli, an ex-pundit of Lansing Middle Vernacular School, Furidpore district, has been here for a week or so, touting for the Congress, as that wretched body of syces and flunkies out of place is called, and has contrived, we hear, to juggle a couple of thousand rupees out of weak minded Natives, by telling them a pack of lies; among others that Englishmen fear this mob of raggamuffins, and that Government favours it. We are told that several Government officers in local schools and Colleges have subscribed. If this be so, they should be dismissed, without one word of explanation asked. Government must either stamp out sedition, or be charged with pandering to it. We commend these remarks to Sir Alfred Croft."

Is this the famous Ganguli of the Brahmo Congresswals?

A CORRESPONDENT informs our contemporary that the late Zemindar of Baldah, in the Dacca District,

"Baboo Harendra Narain Roy, on his death-bed left his estate in trust to his *guru*—Mohesh Tagore—who was also appointed guardian of his minor son; and reversionary heir of the estate should this son, his ward, predecease him. A third party has now proceeded to have Mohesh Tagore's guardianship set aside, pleading that he is interested in his ward's death—a plea that appears to be supported by common sense."

A prominent local Zemindar is said to be at the bottom. But litigation under such circumstances is inevitable. It would be well to know what sort of a man is the spiritual guide.

CHINA is slow to receive external civilization. At any rate, she is never satisfied with adopting any unless she can herself reproduce it. Consul Alabaster, in his Report from Canton, says the manufacture of buttons—the jewellery of China—was originally introduced into Canton by foreigners, but it has almost entirely passed out of them into native hands, and last year the Cantonese were able to export over 560,000 lbs of brass buttons.

WHILE Prince George of Wales was at Canada, a question of precedence arose. Cardinal Taschereau claimed the seat next to the Prince at the state banquet. This demand was opposed by the naval and military commanders who argued that they derived their rank from the Queen, while the Cardinal held only papal rank. The Cardinal thought it due to the majesty of the church to retire from the feast altogether.

THE Russian Finance Minister is out on a journey to C. Asia—to find new markets for the Russian trade.

A MYSTERIOUS but disastrous fire at Madras has completely destroyed the records of the Harbour Trust Board office. The entire building is gutted, the only thing saved being the cash safe. The fire was discovered at night about nine o'clock on the 14th. The immediately neighbouring Albert Victor Hotel narrowly escaped. Some of its windows taking fire, all the furniture was removed. In the confusion, the contents of a till amounting to Rs. 700 were missing.

THE Hon'ble Mr. George Hamnett, the first Eurasian member of the Madras Legislative Council, has inaugurated his entry into the council by a defamation prosecution of a local journal and Eurasian organ—the *Madras Standard*. He chose only the printer and publisher, John L. Pereira, for his return attack. An explanation, without prejudice to the defence, was offered, which was not accepted as sufficient salve for the wounded feelings. There was a call for the manuscript of the alleged defamatory matter, which the editor, Mr. Cornelius, swore was, in the usual course of business, destroyed. The prosecutor denied the statements made in the *Standard*. This closed the prosecution and the case stands adjourned to the 20th.

THE General municipal elections in the Presidency Division come off in December next, in the 24-Pergs., Nuddea, Jessore, Khulna, and Moorshedabad districts.

THE *St. James's Gazette* objects to the appointment of Sir Steuart Bayley as Secretary in the Political and Secret Department of the India Office. It is disposed to think that such transfer involves the loss of personal dignity and impairs the prestige of the higher office.

THE Salvationists have launched a crusade against smoking as if it were the Devil's Own. The General of the Army considers it injurious to health, uncleanly, a waste of money, a disagreeable indulgence for which there is no justification. He has accordingly ordered that no smoker can become or remain a sergeant, bandsman, sergeant-major, secretary, or treasurer or holder of any other office in the Army.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

DEFYING the protests of the Portuguese authorities, British gunboats have gone up the Zambesi. The Portuguese cabinet resents the action of the British. The new Premier, General D'Abreu, announced on the 15th, to the Chamber of Deputies that the Government was unable to recommend the adoption of the African Convention with England, except in an amended form, and unless the gunboat incident was satisfactorily explained.

THE new smokeless powder known as Cordite has been successfully experimented at Messrs. Armstrong's range at Sillloth.

LADY Rosebery being seriously ill with typhoid fever, Lord Rosebery has notified his inability to receive Mr. Gladstone during his Midlothian campaign. May God preserve the good Lady—worthy wife of a worthy husband—and enable her lord to resume his important part in the politics of the day. On the last occasion, Mr. Gladstone's memorable triumph in Midlothian was in a great measure due to Lord Rosebery's immense personal exertions and unstinted material help.

WITH bands playing and banners flying, twenty-five thousand Salvationists attended the funeral of Mrs. "General" Booth, at Olympia, in Kensington.

AT midday on the 13th, a large hat manufactory in Aldersgate was burnt down, killing six and injuring thirteen employes. A disastrous fire is also reported from Syracuse, New York. The largest hotel there is destroyed and twenty-five persons killed.

PROFESSOR James Edward Thorold Rogers of Political Economy, at Oxford, is dead. A distinct loss to Liberal politics even more than to literature.

MESSRS. O'Brien and Dillon still keep themselves undiscovered. They are believed to be hiding in the neighbourhood of Paris, having failed at Havre to catch the selected American liner.

In the meantime, great preparations are making for their reception in America, while warrants are out for their arrest, and the trial is proceeding at Tipperary.

The latest news is that Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien had been at sea in a private yacht since Thursday week, and landed at Cherbourg on the 15th whence they proceeded to Paris.

THE Grand Duke Nicholas, uncle of the Czar, is suffering from cancer. Lately, while commanding at the manœuvres in Valhynia, he went mad and most painful scenes took place. His Highness was escorted to his private estate in the steppes of the Don.

STRIKES are not yet ended in Australia. The strikers give themselves occupation by constant disturbances. Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of New South Wales, said in the Sydney Parliament that the strike was as disastrous to the Colony as a bombardment, as the country would suffer less at the hands of an enemy.

THE *entente cordiale* between England and Italy continues. On the 15th, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava paid a visit to General Crispi. At this diplomatic meeting the most cordial assurances were exchanged—for whatever they might be worth. At any rate, it is a great advantage to England and the cause of peace to have such an experienced and accomplished British representative at the Italian Court.

THE Irish malcontents are getting frantic over the last check administered them by the Ministry. They are resorting to desperate methods. In revenging on the Government, they are discrediting all government itself. They have started a sensational story of Irish wrong at the hands of the unspeakable Saxon. Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., professes to hold convincing evidence that poor John Daly, convicted in 1884 of treason and felony, was the victim of a Police conspiracy, and he has found a supporter in a Birmingham Alderman, himself a Gladstonian Liberal, Alderman Wanton. This civic notability with an ominous name asserts that the head of the Birmingham Police told him that the explosives found on Daly, on which he was convicted, were placed where they were discovered by an agent of the Police. Mr. Farndale, the Chief of the Birmingham Police in question, seems to have given Mr. Wanton some such information, of whose disclosure in this shape he was not prepared for. He throws Wanton overboard but says, what may be readily believed, that the Police in Ireland employed unscrupulous agents. That was a matter of course—a resort of necessity. What other agents could they get? Where are the scrupulous men who would be the creatures of the Police? They must be rare birds, indeed, if there be any such. If the Police were punctilious about the character of their agents, their occupation would be gone. Of course, the Police are the same everywhere. They are certainly no better in Great Britain than in Ireland. Not many years ago, the picked men of the London Police—Detective Branch—were thoroughly exposed and convicted.

THE Irish Home Rulers appealed to their English patrons to procure a reconsideration of Daly's case, but both Mr. Gladstone and Sir William Harcourt have declined to interfere. That was a most ill-judged move. Is Mr. Parnell suffering from the strain of work and anxieties? Surely, the Irish Party should not have reckoned without their host. The English chiefs of the Party should have been sounded before risking a public appeal. Now their very grievance is discredited by their best friends, what sympathy can they expect in other quarters?

IN America, too, one of their allies, Mr. Scranton, a Republican, offered in the House of Representatives a motion expressive of sympathy for the unfortunate political prisoners in the hands of the British Government, with what result we are not informed.

THE fallen Bismarck is apparently not happy in his forced retirement. He is giving out that he may make a raid on Parliament (the Reichstag) and plant himself as a permanent thorn in the side of Government.



In his deprivation of office he has not been civilly disabled, and he may show in the ensuing winter, how. Herein one may see the weakness of the European system of unlimited liberty. If the ex-Vizier carries out his threat, he will not only be a nuisance like Lord Brougham in his anecdotage, but may prove an embarrassment to the administration and a curse to the Empire his genius and energy have built up. No such thing in the East. No nonsense there! In Turkey, Bismarck would be banished for his mischievous avowal.

THEY are all dying in Germany, the nobles. One after another, four well-known cavalry officers of aristocratic regiments had lately killed themselves. And now another suicide is announced. Towards the end of September, a noted not to say notorious gentleman jockey, Baron Schleinitz, died at Berlin. Germany is only paying the cost of political ascendancy and material prosperity and materialism. This suicidal epidemic certainly bespeaks great demoralization. The first revelation came with the violent death in the Imperial family of Austria. The optimists of course regarded that incident and the cause thereof as an exceptional case. But these last successive scandals leave to apologists no room for explanation.

WITH all their up-doubted courage, Europeans dread to die with a nervousness that is simply amusing to the least warlike Asiatics. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn by the last mail that the Czarewicz fights shy of Constantinople from a vague notion that the cholera is in the air—of the Bosphorus!—in one of the beautiful palaces on the banks in which he was to be housed, unless he chose to remain on board in his own vessel. But over and above that, it is now believed that his trip will not take place at all, owing to his lady's inability to support so long an absence from him.

THERE is mourning in Bokhara at the sudden death of the heir to the throne. The feeling is stronger in St. Petersburg. He was about to visit the Russian capital where he would have entered the Corps of Pages to the Czar. The *Moscow Gazette* does not hesitate to trace the death to the English, who are supposed to have instigated a fanatic Mussulman to the murder, inasmuch as the Prince's visit to St. Petersburg involved the complete subjection of Bokhara to Russia. With the progress of European power in Asia, Europeans are introducing Asiatic manners into their politics.

RUSSIA has in view the cultivation of opium in the Caucasus. There is a proposition, which is being discussed, to extend the Transcaspiian Railway to Meshed.

IT has been notified under the Bengal Excise Acts that a duty of one anna per gallon will be levied, from the 15th October 1890, on beer manufactured in Bengal and sold to the public. The Lieutenant-Governor is further pleased to exempt, so far as the aboriginal tribes are concerned, home-brewed puchwai from all the provisions of the said Acts which relate to its manufacture and possession within the districts of Manbhoom, Singbhoom, and Lohardugga, and the Sub-division of Banka in the Bhagalpore district. The relief ought to be extended to the aborigines of the Eastern frontier, Garrows, Kookies, Nagas, Lushais, Chakmas, &c.

THE threatened disaster to the Kidderpore Docks has been averted,—permanently we hope. Water was let in on Sunday, the public being invited to witness the interesting process. The flooding continued till Monday. The water is now within 6 feet of coping level in Dock No. 1. No further movement of the walls is reported.

LAST Saturday, a currency note of the value of Rs. 100 was missing in the Currency Office. The whole establishment was detained till 9 at night when it was discovered by a meter among the sweepings. The Treasurer threatened all the assistants with fine, but on the wise interference of Mr. Jacob, Comptroller-General, the matter ended with a fine of only Rs. 5 on the immediate assistant in charge.

SIR Auckland Colvin is a knowing Civilian. He has hit upon a cure for the growing ill-feeling among the Hindus and Mahomedans

at Allyghur. He has threatened the ringleaders with disurbarmment unless there is an immediate visible change for the better.

ON Wednesday se'ennight, there was a large gathering of friends and admirers at the Sir Cowasjee Jehanghir University Hall, Bombay, to consider a memorial to Principal Wordsworth, about to retire from India. The Chair was taken by Mr. Justice Birdwood. On the proposition of Mr. Justice Telang, a large Committee was appointed to collect subscriptions and determine the form of the testimonial. The suggestion for a public meeting was not approved, but the Committee was empowered to consider it. A subscription was immediately started, and the offer came up to Rs. 2,100, Mr. Justice Telang heading the list with Rs. 500. The Bombay Graduates' Association have requested the University to confer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws on Mr. Wordsworth, "as a fitting mark of appreciation and well-merited honor, crowning his distinguished services and eminent career as an educationalist of very high attainments in this country." We trust the dons and hidalgos—for there are usually more hidalgos than dons, more representatives of wealth and power than those of humanity and science in Indian Universities—will yet see the desirability of even a constructive connection with one of the purest spirits and best educators of the Century—with the Rishi Bard who has revolutionized Letters and Art—  
With him that uttered nothing base.

THE oily green little insects, which, at the close of the rains, make evening life in Bengal miserable, crowding *en masse* upon lights and scattering themselves about on the table and poisoning food and drink and attacking your very face, entering your eyes, nose, and ears and getting into your hair, have from last week entered appearance. There is no remedy against them. Unless you elect to live like a ghost in absolute darkness, you must put up with the nuisance. It is, however, limited in duration. That is long enough in all conscience for a nightly plague, driving us very near mad for about a month. With the Dewali—their St. Bartholomew's Day—they disappear. And no wonder. The insecticide on those nights—the Dewali Eve and the Dewali—is enormous. Herein you have a glimpse of the philosophy of Hindu holidays. But the mosquitoes are a standing grievance, thriving most about this time of the year. If the cooler hills are free, the place of mosquitoes is there taken by the aggravating and unavoidable *pishu*. It is some satisfaction to know that we are not singular in our distress. India is by no means the most insect-ridden land. In America, they have got a Mosquito Country. In Venezuela, Guiana, &c., you must continually use both hands to defend your person from being stung. Not to go to South or Central America, the United States, in some of their best regions, suffer dreadfully. According to the *New York Times*, the inhabitants of Elizabeth are the victims of a sudden raid of mosquitoes. The same paper writes:—

"The pests fairly swarm in the city and make life miserable for those who are exposed to their stings. Such an invasion so late in the season is something remarkable. The insects seem of a smaller species than usual, and ordinary mosquito netting affords little if any protection against them. Telegraph and telephone operators and clerks in the stores are the worst sufferers from the unlooked-for plague."

These new American mosquitoes seem to be more akin to *pishus*, nuisancially, we mean, though not zoologically.

A STORE in Atlanta, Georgia, is reported to be completely paper-made. The rafters, weather-boards, roof and flooring are of that material. It is impervious to water and is less inflammable than a wooden dwelling, and, what is more, is cool in summer and warm in winter. What of that pest of life—and literary life in particular—in the Tropics, the white-ant? We suppose the substance may be so doctored as to repel it. If such a building can resist the ravages of wind and time, into the bargain, papier-mache is nonpareil tectonic material. As it is, it seems to be a very superior one for temporary and ordinary structures. Forests are being cut down and wasted at such a rate, that it is well for the future of the human race that such a fine substitute for timber has been discovered. We hope some of it will be brought out to this country, to displace the murderous corrugated iron roofing. The introducers of that was a public enemy. In Georgia, they would have tar-and-feathered him. And most deservedly.

THE printer of *Hansard* has issued a publication giving statistics of parliamentary palaver during the late session. Mr. Goschen, and after

him Mr. W. H. Smith, head the list. Of the Opposition, Sir W. Harcourt spoke most frequently. Of the supporters of the ministry, Sir Roper Lethbridge and Sir Robert Fowler were the most voluble and at par, having made each more than thirty speeches. Our old Indian has already made a parliamentary name. He is bound to rise still higher. Those who rail at Mr. Bradlaugh for his pestering the House with incessant catechising of the Government, ought to know that Mr. Seaton put during the past session 120 questions!

BOULANGER seems to be as great a public robber as any of the French military administrators. He is accused in a book just published at Paris with misappropriation of funds raised for public objects. Of the money subscribed by his admirers and partizans, he spent £1,000 in paying the debts of a female friend, and "conveyed" £30,000 to British territory—Jersey.

HOWEVER much Europeans may affect to regard Bakshish as a peculiar Oriental institution, we are afraid the East cannot lay claim to the monopoly. A good deal of corruption prevails in the Continent among the nations of Christendom. The disclosures in France which in 1887 drove M. Grévy from the Presidency are fresh in every mind. In the United States, offices and contracts are notoriously sold. In South America, it is worse.

THE *Englishman* quotes from an article significantly headed "The Argentine Filibusters," in an English magazine, what an eminent contractor in Buenos Ayres once said, namely:—

"When I want to see a Minister it costs me on an average six or seven hundred dollars. At the door I must slip two dollars into the porter's hands, or his Excellency is not likely to be in. Then I got to the Secretary's clerk, and a fifty dollar note must be dropped among his papers, or His Excellency is sure to be engaged three or four deep. That passes me on to the Secretary, whose valuable time is worth a hundred dollars a minute. He thinks he is doing me a great favour if he lets me off for five hundred dollars."

Bakshish, in fact, is the Universal Fetish.

SOME three years ago we drew the attention of the public and the Government to the zemindari oppressions which had commenced in some indigo estates in the District of Midnapore, by way of pressure on the tenants to sow indigo. In such matters our object being really to relieve the poor sufferers, we disdained to make political capital or cause a sensation. Accordingly in noticing the subject, we spared the respectable European landlords as much as we could. Without naming them, we simply indicated the locality in an unmistakable way so as to warn them and afford a clue to Government, concluding with an appeal to the latter to see to it and a warning to the former to put their house in order. Our effort was not in vain. Government quietly interfered. The tenants were told that it was a matter of choice with them to cultivate or not to cultivate indigo. As there was no agitation—no wounding of *amour propre* of the planters nor danger to landlordly prestige—there was no temptation to obstinacy on the part of the Zemindars, who quietly submitted to be reasonable. Things have, however, again gradually drifted to evil ways. The relations between Reis & Rayyet have relapsed to the old abnormal groove. And this naturally enough. For the indigo cultivation, as carried on in Bengal, is an unnatural business. The factories cannot be maintained with profit without sacrificing the peasantry. The indigo difficulty has again raised its head in Midnapore. The cultivators have for some time been harassed with enhancement and dispersion or impounding of their cattle grazing in the village commons, with other forms of landlordly pressure. And now a murder has occurred. On the 8th October

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Those who have given these remedies a fair trial freely admit that they inherently possess every property suitable for healing and removing eruptions, ulcerations, piles, abscesses, sores, bad legs, gathered breasts, and all disorders of the glandular system. When carefully rubbed in the Ointment relaxes the swollen muscles, diminishes inflammation, assuages pain, and even alleviates dangerous maladies which may have lasted for months, or even years. Holloway's excellent preparations are effective singly, resistless in combination, and have been recommended by grateful patients to be resorted to as alternatives when all other means of regaining health have failed. Their action is temperate, not violent or reducing.

the inhabitants of a village named Dhoomsirgar, Pargana Boogri (in the Garbetta Sub-Division?) killed a Tagiddar—a humble factory servant—of the name of Rai Charan Ghosh, a Goala or milkman by caste. A Sub-Inspector of Police is on the spot to enquire but no accused has been sent up. The body was despatched to Ghatal.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 18, 1890.

### THE LITTLE CLOUD IN CANADA.

AN important manifesto has appeared in the shape of an article in one of the leading Canadian papers. That journal is the *Quebec Telegraph*. The conductors are not for playing the old game of hide and seek in a matter of prime moment. With evident reference to the recent utterances of the Dominion ministry, the editor denounces the talk of Loyalty as "twaddle." We better give the very words of the *Telegraph*, specially as we see the *Englishman's* Home Correspondent's summary telegraphed from Bombay quoting a mutilated passage. These are, as we find them in the *Overland Mail* of September 26, reproduced from the *Standard's* New York telegram of September 21:—

"We are for throwing off the mask. Political annexation is the manifest destiny of the Dominion. We are loyal to the interests of the people of Canada before the interests of the people of Great Britain. Sir John Macdonald may say what he pleases about the *McKinley Bill* only having the effect of directing our trade to other quarters. No doubt it will have an appreciable effect that way. No doubt, too, the Bill is a deadly blow at our trade. Trade is what we want, not twaddle about loyalty to the Crown. If those who believe in annexation only have the courage of their convictions and speak out, as we do, they will hasten to welcome the day when we can call ourselves citizens of the mighty Republic. May it be soon."

The italics are ours, to mark the part omitted in the extract in the *Englishman*. The omission is, of course, due to telegraphic economy, but on such a question the sentences kept out are not without a peculiar significance. The New York Correspondent of the *Standard*, in quoting from the Canadian journal says, (according to the *Overland Mail*.) that the *Quebec Telegraph* is a supporter of the Premier, Sir J. Macdonald. If this be true, then the present head of the administration in the Dominion would seem to have lost touch with his followers, resulting in a great split—perhaps a serious landslide—in the Party. This is not so certain, however. If others are to be believed, the journal in question is no organ of the present Canadian ministry. The *Standard's* New York telegram could not well pass unchallenged, and Mr. T. Burstall has written to the same London paper to discount the force of the Quebec editor's deliverance. He says:—

"The *Quebec Telegraph* is opposed in the strongest sense of the word to the present Government at Ottawa, and no paper in the Dominion is less likely to support any of Sir John's proposals. The expressions used in the paragraph you quote show how wide must be the distance between him and the writer of them. Referring to what is said about 'loyalty to the Crown,' allow me to add that loyalty to the Crown and to the British connection is shown in Canada on every possible occasion, and I think a paper in the position of the *Standard* should not give to the world statements casting a slur on the Premier of Canada, and on so many British subjects, without having satisfied itself of the reliability of the source from which the statements emanate."

The drift of it all is that the utterance has no political value, proceeding as it does from a well-known malcontent in the Opposition press. We confess to be unconvinced by Mr. Burstall. The New York correspondent may, from his distance, have made a mistake (though it is most unlikely) about the party antecedents of a leading Canadian paper. But nothing can detract from the meaning or the force of the utterance itself. The pronouncement is there,

and it stands by itself, without need of the slightest extraneous help. It is independent of Party or position of the declaring person. Be he who he might, such a declaration made by any body, in any part of the British Empire, would be sure to tell. It is a bold avowal even in Canada. In India, in these latter days of needless alarm and unstatesmanlike suspicion, or in Ireland at this moment of bitterness, the avower might swing in the air or be given a new country for it. It is nonetheless treason at Quebec. Such words are not lightly uttered. They are the more remarkable for the exuberance of loyalty to which Mr. Burstall himself refers as uniformly characterising every public or private ceremony in the Dominion. Will the ministry in England take any notice of the seditious preaching of the Quebec journal? Between Ireland and the state of the Continent and the attitude of Russia, their hands are full enough. Questions may, still, be asked in Parliament. It certainly behoves the guardians of the Empire to stop, if possible, the spread of anti-British feeling and views in the British Possessions in North America, till it is considered expedient to wash hands off them.

This is no individual utterance that we are noticing, but clearly a party—at the lowest, a clique—emanation. In fact, this article is the Republican counterblast to the Chief Minister's late speech at Halifax. This bold attitude of the Republicans in Canada has, doubtless, been precipitated by the asseverations of loyalty by Sir John Macdonald.

The existence of a pretty strong desire in certain quarters in the Dominion to coalesce with the great American Union, is well known, and English statesmen have always taken their measures in full view of it. We, for our part, were inclined to doubt the loyalty of the French part of the population, but we were assured to the contrary on the highest authority—that of men who have lived in the Dominion and have been connected with the administration. From their accounts, the French in Canada would seem to be a very different people from the French at home. They are a staid, sober lot, lively indeed, but averse from change. Though proud of their race and still maintaining their manners, faith, and tongue in tact, the descendants of the defenders of Quebec under Montcalm evidently appreciate their advantages under British rule, and are thoroughly reconciled to it.

#### POLICE REFORM.

THE Local Governments are bestirring themselves in the cause of police reform. Provincial Committees are being constituted for enquiring into the causes of the failure of the Police and suggesting remedies. It is perhaps as well that the subject should be dealt with piecemeal and in a tentative manner rather than by an unwieldy Imperial Commission, making its royal progress over the continent to find, in the end, that its recommendations were far too elaborate for the financial condition of the Government and too general for the peculiarities of the provinces and districts. We have already had experience enough of the issue of these mountains in labor, nor are we altogether sanguine as to results from these modest Provincial Committees and more than from Commissions. The Chowkidari Police is now universally condemned, but who gave it the constitution which is now found so faulty? Was it not a big pretentious Commission of Enquiry that travelled and made great noise and examined witnesses and

wrote reams of foolscap? The constabulary force also is the outcome of enquiries and deliberation equally elaborate. They have both failed on trial, and now there is to be another series of enquiries to examine the causes of failure and to provide against them in the future. It is something that the failure about which unofficial testimony had been unanimous long ago, is at last recognised by the officers of Government. On this point, opinion amongst officials themselves is no longer divided, although both the Governments of the North-Western Provinces and of Bengal are unwilling to admit that the defects of the police are wholly due to the system itself. In accounting for the inefficiency of the police, Sir Auckland Colvin has written a philosophical disquisition on the subject which we read with great interest. He is strongly of opinion that the police only reflects in its character the character of the people and that no mere increase in the pay of the rank and file of the force will effect much improvement in that character, until there was an improvement in the *morale* of the people at large. Sir Steuart Bayley offers now a similar explanation, and holds the absence of public spirit in the community at large mainly responsible for the failure of the police. He says:—

"In reflecting upon the causes of the comparative failure of the Police in Bengal, it is necessary not to lose sight of the obstacles which the Police, as well as the Magistracy, have to surmount. Foremost among our difficulties is the character of the general mass of the population from which the Police are drawn. The Police are of, and from, the people; and as are the people so are the Police. To speak broadly, the people have but a faintly developed sense of public morality, of the far-reaching duties of the individual towards the public at large; they view without reprobation the giving and taking of bribes; they will not interest themselves, in matters outside their immediate personal concerns, to oppose oppression or blackmail or false evidence or other offences against the public. The Police, therefore, have not the sharp incentive of public opinion to keep them up to the mark, and the discipline to which they are subjected is not sufficient to raise their standard of public morality in any marked way above that of the class to which they belong. Mr Macpherson describes the state of public feeling in this connection as follows:—'In Bengal' (he writes) 'it is, I believe, much more difficult than in England to bring offenders to justice, because we have not here so high a standard of truth and so general sympathy with public justice. The public spirit which in England will prompt strangers and disinterested persons to give evidence for the Crown and for the defence, with no object but that truth may be established, is not often found in this country. The mass of the people have not the intelligence and sturdiness of character which should make them denounce the oppression of a neighbour by a zemindar, or refuse to pay blackmail to the cattle thief, or be ashamed to protect the house-breaker and receiver of stolen goods by professed ignorance of his guilt. Aggrieved persons and witnesses are often reluctant to go to the authorities, because the authorities are dilatory, troublesome and inefficient, and this cause and result act and re-act on one another. The only remedy for this want of public spirit is to spread education among the masses.' Another difficulty which Mr. Macpherson points out arises from the frequent connection of crime with complicated questions of title to, and possession in, land and of tenancy and rent. Other difficulties arise out of climate; houses are left open and property unprotected, while the raiis supply facilities for burglary which amount almost to temptation."

We think this explanation involves an injustice to the people. The popular sentiment towards crime and criminals is one of as keen repugnance as elsewhere. There is the same indignation felt at the miscarriage of justice through the inefficiency or corruption of the police. The police also would receive effectual support from general society in the discharge of their duty, but it is they who resent the interference of the public as an intrusion and an impertinence. Nay, they ally themselves with the worst and most notorious characters of a place who act as their purveyors, till things have come to such a pass that no honest man would have anything to do with the police. The police themselves make the business of an honest informant or ally too hot for every body. The object of a police investigation being not to get at the truth but gain to themselves, there is no room for honest people in the business. The penalty of their intervention is endless trouble and worry and

humiliation to themselves, and having paid this penalty over and over again, it should be no wonder if they procure peace to themselves by subordinating public duty to their own interests.

The Government of Bengal is at issue with the Government of India as to the direction a reform of the present system should take. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the reform should begin at the higher grades by improving the position of Inspectors, while the Bengal Government adheres to its view that it is the lower grades that more urgently call for improvement. Sir Steuart Bayley says :—

"Very great importance must be attached to the improvement of the investigating officers. It is universally admitted that their present pay and prospects are insufficient to attract trustworthy and competent men. In the lower grades especially, it is plain that such a man can barely live on his pay; while, even in the higher, the pay is but an inadequate remuneration for the high qualities and great responsibilities which are required of an officer in charge of a station. Neither the names nor the scale of pay suggested by the Government of India are to be taken as final, and it will be open to the Committee to make their own proposals. As at present advised, the Lieutenant-Governor is not inclined to think it altogether immaterial whether an officer employed in investigation is called a Head-constable or a Sub-Inspector. The higher title does in practice, he believes, connote a higher standard. He would also invite the Committee to consider whether the scale of pay provides for sufficiently even and frequent promotion, or whether the increments proposed are not too large and sudden. Due regard is to be paid to financial considerations, but the Lieutenant-Governor would observe that the scheme to be submitted to the Government of India is one which is expected to 'place the Police of Bengal upon a satisfactory basis as regards pay and promotion.' He is, therefore, prepared to accept recommendations involving a moderate increase in expenditure.

The amelioration of the position of Inspectors is, perhaps, not so urgent as that of the lower grades, but it nevertheless demands the careful consideration of the Committee. A suggestion has been made that deserving Inspectors may be rewarded by being appointed Deputy Magistrates and Collectors. Independently of the fact that an additional difficulty would thus be introduced into the recruitment of the Subordinate Executive Service, it is, perhaps, open to question whether this measure is desirable in itself. The experiment, so far as it has been tried in Bengal, has not, it is believed, been attended with success, and several of the officers consulted object to it and think that it would be preferable to give higher promotion in the Police Service itself; doubtless the whole matter will receive due attention from the Committee."

We are in perfect accord with the Bengal Government on this point. Corruption largely prevails among the rank and file, and any improvement in their pay and prospects can only be effective if it bore some reasonable proportion to the importance and responsibility of their duties. Sir Steuart Bayley seems to view favorably a suggestion, which has been made, that there should be a sharp line of demarcation between Head-Constables and Sub-Inspectors, the appointments of the latter being made direct from candidates of education and respectability. This would probably necessitate the creation of a small grade of probationers. The idea is a good one, and if it could be carried out, it would enhance the chances of a real reform in the entire system. Sir Steuart has no sympathy with the outcry against the Native Magistracy. Without experience, the native Deputy Magistrate may commit errors sometimes leading to weaken the judicial administration, but this is due to defect in the preliminary training for the service rather than to any constitutional obliquity or any thing equally serious. The remarks of Government on this point have great practical interest :—

"The Lieutenant-Governor is by no means disposed to sympathize with the sweeping denunciations of the Native Magistracy which he sometimes sees. He believes that the Magistrates are very often industrious and well-meaning men, but they receive very little education of a kind specially adapted to fit them for their duties on the Bench. A Munsif will have had the advantage of watching the procedure of the Courts for some years, and thus of learning by experience, not the mere letter of the law only, but the method in which the discretionary powers allowed by the law are exercised in practice. The Deputy Magistrate has no such advantage. Often the first case which he has seen tried is the first which he has tried himself; at any rate it may be so. Again, the legal practitioners who appear before the Deputy Magistrate are of an inferior class in respect of their knowledge, both technical and general, and far from affording him the assistance which a Munsif gets from a well-educated bar, they do more harm than good

in influencing the general conduct of cases. To counteract these influences, Sir Steuart Bayley is sure that what is required is the kindly but firm and frequent interposition of the superior officers."

#### THE DOORGA POOJA IN THE COUNTRY.

SIR,—The celebration of this great national Festival in some of the great Brahman Houses in the remote country towns, is a proper subject of careful study to all students of sociology and religion. I may, therefore, be permitted to jot down here, for the delectation of your readers, both European and Native, what I saw, in my youthful days, in my native District of Nuddea.

##### POOJAH IN THE KRISHNAGHUR RAJBARI.

The celebration of the worship of Mother Doorga in this ancient aristocratic Brahman family has no parallel anywhere in India, so far as its religious rigidity, solemnity and grandeur are concerned. The place of worship erected by the Maharaja Krishna Chandra Roy Bahadur, about a hundred and fifty years ago, for the special accommodation and service of the great goddess, is a grand and noble edifice, covering an area of nearly 40 bighas of land. The Poojah Hall with the spacious verandahs on three sides of the vast quadrangle could easily accommodate 10,000 Brahmans dining together. I can not give you the exact measure of this Hall, but I think, I am approximately correct when I say, that it is bigger than the Town Hall of Calcutta, from one end to the other. Its height is more than 40ft. from floor to ceiling. It is a square building having open verandahs on three sides only. In the front of this Hall, there is an equally large Hall which has been lately roofed by the present Maharaja Khetish Chunder Roy Bahadur, at the cost of Rs. 30,000. In this Hall, sacrifices are offered to the goddess on all Poojah days. The statue is made in the course of some months, by special artist-potters, who are in the enjoyment of jagir lands from the family. In the country, no respectable house would purchase the statue from the store of the potter. It is a great degradation to do so, almost an act of impiety, certainly a sign of inferior status. On an auspicious day, the family holds the inauguration ceremony of making the figure of divinity, with due solemnity and the religious observances proper on the occasion. The Krishnaghur Raj *Pratima*—the pedestalled group of the goddess and her surroundings—is of a majestic appearance, and in every way worthy of the grand Hall in which it is installed. To give you an idea of the size of the *Pratima*, it is enough, I think, to say, that on the Immersion Day, it has to be carried to the river side by the aid of more than 60 bearers and even so many find their task one of great difficulty. The earthen representation of divinity has one noticeable peculiarity. Krishnaghur, you know, is celebrated for its tinsel work of the finest kind, but the statues of the Krishnaghur Raj *Pratima* are not adorned with it. The dress and jewellery of the goddess and companion deities are all the handiwork of the potter, being of clay beautifully painted with all sorts of bright colours to look like robes and gems put on. The worship (Pooja) is performed by the highest Brahman Pandits of Navadwip who are, every year, invited to attend the ceremony. It was in 1868, I believe, that the Hon'ble Justice J. Budd Phear went to Krishnaghur during the Doorga Pooja, and observed and enquired into the ritual and ceremonies performed, according to the strict injunctions of the *Sashtras*. He was so much struck by the enthusiasm and religious fervour that pervaded the whole, that he told the late lamented Maharajah Satish Chunder Roy Bahadur, that he had never seen such an impressive ceremony anywhere in Christendom, nor in any other part of the world.

##### THE IMMERSION CEREMONY.

This ceremony is unique of its kind. Its solemnity and grandeur are such that even a sceptical mind cannot see the great spectacle without being deeply moved. I have an anecdote to relate in connection with this ceremony. One day, some years ago, the present Maharajah Khetish Chunder Roy Bahadur was found ailing, and the family doctors in attendance advised the Dewan, the late Baboo Kartikaya Chunder Roy, not to send the minor young Maharajah bare-footed and bare-headed, to accompany the *Pratima*, in procession to the river, on the *Bijya* day. The adoptive mother, the late lamented Maharance Bhubaneswari Devi, on hearing this, got offended with those who had advised the Dewan to adopt this most reprehensible course, and ordered her servants to dress up the boy with the usual *Garua* or saffron-coloured robes, and take him on the walk of a mile to the river side with the *Pratima*. She cried with tears, exclaiming, What good to adopt? what have I taken another's child for and made him my own, if he is not to perform the duties of a son and of his station, of the representative of this Hindu Raj? Shall the immersion ceremony of my Goddess be performed in the absence of my son? Had my husband been living now, no one would have dared to counsel this highly irreligious and foolish course. The Raj servants hastened to obey her orders, and the fever-stricken boy Maharajah attended upon the Goddess in her march to the river as usual in the customary garb. The immersion or rather drowning



takes place in the river Jellinghee,—a distance of nearly a mile from the Rajbari, immediately after sunset, when the Raja bathes in the stream, and comes back to his palace in his *Shukha Shun* chair carried by eight bearers. There is another interesting feature in this ceremony. When the remains of the Goddess are at last deposited in the river from a boat, a bird of blue feather is set free in the air. On the following day, the eleventh of the moon, the Pandits of Navadwip, as well as the Brahmans of the Town of Krishnaghur and its Suburbs are sumptuously fed with fried bread and sweetmeats (*looches and shondesh*). This feast is called the *Ichya Bhojan* or Banquet of desire. Perhaps, formerly the Nuddea Rajahs used to feed the Brahmans with eatables according to their likes, and hence this designation.

Then as regards the *pranami* system, it is nowhere in vogue in the mofussil, except in your city of Palaces presided over by your Peer-Ali and *Sbonarbanias*. I saw Maharajah Satish Chunder Roy Bahadur coming to the house of my maternal uncles, the well-known Barendra Chowdhry family of Krishnaghur, on the Eighth Day of the Poojah. The Maharajas do not go to any other Brahman's house, however exalted his position may be, unless he is one of his own relations. When the Maharaja used to come to my uncles' house, the head of the Chowdhry family held one rupee in his hands, and the Maharaja took it up and placed it before the Goddess and bowed down to the ground before her. The people in general abhor the idea of taking money from others on this auspicious occasion, under any pretext whatsoever. Even the poorest worshippers of Mother Doorga in the country will not do it. It is extremely derogatory to do so. The *pranami* system of Calcutta is looked upon with deep contempt by all the inhabitants of the mofussil.

One more anecdote in this connection, and I have done. It was in the year 1880, I went to Oola, (or Birnugger) in my native district of Nuddea, to collect subscriptions on behalf of the late lamented Mr. Robert Knight who was then prosecuted in the London Police court by the Amir-i-Kabir of Hyderabad. I saw the late Babu Annoda Prosad Mookerjee, brother of the well-known Brahman Zemindar, the late Baboo Bamun Das Mookerjee. Baboo Annoda Prosad received me with open arms, and in the course of conversation, told me that during the life-time of his brother, the Pooja used to be celebrated at an annual cost of nearly Rs. 20,000. For four months previous to the Pooja, large quantities of rice, dal, sugar and various other things used to be stored for the purpose. All the inhabitants, Hindus and Mahomedans alike, of the neighbouring villages numbering about 40 or 50, would come to enjoy the Poojah in the Mookerjees' house; and on an average, 10,000 people were daily fed on the Poojah days. In your much vaunted City of Palaces is there any the least approach to such a ceremony in the houses of your millionaires? Let the honest admirers (if such there be) of the big Baboos, Rajas, and Maharajahs answer. Above all, let those who have received favours come in gratitude forward to support the credit of Calcutta and its wealth.

RAM GOPAL SANYAL.

October 15.

## THE DOORGA POOJA HOLIDAYS.

"Reis & Rayyet" Office,

1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street,

Calcutta, October 3, 1890.

To—The Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

SIR,—I have the honor, by request, to forward for submission to His Honor the accompanying Memorial with the annexures to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General from seven thousand British citizens, subjects of Her Majesty living or having business in and around Calcutta, praying for a reconsideration of the recent orders on the subject of the Hindu Holidays, and to request that it may be forwarded to His Excellency the Viceroy with His Honor's generous recommendations or such remarks as may seem called for.

The Memorial, it will be observed, is signed by the representatives of the educated, propertied, mercantile, professional and respectable serving classes in the Town. Most of the high caste Hindu families of the metropolis, such as the Boses of Bagbazar, the Mitters of Nundon Bagan, the Rajas of Sova Bazar, the Dutt of Hatkhola and Nimtolla, the Mitters of Durjeepara, the Mitters of Simla, the Ghoses of Pathooriaghata, the Singhees and Ghoses of Jorasanko, the Dutt of Chorebagan, the Bysacks of Barabazar, the Mullicks of Pataldangah, the Boses of Bowbazar, the Dutt of Wellington Square, the Deys of Entally, the Rajas of Kidderpore, the Mitters of Bhowanipore, the President, the Secretary and the leading members of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the British Indian Association and the Indian Association, all the Merchants and Bankers of Hatkhola, Neemtolla and Darmahatta, many of the Hindu Attorneys and Pleaders of the High Court, the Hindu part generally of the bars

of the Calcutta Police Courts, of the Sealdah and Alipore Courts. Besides, thousands of the classes more immediately concerned have joined in this representation, which is headed by Raja Rajendralala Mitra L.L.D., C.I.E., Maharajah Narendra Krishna Br., K. C. I. E., Raja Rajendra Narain Deb Bahadur, Baboo Jadu Lall Mullick, Kumar Satyabadi Ghosal, Kumar Dabendra Mullick, Baboos Surendra Nath Banerjee, Joygobind Law, Nundo Lall Bose, Bollai Chand Singh, Narendranath Sen, Sishir Kumar Ghose, and N. N. Ghose, Kumars Nil Krishna and Benoy Krishna, Baboo Jogesh Chunder Dutt, and others.

The Memorial is supported by two important annexures in Bengali, one being a copy of the Opinion given to the Baranagar Ratepayers' Association by the eminent Pandit, Mahamahopadhyaya Rákhál Dás Nyáratna, of Bhátpará, and another a copy of the Opinion of the most celebrated Pandits of the Metropolitan Division, Professors of the Sanskrit Colleges of Nuddea and other University (Sanskrit) towns, including such as have been honored with the title of Mahamahopadhyaya. The originals may be supplied when called for.

In view of the approaching Doorga Pooja Festival, it is to be hoped the Government will, in kindness for Her Majesty's numerous Hindu subjects of Bengal, issue the necessary orders in time. It would have been desirable if this representation could have been made earlier. But the last Government order on which it is founded appeared only in the middle of July, and as it was sometime before they became generally known and discussed, it was impossible, in a country like this, to expedite business involving reference to all the great Professors of the Hindu religious lore in the country more rapidly than the Memorialists have completed their representation.

To save time, a copy of the Memorial, without the signatures but with the annexures, is sent to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy and Governor-General for submission to His Excellency.

I have &c.,

(Sd.) SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

"Reis & Rayyet" Office,

1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street,

Calcutta, October 3, 1890.

To—Colonel J. C. Ardagh, C. B.,

Private Secretary to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

SIR,—I have to-day had the honor to forward, by request, through the Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, to His Honor for submission, with his Honor's remarks, a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, from seven thousand Hindu subjects of Her Gracious Majesty the Empress, praying for a reconsideration of the question of Hindu Holidays, with a view to the reversal of the orders last passed and published in the middle of July of this year.

It would have been highly desirable if the memorialists could have approached His Excellency earlier. But the orders of the Government appeared only in the middle of July last, and as it was sometime before they became generally known and discussed, it was impossible, in a country like this, to expedite business involving reference to all the great Professors of the Hindu religious lore in the country more rapidly than the memorialists have completed their representation.

To save time, specially with reference to the hopes of the vast Hindu population of Bengal in regard to the great National Festival of the Doorga Pooja at hand, I have, by similar request of my fellow memorialists, the honor to send herewith a copy of the memorial, without all the signatures but with the documentary annexures, and to request that you will be so good to lay it before His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council. An additional copy of the memorial and of the other documents are enclosed.

When the memorial comes to Simla, it will be seen to be largely signed by representatives of the propertied, the mercantile, the trading, the professional and other intelligent classes, by most of the principal Hindu families in town and suburb, such as the Rajas of Sovabazar, the Boses of Bagbazar, the Mitters of Nundon Bagan, the Dutt of Hatkhola, the Mitters of Simla and of Durjeepara, the Ghoses of Pathuriaghata, the Mullicks, Singhees and Ghoses of Jorasanko, the Dutt of Chorebagan, the Bysacks of Burabazar, the Mullicks and Boses of Pataldanga, the Boses of Bowbazar, the Dutt of Wellington Square, the Deys of Entally, the Rajas of Kidderpore, the Mitters of Bhowanipore, by the Presidents and the leading members of the British Indian Association, of the Indian Association and of the National Chamber of Commerce, by all the Merchants and Bankers of Nimtollah, Hatkhola and Darmahatta, by many of the Hindu Vakils and Attorneys of the High Court, by the Hindu part generally of the Bars of the Calcutta Police Court, the Small Cause Court and the Courts of Sealdah and Alipore, besides thousands of the classes more immediately concerned. The signatories to this representation are headed by Raja Rajendra lala Mitra, L.L.D., C.I.E., Raja Rajendra Narain Deb Bahadur, Maharaja Narendra Krishna, K. C. I. E., Kumar Debendra Mullick,

Babus Jadu Lall Mullick, Narendra Nath Sen, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Sishir Kumar Ghosh, and N. N. Ghosh, Kumar Nil Krishna Bahadur, Babu Nanda Lall Basu, Babu Jogesh Chunder Dutt, and others.

Attention is respectfully solicited to the Bengalee annexures, which, in Hindu opinion, are of the utmost weight and may possibly be considered by Government conclusive on the theological side of the controversy at least, one being a copy of the Opinion given by the eminent Pandit Mahamahopadhyaya Rakhal Das Nyaratna, of Bhatpara, and another a copy of the Opinion obtained by the memorialists of the most celebrated Pandits of the Metropolitan Division, Professors of the Sanskrit Colleges of Nuddea and other University towns, including such as have been honored with the title of Mahamahopadhyaya. The originals may be supplied when called for.

I have &c.,  
(Sd.) SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

Financial Department, No. 585 T.F.

From—H. J. S. Cotton, Esq., Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.  
To—Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee.

Darjeeling, the 8th October, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 3rd October 1890, to the address of the Private Secretary, and to inform you that the memorial received therewith, praying for a reconsideration of the orders recently passed by the Government of India in the matter of the Doorga Poojah holidays in these Provinces, has, this day, been submitted by the Lieutenant-Governor, for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

I have the honour to be  
SIR,  
Your most obedient servant,  
H. J. S. COTTON,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Private Secretary's Office.

Viceregal Lodge, Simla, 7th October 1890.

To—Baboo Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee,

Calcutta.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, giving cover to a memorial from certain Hindu inhabitants of Calcutta and its Suburbs, soliciting a reconsideration of the recent order of the Government curtailing the Hindu Holidays, and to state that the matter will receive the careful consideration of the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council.

I have the honor to be,  
SIR,  
Your most obedient servant,  
J. C. ARDAGH, Col.,  
Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

### THE MEMORIAL.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST HONORABLE  
CHARLES KEITH, PETTY FITZ MAURICE,  
MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE,  
G.C.M.G., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.

Viceroy and Governor-General in Council.

The Humble Memorial of the under-mentioned  
Hindu inhabitants of Calcutta and its Suburbs,

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

That Your Memorialists have been much distressed and alarmed at the recent decision of Your Excellency's Government in the matter of the curtailment of the Hindu Holidays as proposed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, although such a proposal clashes with His Honor's decided opinion on the subject as expressed in his replies to the representations of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce made in 1888 and 1889 and formed in accordance with the well known views of the Government of India entertained in 1880 and 1882, viz., "that the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffer from the existing state of things, great and serious as they are, cannot be remedied without inflicting a still more serious hardship on a far more numerous, though less influential portion of the community."

That the proposed announcement of the holidays, in future, under two notifications, viz., the first issued under Sec. 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, dealing with those Hindu holidays only the observance of which is absolutely required by Government employes, &c. to fulfil their religious duties, and the second, issued as an executive order including the remaining days hitherto observed

as public holidays, but which are considered as days of social observance only, is, in the opinion of your Memorialists, nothing more than the virtual reduction of the number of holidays heretofore allowed under the Act; for an executive order is simply an optional matter and may or may not be passed according to the will and pleasure of the officers authorized to do so for the time being. That such a result is not unlikely is proved by the fact that only last year about this time the late Comptroller-General Mr. Gay, possibly to please the Chamber of Commerce, of his own motion, passed an order that the Currency Office should be kept open during the last Doorga Poojah holidays, although the holidays were advertised under the Act; this order would most surely have been carried out if fortunately the Supreme Government, happening to have a timely intimation, had not interfered in the matter and thereby prevented a gross injustice being done to the helpless Hindu employes in the office: as a further proof of the inadequacy of an executive order it may be urged that the number of days, as casual and privilege leave for each year provided for the non-gazetted employes in Government Offices, is granted or not according to the pleasure of the heads of Offices. Not to speak of the hardship entailed upon the large number of Hindu assistants in all the private offices, having no casual or privilege leave by the non-inclusion of the holidays in the Act.

That the curtailment of the holidays in the way indicated above, appears to your Memorialists, not to have been determined upon, as will be proved hereafter, after a careful and thorough investigation as it should have been, the evidence upon which it is founded not being such, as no reasonable exception could be taken to it.

That His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with all his laudable desire not to hurt the religious susceptibilities of the people placed under his rule and for which he has their best thanks, has been led to initiate a measure that cannot fail to produce the most disastrous consequences, and that, at the instance of an infinitesimal portion of the community, viz., the Christian merchants of this city who are not even unanimous in their opinion on the point, as will be shewn further on, for some inappreciable advantage to themselves.

That for finally settling the question by the inclusion of the Hindu Holidays generally and the Doorga Poojah Holidays in particular in the notification under the Negotiable Instruments Act passed in 1881, with a view to safeguard these holidays against any future attacks upon them, these having become of too frequent occurrence in the past, the Government has been deservedly regarded with feelings of the deepest gratitude by your Memorialists. As soon however as the Government notification was published on the 11th December 1889, in the Gazette, under which the holidays, declared under the Negotiable Instruments Act, would remain the same in 1890, as they had been in previous years, a deputation of the Chamber of Commerce waited upon the Lieutenant-Governor and recommended the splitting of these holidays so highly valued by your Memorialists as stated above, and this time, being armed with the opinion of Pandit Mahesh Chunder Nyaratna, they got His Honor to accede to their request and to make the proposal for splitting the holidays in question which has now been accepted by Your Excellency's Government with the concession of adding the Visarjan day to the three so-called strictly religious days to be published under the Act, on the strength of the recommendation of the Pandit.

That upon general principles it would perhaps be always unjust and impolitic for any Government to make a searching analysis of national holidays into those which are wholly set apart for religious services and devotions, those which are secular, and those which might consist partly of solemn observances and partly of times for festivities and social gatherings, with the view of attaching no importance or a secondary importance to such portions of the holidays as are non-religious and disallowing them to office employes as any occasion may require; much less would it be incumbent upon and within the sphere of a Christian Government to undertake this task in respect of the complicated question of Hindu Holidays when it is a difficult task to discover which acts of a Hindu including even the performance of the daily functions of life, are non-religious. It is also a patent fact that the rites of hospitality and feasts as manifestations of religious fervour and enthusiasm are intimately connected with religion and have become sacred in the eyes of the people. Like the Israelites your Memorialists are not only allowed but enjoined to rejoice before the Lord. In all countries, a very long continued salutary secular custom often overrides, in importance and popularity, a strictly enjoined religious ceremony, and no Government, therefore, without seriously hurting national feelings, can exclude from its holidays the days for the observance of the former, on the ground of its being non-religious.

That assuming that the Government in its wisdom has thought itself justified to make the analysis for the above purpose, on the strength of the opinion of the said Pandit, it would be of the first importance to examine whether this opinion is correct. At the outset, it should be observed that the said Pandit is not a Smartha or one versed in the *Dharma Sastras*, and is therefore not regarded by the orthodox Hindus as an authority in matters relating to religious observances and domestic duties, and though he says he consulted some Pandits of the Calcutta Sanskrit College of which he is the

*Principal*, they could not but support his views, if they supported him at all, for *obvious reasons*.

That the Pandit has appended to his first letter to the Chamber of Commerce, dated the 4th November, 1889, a table of Hindu holidays in Bengal, for the year 1890; and, in the body of it as well as in the column of remarks of the table, has made certain statements most of which are vague and admit of various constructions; and if any particular interpretation of them has led the Bengal Government to divide these holidays into those the observance of which is absolutely required, that is, which are days of religious obligation, and others which are days of social observances *only*, your Excellency's Memorialists venture to say that, according to the experience of the oldest among them and according to the opinions appended of the eminent Pandits they have consulted, a grave mistake has been committed. Such a division, from a strictly Hindu point of view, is utterly impossible. The Pandit in his definition of Hindu holidays may have had this in view, but he has allowed himself for escape by referring to them as *mostly* festivals connected with religion. His classification of days *with* worship and *no* worship, though he says he has not included the latter class in his table, is quite misleading, worship, in the peculiar sense in which a Hindu understands it, never being dissociated from any festival. His drawing of distinctions between festivities and ceremonies, with religious (or *Sastry*) sanction and without it, would tend to introduce an element in the discussion productive of interminable disputed questions. There are certain popular customs believed as very sacred or religiously obligatory in their observance which cannot now be traced to any *Sastry* injunctions, while many of them, with the most solemn sanctions, have either fallen into desuetude, or have been entirely forgotten. Government in its wisdom has always, in practical matters, recognized prevailing Hindu customs as they are, without trying to enquire into their origin, and has respected them when they have been found to be salutary or generally innocuous. The Pandit has also laboured to indicate days of festivity, as commencing with days of worship, or preceding, or following them, or not being adjuncts to them. Such indications tend to convey wrong ideas of the character of Hindu holidays, worship and hospitality being as inseparable from these days as the warp and woof of a texture, perfectly inseparable from each other without destroying the fabric; there is, also, no worship, ceremony, or fast, of which festivity is not a necessary accompaniment. With regard to the minor holidays, the remarks of the Pandit in the said table, are equally wrong and misleading. The worship of *Saraswati*, for instance, is general among the Hindus, and the lowest castes form no exception to the rule, as asserted by the Pandit, even the public women and other outcastes celebrating it with great *éclat*. The *Shivaratri*-fast, likewise, is not confined, as the Pandit asserts, to only a few. A large majority among all classes of Hindus, men and women, young and old, observe it and keep the vigil with great devotion. Respecting the *Dole Jatras*, only two days for worship have been mentioned, but it has other such days also; the Pandit has taken the noisy and saturnalian way of its celebration by the Hindustances of a certain class as the test of its greatest popularity among that class only, but it is well known that, in every Bengali Hindu household, some emblem of *Vishnu* is daily worshipped, and for it, there must be a *Dole Jatras* which is celebrated with more or less outward demonstration according to family customs, on different dates. The Pandit should have remembered that an orthodox Hindu in Bengal is popularly described as one who performs or attends to the *Dole* and *Doorgotsava*, such performances being the *sine qua non* of his orthodoxy. The *Annapoornapoojab*, like most single day Poojahs, has now become very popular with all castes, it being included in *Vratas* to be performed for at least four years successively, but the Pandit says it is like the *Vasanti* observed by a few people. The *Chaitra Sankranti* is not only observed by orthodox Hindus of good caste but by all castes. To call the two *Ratna Jatras* as not important is certainly most unjustifiable, as every Hindu will admit. The *Mabalaya* is not observed by orthodox Hindus of good caste only, as asserted by the Pandit, but by all castes, including the very lowest. It is therefore called the *Moochi-Amavasya* or the day on which even the shoemakers make offerings to the manes of their ancestors. The *Lakshmi-poojab*, performed in hopes of promoting material prosperity, instead of being a moderately popular festival, is a most popular one, it having a distinct connection with all the stages of agricultural work.

That the Pandit's second letter to the Chamber of Commerce of the 14th November, 1889, deals specially with the Doorga Poojah Holidays. Here he mentions that the celebration of the Doorga Poojah, this year, 1890, commences, really, on the 20th and continues to the 22nd October, and on the 23rd there is to be the *Visarjan* ceremony, i.e., the parting ceremony with the *Devi*. He seems to think that the 19th or the *Shasthi Bodhan* and *Amantrana* day is not an important one, first, because the Poojah takes place that day at dusk, secondly, because the ceremony on that day, with respect to non-Brahmans, always, and with respect to Brahmins, generally, is performed by priests or *Poorobits*, and thirdly, because the regular Poojah with festivities commences on the next day. Certain expressions used in this connection together with the

many omissions and partial statements made, cannot but create wrong impressions on the minds of foreigners, regarding the nature of these holidays. The Pandit is clearly wrong when he says the Poojah, in 1890, will really commence on the 19th October. If by "really" he means according to the strict injunctions of the *Sastras*, that day is the 7th October or the 9th day of the waning moon of the season, and not the 19th October. Many very religious or very respectable and well-to-do people actually begin the Poojah in Calcutta and the Mofussil on the said lunation, making the festival of more than a fortnight's duration; others accept the next best day for the commencement of the Poojah, viz., the *Protipad* or the first day of the following waxing moon (14th October, 1890); and others again initiate the Poojah on the *Sasthi* or the 6th day of the same waxing moon (the 19th October, 1890). This *Sasthi* is not only one of the most important days for those who commence the Poojah on that day, but also for those who do so on the two other preceding dates, for, besides being the *Bodhan* day with many people, it is the *Adhivasa* or initial image-worshipping day for all. It is a gross mistake, also, to regard the image-worshipping days (the 20th to the 22nd October, 1890) as the only strictly Poojah days. The Poojah performed before the emblematic *Ghata* and Altar, popularly called the *Bodhan Poojah*, on one or other of the three initiatory dates and continued day after day down to the *Visarjan* day, characterises these days as much strictly Poojah days as the said three days when the Goddess is worshipped. In fact, the *Ghata Poojah* is the Poojah. Nor can any weight whatever be attached to *Poorabit* assistance at the Poojah. It is quite incomprehensible why the Pandit makes a prominent mention of it with reference to the *Bodhan* or Poojah initiation day and the *Visarjan* day only. As a matter of fact, as already observed, not only every part of the Doorga Poojah, from the *Bodhan* to the *Visarjan*, must, with respect to non-Brahmans generally and to many Brahmins not given to religious studies, be performed by family priests, but every other Poojah must be so performed; and if this *Poorabit* assistance and the fact of the *Shasthi-Bodhan* ceremony being performed at dusk had any significance, real or imaginary, in relation to the question at issue, no Hindu householder would, on the ground of religion, regard it a hardship to work at any public office on any of the Poojah days whatever, or at least at certain hours of those days. Surely, the Pandit could never have contemplated that such a conclusion, natural as it is, should be drawn from his writings. The real fact of the matter is, that even when a family priest performs the actual Poojah and other rites for his *Yajamana* or client, the latter has to undergo certain formalities and to perform certain portions of this ceremony, which, for all practical purposes, obliterates all distinctions between performance of Poojahs with and without *Poorabit* assistance, not to mention the ten thousand other matters which must occupy the time of all the people of the household, during the Poojah.

That the Pandit also, premising that among the people the festivities attending the Poojahs are matters of greater interest than the Poojahs (strictly religious worship) themselves, attaches some importance to the *Visarjan* day when there are much outward demonstrations and social re-unions. From this point of view only, the Government of India, finding the Bengal Government to have excluded this day from the number of days to be strictly observed as holidays, directed the addition of it (23rd October, 1890) to the three days in the first notification recommended by the latter. As a matter of fact, however, the real importance of the *Visarjan* day arises, not, as alleged, from its being the day for show and pomp but from its being the concluding day of a most valued ceremony and worship, both in the morning and evening. The Pandit's adoption of a shifting standard for estimating the importance of holidays leads him to grave errors. Judging of the *Kali Poojah* from the above point of view, he attaches an importance to the *Visarjan* day of the Poojah, and not to the actual day of the Poojah, simply because the Goddess is worshipped at night, and goes to the length of recommending, that if one day be allowed as holiday on this occasion, it should be the *Visarjan* day only, forgetting not only that great preparations, necessary for the nocturnal worship, have to be made by the householder, but also, the fast he has to observe, and, above all, the important *Sbrad* ceremony he has to perform during the day, which is of the same character as that performed on the *Mabalaya* day.

That, according to the strict injunctions of the *Sastras*, the Doorga Poojah commences in 1890, as previously stated, on the 9th day of the waning moon (7th October, 1890,) with the *Bodhan Protista*, the recitation of the *Chundi*, *Veda*, *Poornas*, &c., and the giving of presents to Brahmins. This *Bodhan Poojah* continues to the 10th day of the waxing moon (23rd October, 1890) or the *Visarjan* day. From 24th October to the following full-moon or the *Kojagar Poornima* (27th and 28th October, 1890) when the *Lakshmi Poojah* takes place, are days for the observance of variously assigned religious, domestic, and social duties to be discharged as the *sequela* of the Poojah. Thus it will be seen that the real Doorga Poojah holidays should be twenty two days this year, instead of twelve days as now granted.

(To be continued.)



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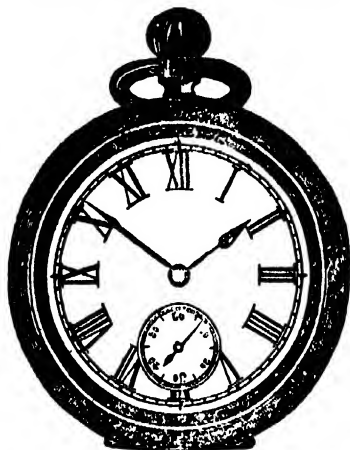
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1890.

No. 447

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE HOOGLY.

BY THE LATE CHARLES JAMES MULLER.

1.

'Tis midnight—the Hooghly sparkles in the beam  
Of the enlustrous moon. With tranquil ease  
The river rolleth on, calm as the dream  
Of early life. So gentle is the breeze,  
There's scarce a ripple on the glassy stream,  
And scarce a murmur in the leafy trees :  
The scene is robed in beauty's peerless light ;  
The azure sky is cloudless, clear, and bright.

2.

And now no sound disturbs the stilly air,  
Save the incessant shrill and tingling cry  
Of things which court the night, and shun the glare  
Of sunny day. The dusky cricket's high  
And piercing chirp, with which he woos his fair ;  
The green grasshopper's changeless note ; the sigh  
Of the inconstant mind, as it doth wake  
The forest leaves, alone the silence break.

3.

The ponderous ships lie wrapt in calm profound ;  
The weary seaman, tired with the day,  
Hath sought his welcome cot, and not a sound  
Now rings upon the deck ; the drunken fray,  
The boisterous laugh, have ceased, and all around  
Is bland and calm ; even the splashing spray,  
That froths against the sleepy vessel's side,  
Is scarcely heard, so gentle is the tide.

4.

The populous city is silent now :  
The din of trade is over for a while ;  
The agitated mind, and feverish brow,  
Are calmed in slumber ; while hope's sunny smile  
Deceives the thrifty trader, whose rich prow,  
Returning, haply from some distant isle,  
Right richly laden, occupies his thought,  
And clothes itself in dreams, which come to naught.

5.

Yon massy battlements ! how stern they frown  
Upon the smiling river and green shore !  
They call to mind the undecayed renown  
Of former days ; when, 'mid the battle's roar,  
The hero, Clive, undaunted stood,—the crown  
Of empire, the stake. The rapt soul doth soar  
To themes of glory, and the brilliant Past  
Flashes across the mind, while Thought stands aghast.

6.

Who can revert to that heroic time,  
When a few fearless adventurers sought  
Fortune and fame in India's sickly clime,  
And with a never-fading courage fought  
'Gainst eastern tyranny and eastern crime,  
And glorious conquest over millions wrought,  
And no amazement feel, at the bold deed,  
Which made a mighty nation sink and bleed ?

7.

It is a tale which, when time shall have flung  
O'er it, the misty cloud of many years,  
Folks will scarce believe ; when bards shall have sung  
The wild romantic deeds, the hopes, the fears,  
Which feature it, and those strange things which sprung  
Into birth, engendering both joy and tears ;  
Men will look upon it as the wild dream  
Of some romancer—not history's theme.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Agricultural Conference at Simla has closed. The last question taken up was the utilization of village records for timely information of agricultural distress.

MANCHESTER is irresistible. The Government of India could not but give way to it. It has been obliged to appoint a Factory Commission, but, as is usual with our Government, it has blundered in the composition. Men with no experience in the subject and men too experienced but quite unknown have been put on it. The Commission commenced its work at Bombay. Several witnesses were examined and many unexpected visits paid to the mills. The Commission is due at Calcutta on Monday next. The date for the report has been fixed for not later than the 13th November.

THE principal steamer companies in India—the P. and O. and British India—have made a permanent contribution to the Lady Dufferin Fund, in the shape of 25 and 20 per cent. reduced rates of travelling for ladies to and from India in connection with the Fund.

THE Nepal Rajguru, Loke Raj Pundit, is dead.

THE Forest Officers of the rank of 3rd grade Conservator and under, serving in Burma, have been permitted to draw a local allowance of Rs. 100 a month.

DR. Hawthorne who, as a public teacher, has been before the public in several capacities, was recently sentenced to a fine of Rs. 500 for disregard of the press law, in connection with his last venture, the *Beacon* at Mussoorie, but failing to pay the same has been sent to prison and the press attached. What a pity so accomplished a scholar has not one friend in Anglo India to help him with this sum !

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

THIS is the recipe for hiccough of Dr. M. Anna, Physician to the Rama Varma Dispensary, Madras, which is said to have been tried with success in thirty cases. "Close both ears with the ends of the index-fingers with a moderate pressure. At the same time, drink a small quantity of some liquid, no matter what, in repeated portions, the liquid being held to your mouth by a second person in a cup or glass. The hiccough will then instantly stop."

FOR special convenience of the mercantile community, an experiment for six weeks was tried under orders of Lord Dufferin, to run a special train from Calcutta to catch the Bombay mail the next day the mail left Calcutta. It did not pay however, and the convenience was withdrawn. Another concession is now under consideration—that of running a special train from Bombay to Calcutta, on every occasion the overland mail misses the ordinary train.

A VISITOR to St. Nectaire, Puy-De-Dome, in South France, writes:—

"I have just been the witness of a curious scene at a fair not far from here. A woman was kneeling on the ground near a stall, uncoiled, with her hair falling down her back. Then a man with a great pair of scissors took the waving tresses in his hand and sheared them off close to the head, leaving only a lock at each temple. The deed was done in a few seconds, and the effect was simply horrible. It seemed to me that an abominable assault had been committed; but the woman who had lost her hair was evidently not of the same mind, for she rose from the ground gaily, covered her bare scalp with her cap, and after a feigned struggle, received a kiss from the shearer, who declared, with an ugly grin, that the embrace was needed to make the hair grow again. No money was paid, but the woman who was sheared was allowed to choose 12 yds. of some cheap dress material from the stall. Another young woman was only offered 6 yds. of stuff for her hair, which she had carefully combed out before the bystanders, but she refused to part with it for less than 7 yds. and the dealer being equally obstinate she at length tied it up with a string, put on her cap, and trudged away towards her mountain home. This practice of hair dealing in districts where life is too hard for the married woman to preserve an ornament that nature has given her, when it can be exchanged for something useful, explains the ease with which the society lady obtains her borrowed plumes. But what a difference between the price originally paid to the grower and that paid by the eventual wearer!"

Horrid! This is a double-barrelled barbarity, which the refinement of the times ought not to tolerate for a day. Yet it is far less objectionable to tempt a girl to deformity than to massacre birds for their plumes to bolster up attractions which are usually better left without such burdens.

THE Hon'ble Syed Ameer Hossein has at last washed his hands off the lawyerly Jain defamation case. He closed the case with the close of the prosecution and would not allow the defence to examine witnesses. There was an application to the High Court against the refusal of the Magistrate. Mr. Palit argued that, under the present Criminal Procedure Code, a Magistrate is bound to complete the enquiry into cases triable by a higher Court, that is, to take "all such evidence as may be produced in support of the prosecution or in behalf of the accused" (Sec. 208), to enable him, under the next section 209, to find whether the accused is to be sent up for trial, or tried by himself, or discharged. It is only when these requirements of the law have been followed, when all the evidence has been taken, that the Magistrate is competent, under Sec. 210, to frame the charge. True, Sec. 347 directs that if it appears to the Magistrate at any stage of the proceedings that the case is one which ought to be tried by the High Court, he shall stop further proceedings, and commit the case. But the Magistrate did not act under that section. The Vacation Judges were not, however, prepared to continue the scandal of a protracted waste of money and public time, and held that the magistrate had rightly held that Sec. 208 is controlled by Sec. 347 and there was no reason to suppose that he had not exercised his discretion properly. The case stands committed to the Sessions to be held after the vacation.

A FRENCH merchant named Flippo drew a bill for £778. It was accepted by Meyer & Co. Ltd., merchants in London, who, intending to destroy its negotiability, struck out the words "or order" in the body of the bill and over their acceptance introduced the words "In favour of G. Flippo only." Flippo endorsed the bill to Decroise, Verly & Co., bankers at Lille, in France. Messrs. Decroise sued Messrs. Meyer on the bill. The defendants contended that the bill was not negotiable and, if not, the acceptance was void. The Divisional Court allowed the defence and decided against the plaintiffs. The matter was taken up to the Court of Appeal, where the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice

Lindley and Lord Justice Bowen held differently and reversed the order of the lower court, saying that, under the Bills of Exchange Act, the bill was payable to order, notwithstanding the fact that the words "or order" had been struck out, and that the negotiability of the instrument was not limited by the words "In favour of G. Flippo only."

That, however, is not the law in India. It allows the right to restrict the negotiation of a bill. Thus, the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, lays down "The indorsement of a negotiable instrument followed by delivery transfers to the indorsee the property therein with the right of further negotiation; but the indorsement may, by express words, restrict or exclude such right, or may merely constitute the indorsee an agent to indorse the instrument, or to receive its contents for the indorser, or for some other specified person."

THE *Overland Mail* notices some extraordinary statements in "The Statistical Abstract relating to British India," lately presented to both Houses of Parliament. This document appears under the *imprimatur* of, under the India Office, one of its clerks glorying in the famous name of Horace Walpole and in the designation of an Assistant Under-Secretary. The personal appellation is a striking misnomer. This Horace Walpole, whatever may be his other literary pretensions, clearly does not share the prince of delightful tell tales' historical and topographical conscience, any more than his passion for details. A Swedish Chancellor once noticed the paucity of wisdom required for ruling the world. We have here at least evidence of how little knowledge India is governed from England with. This India House return enlightens Parliament with, among other information of equal interest, the news that Chittagong is a division in the Punjab, comprising the districts of Peshawur, Hazara, and Kohat. According, however, (adds the *Overland Mail*) to the maps and gazetteers, Peshawur is on the north-west frontier, Chittagong on the north-east, the interval between the Pathans of the Peshawur border and the Lushais of the Chittagong hills being very considerable. Nor is this all. We quote again: "From the same table we learn that Hissar is a division and Sirsa a district under the administration of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. As a matter of fact, both the division of Hissar and the district of Sirsa were abolished some years ago, as may be seen from the tables published in the Punjab Administration Report. If the baboos in the Lahore Secretariat can make the necessary alterations in their tabular returns, surely the well-paid officials at Whitehall could take the same trouble, even if it be admitted that it is too much to expect them to be acquainted with the geography of India."

THE latest aerial project is to do the North Pole in a balloon of lined silk, 99 feet in diameter and 500,000 cubic feet in volume. This craze is fathered on M. Besançon, Director of the High School of Aerial Navigation, France, and M. Gustava Hermite, nephew of the President of the Academie des Sciences.

The journey is to begin at Spitzbergen and is expected, the wind favouring, to last four or five days. The balloon is to be specially varnished and filled with pure hydrogen, the car being suited for Arctic travel. All that is easy enough, specially to Frenchmen than whom there are no better hands at polishing and varnishing. Neither is the hydrogen nor the calculation a great matter to them, both chemistry and mathematics being almost French sciences. But then these Laputan savants have reckoned without their host. The wind is the chief factor in the business, and the whole rests on the Cautious pretension to command the atmospheric waves. The Columbus of the air will doubtless wait at Spitzbergen and not launch on the vast sea above for that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns, till the wind is favourable—that is blows due South. But granting such wind, and that it carries the intrepid navigator to his destination, what guarantee is there that when he has "done" the Pole, the wind will, like a good boy, blow due North and bring him back home? Half a dozen other grave difficulties might be suggested, but they have doubtless been provided against, as far as practicable, by the Director of the French School of Aerial Navigation. For the rest, he may elect to face them or take his chance. The mission is avowedly one of grave difficulty and peril. But the wind!—the wind! there's the rub! Here the chances of a favourable issue are infinitesimal. The end is one almost of dead certainty. When the wind blows to the North Pole the presumption is that it will continue so to blow for some time—certainly days—before it blow to the South Pole.

Speaking from ordinary meteorological experience, there has not been so determined a candidate for certain martyrdom than this duet of Monsieurs since

he who, to be deemed  
A god, leaped boldly into Ætna flames.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

AFTER this appearance, there will be no issue of *Reis & Rayyet* for a fortnight. Our next—No. 448—will be dated the 15th November 1890.

WE find that the Bengal Agricultural Department has made successful experiments in regard to a kind of fodder-grass, called *Sorghum*, which is not only cheap but highly nutritive to milch cows. The produce was sold at 2 annas 6 pies per maund to a Calcutta dairy, the manager of which, Mr. G. C. Bose, a Cirencester scholar, reports very favorably on it. The yield of milk of a number of cows increased from 20 to 25 seers by the substitution of this grass for straw, while the cost of fodder was at the same time reduced. The cultivation itself is also profitable, a net profit of Rs. 12-13-3 per bigha having been realised in an experimental farm. This must be cheering news to families now pressed by the high cost of maintaining cattle.

The appeals in the Warburton prosecution against the *Tribune* for defamation have not been filed yet. There need not be any haste in the matter. The best possible advice ought to be obtained before going up to a higher tribunal. Considering the state of official and European feeling in the Punjab, the maximum of impression might be required to secure the minimum of concession. The case of the proprietor is particularly hard. The judgment of Mr. Kennedy invites discussions which may well be set at rest by the highest Court in the land. The Magistrate finds that the Sirdar "did entrust the management to the editor; that he has not interfered with the management; and that the prosecution has failed to show that Sirdar Dyal Singh knew or intended or had reason to believe that the defamatory matter would be published in his paper." He is therefore found not guilty of publishing the libels. The Magistrate, however, finds him guilty of selling or abetting the sale of publications containing the libels. He argues that as proprietor of the press, "Sirdar Dyal Singh had full authority over the *Tribune* office, and the persons employed there..... It is attempted to be shewn that he had delegated the authority to the editor by agreement. The evidence as to the alleged agreement is very weak but it is not necessary that I should go into the evidence, for even if the agreement existed, it would not be held to extend to the sale of defamatory matter, for such an agreement would be void (Sec. 24 Act 9 of 1872 and illustration)." This is a strange refinement of judicature. In the same strain the judgment proceeds. The Magistrate finds the Sirdar guilty of illegal omission, and finds fault with him for not, after the manner of the *Times*,—when "by the rascality of a printer in 1881, a report of a speech by Sir William Harcourt appeared containing a most obscene word which he had never used"—suppressing the issues and explaining or apologising to the person injured. We can answer with our life for it that such an idea of a newspaper proprietor's duty never entered into the head of any human being out of the Punjab Commission. In awarding punishment, Mr. Kennedy is guided by the position and means of the accused. He says:—

"I take into account that no imputations of a personal nature were formulated against Mr. Warburton until Mr. Buchanan's letter was received: that the Editor has given up the name of the writer of the letter, and that he has submitted an apology for and I believe sincerely regrets the charges of a personal nature. Both of the accused are men of position, upon whom a sentence of imprisonment would tell severely, and, looking at all the circumstances of the case, I do not think a sentence of imprisonment is called for. The fine imposed must, however, be deterrent and in proportion to the means of the accused. Sitala Kant Chatterjee is sentenced to a fine of Rs. 1,000; and Sirdar Dyal Singh to a fine of Rs. 2,500. Each accused in default of payment will suffer six months' simple imprisonment."

The judgment thus fixes the guilt of publication on the editor:—

"It is shown, in evidence, that the final proofs of the *Tribune* are passed by him, and that he gives the order to print. The word "publish" appears to be used in the Indian Penal Code in the somewhat restricted sense of causing to be made public, and does not include, as it apparently does in English law, the sale of matter containing defamatory statements which in India is punishable under a different Section; but, even in this restricted sense, I think the Editor, in pass-

ing the final proofs and giving the order to print, must be held to have caused to be made public the defamatory statements. On the facts, then, I find that Sitala Kant Chatterjee did commit the offence of defamation punishable under Section 500, I. P. C., with which he is charged."

The law, as the magistrate points out, makes a distinction between publication and sale, both being offences under the Penal Code though under different sections. But the word "publish" is not made to include abetment of publication, and unless there was anything to shew that the editor published the defamatory articles, he could not be punished for defamation. He might have given the order for printing of the articles, but unless he published them, the Code does not make him guilty.

Mr. Kennedy defines the word "caste" used in the definition of "defamation" as "social position." Few men we fancy will agree with him.

Two respectable Kayastha Baboos were charged before Baboo Kally Nath Mitter, Honorary Presidency Magistrate, with having kicked and struck with a shoe a servant girl in a Brahman's household. They pleaded not guilty, but the charge being proved, the accused were fined Rs. 5 each. A clearly inadequate punishment. Indeed, the magistrate took a very lenient view of the matter, if he remarked only, as reported, that "even if the complainant was any way to blame, they had no right to take the law into their own hands." That is speaking like a mere lawyer. We wish our magistrates to show that they are men also. Above all, we expect this of our honorary magistrates. The unpaid magistracy functions in the constitution somewhat like the Jury. They may be deficient in law or procedure, but they are expected to represent the best feeling of the nation. This is a function of the highest importance. Thus the bench becomes the bulwark of society—the conservator of the virtues of the community. Baboo Mitter has failed in this case. Taking the law into one's hand is not so very bad an offence as raising the hand against poor weak woman. We wish the magistrate had told the accused how all men of spirit must hold the cowardice of two men attacking a woman. The shoe is a good weapon, we grant, but it is only a savage that uses it against a woman.

WE are grieved to record the death of Rai Bahadar Bipin Behary Dutt, Government Pleader at Midnapore. Never having cared for his health, he had not had the best of it, and recently he took seriously ill. The local doctors failing, he was removed to this city. Here, for the first time, under the examination of the leading physicians, the serious nature of the case was revealed. But the discovery of pleurisy was made too late. The exhausted patient had left not sufficient stamina to struggle with the formidable disease and the heroic treatment of European Medicine. The removal from Midnapore at this uncomfortable, not to say nasty, season was probably not without its depressing effect. He survived it only a single day. The showers of Monday se'nnight "finished" him. At Beadon Street, on the 13th instant, he died in the arms of his bereaved parent. The deceased was the son of Baboo Govind Chunder Dutt, a Kayastha of the well-known old village of Boichi, on the E. I. Railway, in Hooghly. He was the architect of his own fortune. Of fortune indeed he has left little, we suspect. For, inheriting nothing beyond his Kayastha intelligence, he also inherited the Kayastha open hand, spending as he earned. We observed him in his youth of obscurity when he was prosecuting his legal studies under the protection of the once opulent Singhs of Bhastara, at whose residence in our neighbourhood in Calcutta he lived. Obtaining his law degree, he removed to Midnapore to practise. We never saw him again, but we did not lose sight of him, hearing frequently of him from his friends and our friends, and conceiving a good opinion of him. He impressed us from the beginning with his cleverness and spirit, and even frankness, though his early connection with a Zemindari house was not favourable to the last quality. And so soon as he had money he was liberal to a fault. These qualities at once brought him forward in spite of his distaste for fuss. Made Government Pleader in his District, he became still more favorably known to the officials, and soon after was made a Rai Bahadar. Successful in his profession, he lived not for himself alone. He remembered his kith and kin and friends, and his country. We offer our condolences to the sorrowing family and specially to the aged father. The old man is really to be pitied, left to maintain without sufficient means the dignity perhaps prematurely thrust upon his son.



THERE is mourning in the theatrical circles in Paris. French Comedy has sustained a great loss in the death of Madame Jeanne Samary-Lagarde, who expired in September last of typhoid fever caught at Trouville.

Niece of Madeline and Augustine Brohan, she entered, in 1874, when only 14 years old, the Conservatoire, in the class of Bressant. Three years after, she carried off the first prize in comedy, by playing a part which her aunt Augustine Brohan had created in *Oscar* on the *Mari qui trompe sa femme*. This gave her introduction to the Comedie-Française, where she made her first appearance in *Petite Pluie* in the rôle of a provincial waiting woman. This was a distinguished success, and she maintained this speciality to the last. She was far and away the most superb waiting woman in the comic stage. She soon made her entry in the Moliere-House where, four years after, she was unanimously made a partner. During the six years that she played the different characters assigned her in the Classic Repertoire, she is said to have made several important creations in *l'Etincelle*, *le Monde où l'on s'ennuie*, *Daniel Rochat*, *la Femme de Socrate*, *Le Roi s'amuse*, &c.

"I believe," says M. Jules Lemaitre, "that I have never witnessed such shedding of tears as at the interment of Madame Jeanne Samary, and never were tears more justly shed. The death of this charming young woman and the circumstances of that death, made all hearts sad. A youth so budding forth, a heart so right and good, a talent so brilliant and pure, a glory so rising, all blasted by one of those strokes so cruel and brutal, which make us feel the profound misery of the condition of man."

Yes, so right and good—so pure! For Jeanne Samary was no actress of the old evil type. Never, we are told, were such brilliant histrionic talents harmonized so beautifully with the virtues of a private life. A devoted wife and an affectionate mother, her death left a husband almost frantic with grief and the little daughters—whom she adored—inconsolable for her loss.

NATIVE States and Principalities are no doubt improving under the supervision of the Supreme Government. But the improvements are not always for the best, at any rate not good for the national government. They are usually blind imitations. It is, therefore, satisfactory to find that in Hyderabad, the native ministers are not always hoodwinked followers of our Government. In 1282 Hijri, the wise Sir Salar Jung I., having in view the condition of the Nizam's Dominions, ruled that the houses of judgment-debtors should, as far as possible, be spared in executing a decree. This order was not fully carried out, and property of every description, including dwelling houses, was attached and sold. It was, therefore, in Hijri 1295, directed that, as it was necessary to protect the dwelling houses in the Nizam's Dominions, sanction of Government should be taken before attaching them. This order was communicated to the High Court in the form that "in future no dwelling house belonging to a judgment-debtor (except such as had been previously hypothecated under some agreement) should be attached in execution of a decree without the sanction of the Government." In two years, the High Court complained of this order as being harsh on the decree-holders and detrimental to the interests of trade and the judicial revenue, and recommended the entire cancellation thereof. A Commission, composed of some of the principal Secretaries of Government and Maharajas and other respectable persons of the dominion, was thereupon appointed to consider all the orders on the subject. They reported, and the Minister has now issued the following rules:—

1. If, previous to the introduction of these rules, the dwelling house of a debtor is mortgaged on account of a debt, for the satisfaction of which application is made for the sale of the house, the Court which executed the decree shall have the same power with respect to the sale of the house as it has with regard to any other immoveable property. But mortgages effected after the passing of these rules shall not debar their working.

2. On application being made for the attachment of the dwelling house of a judgment-debtor, the Court thus applied to shall, after issuing an injunction, attach the house in the usual manner, and there will be no necessity for the sanction of the Government.

3. Except in the case of houses mortgaged previous to the introduction of these rules (as mentioned in Rule 1), the dwelling houses of judgment-debtors shall not be attached or sold in execution of decrees, except in the following cases:—

(a) When the judgment-debtor, while the decree is in process of execution, consents in writing to the attachment of his dwelling house.

(b) When there is *prima facie* evidence that the judgment-debtor has been found guilty of dishonesty, fraud or high-handedness in the matter for which a decree has been obtained, or while the suit was pending, or during the execution of the decree.

(c) When the Court has reason to believe that a debtor, in order to prevent the execution of a decree, has concealed his moveable property, or has removed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court, or has in any way interposed difficulties in the execution of the decree.

(d) When the refusal of the Court to attach the property is likely to impose greater hardship on the decree-holder than on the judgment-debtor.

(e) When the dwelling house of a judgment-debtor is more than sufficient for his necessities and a part of it can apparently be sold without depreciation of the property. If, however, a portion of a house cannot be sold without loss to the judgment-debtor, notwithstanding that the accommodation is more than sufficient for his requirements, then the entire house shall be sold, a sum sufficient to buy a cheaper dwelling house, suitable to his requirements, being given to the judgment-debtor from the proceeds, provided that he does not already own a suitable house in the same town. This sum, which should in no case exceed half the price realized by the sale, shall be fixed at the time the warrant for executing the decree is issued. The sum thus reserved to the judgment-debtor shall not be liable to attachment by any decree or order, except on a claim of inheritance.

(f) When the Court has any special reason, or sees urgent necessity, for the attachment of the house.

4. The dwelling house of a judgment-debtor shall not be sold in execution of a decree or order for the recovery of money until

(a) The Subedar, if the house is situated in the Districts, has granted a warrant of execution.

NOTE 1.—The Subedar shall have this power in all cases referred to in exceptions (a) to (e) to para 3; but in the cases mentioned in (f) he shall submit his opinion to the Government through the Judicial Branch of the Home Department.

NOTE 2.—In the Western Division, where there are separate Civil Courts, warrants for the execution of decrees shall be submitted by the Court to the Subedar through the Sadar Adalat.

(b) The sanction of the Government is obtained if the house is situated in the City or the Suburbs, or until the Government has confirmed the decree forwarded from the District Courts under exception (f) para 3.

(c) Judgment has been delivered in any appeal which may have been preferred against the decree, or the expiration of the time within which an appeal can be preferred. The Court granting the decree shall not apply for such sanction unless the above conditions have been fulfilled.

5. Every department through which such applications are submitted for sanction, may reject the same, recording the reasons for doing so, and informing the Court that passed the decree accordingly.

6. If, in the execution of a decree which could have been satisfied only by sale of the house, the sale of such house or of part thereof is avoided, then the person and other property of the judgment-debtors should be held liable for the satisfaction of this decree, notwithstanding that such person or property was not intended to be affected by the decree.

7. The possession of a dwelling house by a judgment-debtor shall not be held to nullify his non-liability to imprisonment on the ground of poverty.

8. The power which a Court has of temporarily attaching the profits of any property in order to prevent its being sold shall also extend to those cases in which a dwelling house may be sold under these rules.

9. From the date on which the attachment of a house is finally decided upon the judgment-debtor shall be allowed two months' time to vacate the house; but the grace thus allowed shall not debar him from receiving the sum to which he may be entitled under Rule 3 exception (e).

10. The concessions herein made to judgment-debtors shall hold good in those cases even in which the Government is decree-holder."

The subject is worthy of consideration by other native states as well as by our own Government. In a poor country like India, it is absolutely necessary that the houses of both the reis and the rayyet should be protected, not only against foreign aggression or internal depredation, but the people must know and feel that they have a home! That itself will lend an additional stability to the rule of Empress Victoria. We once more commend the subject to the attention of Government and the Law Member as also to our public bodies.

*Holloway's Pills.*—Liver, Lungs, and Kidneys.—Most diseases of these depurative organs arise from obstructions, over the removal of which these celebrated Pills exercise the most perfect control. A course of them is strongly recommended as a remedy for such chronic affections as liver enlargements, congestion of the lungs, torpidity of the kidneys, and other functional disorders which cause much present suffering, and if neglected lay the foundation of organic diseases. Holloway's Pills are specially adapted for the young and delicate; their gentle and purifying action ranks them above all other medicines. In indigestion, nervous affections, gout, and rheumatism these Pills have achieved for themselves universal fame. They expel all impurities from the blood, and thus restore cheerfulness and vigour.

## REIS & RAYYET.

*Saturday, October 25, 1890.*

### THE VALUE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM INQUIRIES.

ALL honor to Mr. Westmacott for his excise reforms, and to Sir Steuart Bayley's Government too, for its selection of a loyal officer. It was a happy idea to relieve the Revenue Board of direct administration of the excise department and to place it under a practically independent officer as Commissioner of Excise. Indeed, were it not for this measure, no reform worth the name would have been possible. The fact must now be patent to everybody that the Board have so far managed, somehow or other, to leave the Excise Commission's recommendations a dead letter. Nay, they went further, and acted in entire violation of them. The gist of that Commission's finding was that the outstill system must give place to the central distillery in all tracts, except the most sparsely inhabited ones for which alone it was recommended under strict limitations as to the capacity of the stills, the number of shops, the minimum price of the liquor, and other details. This was the chief conclusion to which the Commission came after lengthened enquiries into the subject. And will it be believed that, before the ink of their report was dry, the proscribed outstill system began to invade even the urban districts round the metropolis? And yet it is the bare fact. Such is the fate of Commissions. Not lightly do we rail, with a persistence which is already nauseating to ourselves, against the reality and usefulness of these costly and elaborate agencies of enquiry. Our experience of a good many years has not enhanced our confidence in them. As make-believes they are excellent. For silencing public agitation for the time being—as a device for not doing a thing or indefinitely putting off the doing, they are perfect. As for real business, they are simply not meant for it, and it should be no wonder they leave things pretty much as they were. Against the foregone views or settled policy of the ultimate arbiters of our destinies, they are wholly powerless. They indeed do some literary good, we freely admit. Their reports are most valuable addition to our especial and general knowledge of the particular subjects, but, beyond this, in a great majority of cases at any rate, they are not good for much else.

We have been led too far in our condemnation to stop without some illustrations. To make our meaning clear, we shall cite a few. So many crowd upon our view that the difficulty is where to begin. Let us at haphazard give the place of honor to Lord Dufferin's Finance Commission. Upon no subject had the public voice been, for a long series of years, more unanimous and persistent than in a demand for the reduction of the Government expenditure. The cry for economy had gone forth from organs of public opinion as from one voice, but in vain. It was scouted as an impertinence, and even as an interference with vested interests. The cause of administrative economy thus had little chance of acceptance with the authorities, until the authorities themselves, for their own reasons, were forced to look into it. The enormous expenses of the frontier defences and other military preparations had to be provided for at all costs, and after all possible fiscal resources had been exhausted, the Government of Lord Dufferin found that there was nothing left but to retrench the prevailing scale of expenditure. A Finance Commis-

sion was accordingly appointed and invested with full powers of enquiring into all departments of the State expenditure, not excluding that which is incurred at Home. In justice to a ruler who was cruelly misunderstood, we must say that the motives were highly honourable. The Finance Commission was Lord Dufferin's pet; he set great store by it—expected the grandest results from it. His utterances and proceedings in that connection left no doubt of his earnestness or his solicitude to secure a substantial relief to the country's burdens. And what was the result? All his ado went almost for nothing. The moment the Committee set about their work, they were told by the Secretary of State that the Home Charges must remain beyond the purview of their enquiries. This was a sufficiently serious restriction to make the Commission next to useless. Everybody knew that it was the Home Charges that admitted of the largest reduction, and if they must remain untouched, the Commission might as well be abandoned. But even with this limitation, the Commissioners sat down to work only to find themselves thwarted and opposed at every step. The very nature of their duties required constant references and correspondence with Heads of Departments, for, unless furnished with information by these, they could do nothing. And it not unoften happened that their letters asking for information received little or no attention. The greatest difficulties were in dealing with the Military Offices and Departments. Nothing daunted, however, they went on, and at last brought their work to an end. But the real end of the business was yet as far off as ever. From the completion of their report, there was a strong official combination to resist the economies recommended by them, and what now had to be done was to submit their recommendations over again for the consideration and approval of the offices and departments affected by them. The result of a further series of enquiries in the hands of interested persons can easily be imagined, and it is not surprising that the real effects upon our finances of this Commission's labours are out of all proportion to the high hopes which were raised in the public mind by its appointment.

Nor does the Public Service Commission offer a less disappointing spectacle. We have already shown how, between one Secretary of State and another, the fundamental basis of this Commission has been ingeniously shifted. The Government of India strenuously insisted upon further Parliamentary legislation as the chief object of the Commission, or to have no Commission at all. After prolonged correspondence extending over two Viceroyalties, Lord Kimberley was brought to accept this condition. The Commission was accordingly constituted by Lord Dufferin, and when everything was ready, Lord Cross said there was no necessity for recourse to legislation, all that was needed being provided by executive order. Now, this is a procedure certainly not calculated to promote confidence in the intentions of our ruling authorities or the utility of these pretentious Commissions of Enquiry. They do some good no doubt, but far too little for the hopes they raise or the waste of money and energy they entail.

We might multiply examples, but it is hardly necessary. We shall close our remarks with one more illustration. The Education Commission appointed by Lord Ripon has submitted voluminous reports long ago. These reports have, in the usual way, been again reported upon by Local Governments and Administrations, and the recommendations of the

Commission have been generally accepted. But can anybody say that we are at all the better in regard to the education of our children for all the turmoil of all this tedious process? One of the most original and certainly most important recommendations of this Commission, was a scheme, namely, of the bifurcation of studies after a certain stage of progress in secondary education, propounded with the object of providing two parallel courses of education, one literary and the other practical. The adoption of this idea was recommended on the ground of its supplying a modern side to the too exclusively literary character of our educational system, and thus removing the reproach of doing nothing for technical education. This was a good idea, but the question is, What progress has been made in giving effect to it?

#### THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OUTSTILL.

MR. Westmacott has justified his appointment. He has succeeded. Unfortunately, the success is of a kind which is measured by a diminution of revenue. Aye, there's the rub! there's the respect why Governments and officials have so long fought shy of the reform—and fight shy still! At any rate, indications are not wanting to show that they are far from reconciled to the new policy forced upon them by a Parliamentary Resolution. Indeed, it is not difficult to see that were it not for the persistent crusade led by Mr. Caine and his Parliamentary friends against the outstill system, it would have held its ground to this day.

There has been a marked and steady loss of revenue and, what is more important, a decrease in the consumption of outstill liquor. Upon the 1st April 1889, outstills were abolished throughout the whole of the district of the 24-Pergunnahs as well as in Howrah and the Serampore sub-division of Hooghly. The revenue from country spirits throughout the whole of the metropolitan tract affected, including Calcutta, fell, in round members, from 14 to 13 lacs, and the consumption from 275,842 to 228,928 gallons. The progress of the reform in the following year was more satisfactory. Outstills have been abolished in 1890 throughout the whole of the Burdwan, Presidency, Dacca and Orissa Divisions. This has been mainly due to Mr. Westmacott's loyalty to the new policy, and the Lieutenant-Governor freely acknowledges his services in this respect. There has naturally been a more marked falling-off in revenue and consumption than in the year 1889. Another important measure which has been adopted in the outstill tract, with a view to reduce consumption, was to raise the price of outstill liquor in order to equalise the duty on it with that of distillery liquor. This has resulted in a serious decrease of revenue in the Patna Division. It is unfortunate that both the reforms were introduced in a year of scarcity, so that it is not possible to ascertain clearly how much of the effects of the reforms is due to the changes in excise policy and how much to the prevailing high prices.

The decrease in revenue is greatly exercising the Board, and the question as to the extent to which the reforms should be given effect to is still far from decided. The following extract from the last Government Resolution will show this:—

"Both the Board and Mr. Westmacott are of opinion that in certain parts of Western Bengal where these reforms have been introduced, the facilities for obtaining a cheap illicit supply of liquor are so great that it would have been advisable to retain outstills at least for the present, and in the same connection the Board record the significant observation that they 'trust that the measures already adopted for re-introducing the central distillery system may be regarded as an experiment which requires watching before it is extended'. Upon this question the Lieutenant-Governor can say little more than emphati-

cally repeat what he has already declared on more than one occasion, that 'it must be distinctly understood by the Excise Commissioner, and by all officers concerned with the administration of excise in Bengal that the policy which has received the approval of the Secretary of State and of Government is that the outstill system should be replaced by a central distillery system wherever circumstances render it expedient; and speaking generally the only circumstances which render the change inexpedient are sparse population, difficulties of supervision, proximity to alien territory, and a liquor which will bear neither transportation nor keeping.' This enunciation of policy has been approved by the Secretary of State. On the other hand, it has been declared under equal authority that it is not intended that outstills should be suppressed in localities where experience shows that distilleries cannot be advantageously introduced. It is on these lines that the action of Government has been based."

The attitude of Sir Stuart Bayley towards the change is, however, fully reassuring. He says:—

"The number of outstills is being reduced wherever they appear to be more numerous than is necessary to satisfy the local demand for liquor; and as the fees are being gradually raised so as to force the retail price up to the price fixed by the distillery rate of duty for each district, the abkars in many cases refuse to accept settlement. The changes involve an increase in the retail price of liquor which is stubbornly resisted. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, Mr. Westmacott deserves credit for the firm attitude he has maintained in adhering to the high fees fixed for outstills, and he entirely approves of the action of the Board in supporting this policy. The experiment must be allowed a full and fair trial; it was always anticipated that it would entail an immediate loss of revenue, and the deliberate intention throughout has been to force the abkars to increase their retail prices and so reduce consumption. If this result is attained, a temporary loss of revenue is comparatively a small matter, and unless the demand for liquor has been artificially stimulated by an undue cheapening of outstill liquor (as compared with the price maintained by distillery spirit), it is certain that the normal demand will re-assert itself and the revenues will recover. Sir Stuart Bayley has no doubt that the policy is a sound one. It must be introduced gradually and with discretion, and there should, in his opinion, be no going back from it, though the effects of bad seasons render its influence on the revenue more conspicuous than it would otherwise have been."

The reform may now be said on the whole to be safe, although the revenue authorities may not like it and may give it the most grudging support. The Board are of course nothing but human in their opposition. As responsible for the revenue, they are naturally jealous of reforms which have a disastrous effect upon the finances, but they have resisted these reforms already long enough, and they might well take a leaf out of the example of other Provincial Boards who appear to make comparatively far too little from the excise.

#### THE VILLAINOUS SALTPETRE!

It seems that, when the object is to persecute an individual who has incurred the displeasure of the authorities, the Great Circumlocution Office can throw aside its proverbial procrastination and strike with the celerity of the thunderbolt. The facts of the following case will abundantly illustrate the truth of this observation. A gentleman owning a saltpetre refinery in the neighbourhood of Calcutta was suddenly called away to his village home some miles away by the intelligence of a serious illness in his family. To comply with the rules of the Salt Department, he made over the charge of the refinery to two persons whose names are mentioned in his license as his authorised agents. There was not much work at the time to do, nor was any accession of work expected during the proprietor's absence. So far, therefore, as the proprietor himself was concerned, he did everything in his power to see that the regulations of the Department were not infringed. In human affairs, however, the proposing authority is not always the disposing one. Accordingly, after the proprietor had gone away, one of the agents he had left behind him was also called away from Calcutta by similar sudden news of illness to his country home. He left the refinery in charge of his colleague, promising to return as soon as possible. The proprietor in his absence knew nothing of all this. Meanwhile, a letter dated the 11th August 1890, was addressed to the proprietor, by the Assistant Commissioner of

Salt Revenue, at Allahabad, warning him that he ran the risk of a prosecution and the suspension of his license if he permitted his refinery to work in the absence of an authorised agent. It is suspected that as the name of the agent that actually was in charge of the refinery after one had gone away did not occur in the Persian version of the license, it was assumed by the Persian establishment at Calcutta that work was going on in the refinery in the entire absence of an agent. The Assistant Commissioner at Allahabad in addressing the above letter, must have acted upon wrong information supplied to him by the Persian Salt establishment at Calcutta. This letter, however, did not reach the proprietor. The Assistant Commissioner despatched it to the officers at Calcutta with instructions to deliver it to the addressee. Search was made for the latter. The agent in charge of the refinery asked for it in order that he might transmit it to his master. He was not recognised as an agent, and the letter was not made over to him—but continued to be in the hands of the Salt establishment at Calcutta. In this state, a second letter was addressed from Dinapore to the proprietor, this time not by the Assistant Commissioner but by a subordinate officer, *viz.*, the Superintendent of Salt Revenue, Patna-Calcutta circle, desiring the addressee, in the choice language of the Department, "to take early step (*sic*) to have a measuring basket made as early as possible." This second communication, dated the 16th August, also did not reach the proprietor, nor was it made over to his agent in the refinery. Three days after, on the 19th of August, a third communication was addressed to the poor man by the same officer, *viz.*, the Superintendent, requesting the early transmission of the usual extract from the refinery register for the month of July as it had been overdue. Like its two predecessors, this letter also did not reach the addressee, nor was it made over to his authorised agent in the refinery. A little more than a week after this, an order was made by the Superintendent, on the 29th of August, suspending the license of the refinery, which had cost a fee of Rs. 50 and under which the refinery could be worked for one whole year, the effect of the suspension being that the refiner must take out a fresh license upon the payment of a fresh fee if he intends to continue work. After the order of suspension had been made, all the communications from the 11th of August to the 19th were included in one packet, and the order of suspension in another, and the two covers were despatched by post to the unfortunate refiner at his country address, which, it should be observed, had been all along known to the Salt Establishment at Calcutta. Thunderstruck, the poor man came to Calcutta and made a representation to the Superintendent, which, we are told, has not yet been acknowledged. Failing to move that officer, he addressed the Assistant Commissioner, with the same result. He has now appealed to the Commissioner at Agra. Is comment necessary on these proceedings?

Meanwhile, the suspended license has been ordered by the Assistant Commissioner to be delivered to the Department without delay. In compliance with that order, the unfortunate proprietor offers to return the document. His offer, however, is not accepted. The Department has plainly given him to understand that unless and until the saltpetre refuse in his bonded godown, which was of course sealed immediately after the issue of the order suspending the license, he excised or destroyed at his cost, the sur-

render of the license would not be accepted. The intention in all this is to make the punishment of suspension last for as long a period as the subordinate officials can decently prolong it. We may, by way of parenthesis, remark that the demand of duty upon saltpetre refuse is certainly extraordinary. The Act would not justify it. The article is incapable of consumption, although, of course, it is capable of conversion into salt. Its only use, as far as we are aware, is for curing skins and making *Kulpi baraf* and ice-cream. Of course, dishonest men may clandestinely convert it into edible salt. But that would scarcely justify the administration in laying an embargo on the article and injuring honest trade. The policy is scarcely wise of interfering with honest trade for preventing possible dishonesty. Nothing but barrenness of invention could accept it for its simplicity. Then, again, the demand for the destruction of the article at the cost of the owners, without pointing out to them a place where they may bury it, is scarcely fair. In Calcutta and the Suburbs, land cannot be had for a song—sometimes not for love or money. Whither are the owners of the article to convey it for making it useless? The law should impose commands to which obedience might be possible.

THE *Tribune* appeals have been filed.

WE rejoice to announce that Sir Charles Elliott succeeds Sir S. Bayley. Sir Charles Crosthwaite from Burma becomes Member of the Supreme Government in charge of the P. W. D.

#### CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDIA.

SIR,—The progress of thought and the progress of enlightenment are so habitually coupled with each other, not only in Indian minds but in the minds of English statesmen and English thinkers, that both tendencies seem, in this country at least, to be equally inevitable and equally irresistible. It is inevitable, because European ideas have long been shaping our society into a mould, which itself is looked upon, however gratuitously, as a tangible sign of reform. It is inevitable, because the influences that environ us, such as the spread of education and the expansion of intellect, are perpetually gaining strength; and because the influences opposed to it are ever losing their hold upon the general level of Indian reason and conscience. But there are some extreme liberal principles that cannot be applied to our society in any of the various senses of which that most flexible term society is capable. To analyse those senses would be worse than useless; for, none has yet acquired a fixity. The question of child-marriage in our society, involves the deepest and most active concern for the greatest happiness of the greatest number, but an evolution of social conditions, either gradual or violent, is not to be brought about by a manifesto drawn up by Englishmen and endorsed by a "large and influential committee," as the *Times* of the 20th ultimo has it. Such an influence is scarcely likely to produce a "change" in our marriage law. While the Government has pledged not to interfere with the "religious beliefs" or the "domestic usages" of the people, it would be infinitely preposterous, if it imposes laws and makes changes, "which Hindu public opinion would condemn, or at which the Hindu conscience would take offence." A change is not improvement, nor is improvement a change. It indicates the weakness of tyranny and the tyranny of weakness. The advanced Hindu mind cannot approve a change which the public conscience utterly disapproves. From *Hurry-Maitism* or other exceptional cases of moral outrage, an inference of Indian moral degeneracy and decay has been drawn permeating and filtering down the English public. The remedy, as it has been observed, lies in raising the age of consent. The opinion is almost universal that the age of consent should be raised, although in formulating limitations, there is a difference of opinion. The question of State interference comes next, and although there is a conflict of opinions on this point, the first seems to be so completely merged in the second, that in advancing arguments in such a delicate and at the same time important question, our boldest apostles of



reform lean to the side of legislation as the best and the safest means of checking the evils that virtually arise from child-marriage. With all their efforts in confronting results however pernicious, it is apparent that they hit upon the wrong thing to say. They are like the particular class of capitalists who, as owners of land, want to rob fundholders of all kinds by a strategy which is more dexterous than honest. It is all very fair to remove a bad custom because it is bad, but it is foolish in this case to appeal to the unsailable majesty of the Legislature, without considering that we have it in our own hands to crown the good work. Every intelligent, reasonable being should not live with his wife until she attains the age of puberty. This depends upon the growth of the girl, and varies generally between 10 and 12. If the marriageable age be raised by an expression of popular opinion represented by chosen men in the different districts and sub-districts, I hope it will have quite the effect of raising the age of consent, provided each member of society looks upon the decision as a moral sanction. Those who go the other way and identify our social interests with those of our rulers, not only disorganise society but lay the axe at its root. England admits special instances as applicable to every existing population of India. These instances are regarded as facts, and facts are generalised into a law. We should not allow this, because the generalisation suggests a cause which we deny and shuts out another which we assert. Never mind causes, until we have clearly ascertained a larger number of facts, and when these facts are clearly ascertained, let us record them fearlessly in terms as wide as the truth demands. In the present instance, we cannot recognise isolated facts in all their breadth and sweep, when we have to consult the interests of 130 millions. In the last annual Parliamentary Blue-book on the "Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India," the incarceration of 3,000 women were not taken much into account among a large population of 130 millions. But *Maitism* more than makes up for the crime list. Pessimism is not a remedy for the evils of humanity. This is regarded with aversion by both the intellect and conscience of any educated and civilized community. The same may be said of Ignorance when it manifests itself in glaring colours and asserts its authority over Reason. In the child-marriage question, the English public is enlightened by the reports of Mr. Malabari, whom it calls the fittest medium for the disclosure of such facts as are not known to the Englishmen. It is a pity that, while our rulers are ignorant of the import of our *Sastras* upon which our marriage laws depend, they want to introduce a change in such laws. The *Times* says:—"A distinctly sacramental character was given to the marriage rite, the happiness of the married couple being no part of the plan." What an unwarrantable assumption! The promulgators of our *Sastras* had a far greater insight into the nature of man, his position and prospects in life, than the biggest European metaphysician from Thales to Comte, and later on, to the physiologico-psychologists of England. Their idea of happiness was deeper than the utilitarian theory of Bentham or Mill. Their ethical culture was greater than that of a Shaftsbury, a Hutchinson, or a Professor Sedgwick. They have grounded our marriage rites upon such a firm and well-established basis that happiness—I mean real happiness—of the married couple must be the undeniable result. It is only by our own weakness that we are losing ground. We want to kick off the injunctions of our *Sastras*, because, under the light of the West, we fancy that the whole is a dream. Poor souls! The future of India, I dare not predict, but I say with undoubting confidence, that we have worse days in store for us, if Government in any way interfere with our "religious beliefs" or our "domestic usages." The reconciliation between the East and the West is a condition dependent upon the harmonious relation between the governors and the governed; and if we are still to realize the chronic antagonism and the bitterness of feeling caused by new innovations due to the plasticity of the Indian brain, the future is a blank to stare at!

JUGGODISHUR MOOKERJI.

#### THE DOORGA POOJA HOLIDAYS MEMORIAL.

[Concluded from p. 502.]

That the *Devipaksha* or the Doorga fortnight commences on the day after the *Mabälajä* (14th October, 1890) and terminates on the day after the *Lakshmi Pooja* day (28th October 1890). All these days are

held equally sacred, with this difference only, that some of them are considered more, and others less, holy according to the number and nature of the religious ceremonies enjoined to be performed on those days. The first four days of the fortnight after the *Mabälajä*, therefore, were not made close holidays which commenced on the *Panchumi* or fifth day of the waxing moon as being the preparatory day of the Doorga Pooja. Besides the common sense view of the absolute necessity of the suspension of public business being initiated from this day for the purpose of making ready the thousand and one things required for the Pooja ceremonies on the following day, the religious aspect of it may be somewhat conceived by the Christian public when it is viewed with reference to the day previous to the Sabbath being regarded according to Mark XV. 42, as the preparation day. It is from this consideration that public Offices are generally closed earlier on Saturdays. The *Sasthi* or the 6th day of the waxing moon, as before observed, is as sacred a Pooja day as the three following worship days. Its importance as an inaugural ceremony day and as the last day for completing the final decorations of the image before a particular hour, for putting up the house in order, for making arrangements for the reception of guests, for attending to the initiation ceremony which needs must be done by the householder personally, and for various other reasons, have already been referred to. Then follow the worship and *Visarjan* days the four days proposed to be notified under the Act. The four days which intervene between the *Visarjan* and the *Lakshmi Pooja* days of the *Kojägara Poornimä*, besides being the concluding days of the *Devipaksha* above described, when the pious Hindus perform many religious functions, constitute the only period when the religious salutations, visitings, embracings of relatives, connections and friends are to be made under a strict injunction, when welcomes and farewells with their concomitant social observances and amenities take place, when really all the members of the genteel classes of both sexes, orthodox and heterodox poojah-makers and non-poojah-makers really enjoy the pleasures of the grand autumnal festival, the previous period having been one of stiff formality and rule-bound etiquette.

That the absolute necessity of closing on these days, *i.e.*, from the 18th to the 28th October inclusive, this year, neither from a purely religious nor from a social point of view, can be gainsaid; and this necessity if so great in respect of the permanent residents in Calcutta, its magnitude, in respect of people having their family homes at various distances from Calcutta, cannot be over-estimated. To this consideration should be added those advantages attaching to an unbroken period of long vacation which in these days of easy travel are availed of in view of renovating health and otherwise enjoying life after a hard year's work. It is for the benefit of the non-permanent residents of Calcutta who visit their homes in different parts of Bengal and who form the largest proportion of the employes in the Private and Public Offices in Calcutta, that one day (the 29th October 1890) has been added to enable them to rejoin their posts, thus making up the number of 12 days hitherto allowed as the Doorga Pooja holidays. It appears then that, in spite of the Pandit's showing, not a single day, out of the 12 days, can be curtailed without most seriously hurting the religious feelings of the people and putting them to great discomfort and inconvenience. It may not be irrelevant here to mention that, though there are numerous Hindu households in which the Doorga Pooja is celebrated either in the form of an image with the inseparable *Ghata* or in the form of a *Ghata only*, there are many such, in which it is not celebrated at all, but the members thereof visit their relatives, connections, neighbours, friends or patrons, on the occasion, as invited guests, they all regarding the Pooja, in many respects, religious and social, as their own, not to mention the many particular duties arising from the Pooja occasion which they are obliged to perform during this almost universal Hindu festival. It is almost impossible to convey to a foreigner an exact idea of the religious fervour and hilarious spirit awakened on this occasion among all classes of Hindus of both sexes and of all ages, who crowd the temples and altars at all hours to witness the image and particular ceremonies—different degrees of merit being attached to seeing, bowing to, worshipping and touching (where touching is allowed) the goddess. Nor can a non-Hindu realize the anxious and tremulous care with which a pious Hindu has to store up for this august *Yajna*—the *Aśwamedha* of the *Kaliyuga*—various sorts of things with well-defined characteristics so that no deviation therefrom or from the *modus operandi* of a ritual, —nay, not the utterance of the syllable of a *mantra* with a wrong accent—may occur to bring evil to the family. Thus with respect to many, what long days are spent in seeing to a proper collection of the necessary articles—what anxious solicitude are they subject to, for the purpose of getting every thing done in the true orthodox style! It is perhaps not generally known that this religious vigilance is an index of an unostentatious spirit of silent loyalty to the reigning sovereign, for sayeth the *Sastra*—"Any deviation from this great *Yajna* is fraught with danger to the state—yea, its utter destruction."

That it is alleged that the effect of notifying all the Doorga Pooja holidays under the Act is to interfere most seriously with, commerce and trade, shipping and monetary business. This allega-

tion has not yet been made out. There is not, as every impartial inquirer will be convinced, anything like serious interference with business, or any general hardship at all, even to the European mercantile community. The embarrassments of particular firms, of those who speculate out of all proportion to their capital, are in the long run scarcely to be remedied by the reduction of Hindu holidays and keeping Public Offices open. But admitting this evil such as it is, the new departure merely helps a small community at the sacrifice of the best interests of a larger one and, to quote the words of Sir Rivers Thompson, involves a departure from the principle on which the policy of Government is based; it may, however, very well be avoided in the following way, viz.—The Holidays being advertised before the beginning of the year the merchants may so shape their bills and pro-notes, when executing them, that the due dates may not fall during any of the 12 days of the Poojah Holidays, it being a question of a little pre-arrangement and fore-thought, which should be resorted to in order to avoid unnecessary friction with the children of the soil, more specially when the bulk of the native merchants are agreeable to this arrangement. But assuming this interference to be unavoidable, it could not have been urged in support of the Government action, without the previous conviction that these holidays are divisible as suggested by the Pandit, but as his suggestion is untenable, there is nothing to justify the action. The correspondence, published in the Gazette, moreover discloses different opinions as to the effect of the interference. The bodies in whose interest the Government takes action are not unanimous, there being a split in the Chamber of Commerce itself, and its reference to the result of the canvassing at its anniversary meeting is a technicality, and not a genuine expression of its opinion as a whole body including the members representing the Exchange Banks. The split reduces the voice of the Chamber to that of 36 Christian members of the Calcutta mercantile community. The National Chamber of Commerce, as representing native trade and commerce and monetary transactions, is opposed to the measure. The Shipping Master, as representing the shipping interest, has no fear of this interest being injured by the usual holidays. The Registrar of Calcutta gives the most cogent reasons against the change. The British Indian Association and the Indian Association, the Hindu press, all entitled to speak authoritatively on the subject, are strongly opposed to any alteration in the sound policy of the Government in respect of the holidays which, as before stated, commanded from the Hindus sentiments of the deepest gratitude. If, then, it is only a few of the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and a few European tradesmen of Calcutta, who even now enjoy the advantage of active cash sales during the holidays, and only one Bank, which had formerly enjoyed the privilege of notifying holidays, but whose unsettled ways, in this respect, obliged the Government to take away the privilege, who suggest the measure, your Memorialists can not understand why His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor should see things in a different light from that in which he had negatived the application of the Chamber in view of the undesirability of curtailing the national Hindu holidays for the sake of affording any insignificant relief to a few individual alien merchants.

That if in 1882, even after the passing of the Negotiable Instruments Act, the Government thought it inadvisable to re-open the question of Hindu Holidays, your Memorialists beg to submit that nothing new has occurred since, except the erroneous opinion of the Pandit, to justify the new policy inaugurated by the Government.

That it is scarcely fair to argue in favor of the new policy that, because during the holidays the restrictions upon business are not observed by "natives" themselves and that certain classes of shop-keepers and vendors in the different Bazars ply a brisk trade, therefore the hardship to Hindus in being obliged to attend public offices during the period, would not be great. A careful examination of the matter will show, 1st, that these shop-keepers and vendors are not all Hindus, 2ndly, that there are thousands who cannot afford to stop their daily earnings without starving, 3rdly, that particular trades and industries start up and become brisk, not only on account of the holidays as in all countries in the world, but that they deal in articles without which it would be impossible to carry out the formalities of the Poojah. Then there must be shops always open to cater for the ordinary necessities of life as well as for the extra demand of this time of worship, hospitality and liberality. Then again it is a general belief among the Hindus, that sales effected on the Poojah days bring in good luck, and Christian merchants not unoften share in this belief, finally in these days also presents of a particular character are made by shop-keepers and Bazar people to the Goddess which are brought by them with great care from distant places, not to mention the votive offerings which accumulate from various localities. The briskness of trade which but for the holidays is not worth the name at this season of the year, from this point of view, instead of being an argument in favor, should be used against the present measure. To withhold a holiday upon such a ground in any country would be like refusing it because a great fare is its necessary accompaniment and bakers' shops supply in large quantities the pabulum of life. It may also

be observed in this connection that in every community there are people very pious and strict observers of religious rules shading down into different grades till the unbelieving, scoffing, Mammon-worshipping, glee-making and Bacchanalian classes are reached, all of whom avail themselves of public holidays, religious or other, and will it do for any Government to withhold granting religious holidays in view of the practices of these classes of the community? Is the principle upon which the Sabbath or any other, Christian festival is a holiday in Christian lands, to be impeached because there are so few genuine church-going people—so few who duly perform religious services and so many who desecrate the same in a thousand ways? The keeping out of view the impolicy of curtailing the long established Hindu Holidays is patent; nevertheless the Government, allured by a vague and impossible distinction of any portion of them being strictly religious or otherwise, has, under the notion, gone the length of dividing them upon the suggestion of a non-Smarta Pandit. In behalf of this new policy it is shown first, that inasmuch as the Mahomedan Holidays are granted, in the same way as the non-religious portion of the Hindu holidays are now to be treated, that is, by publication by a second notification, without hitherto giving rise to any inconvenience to the members of the Moslem community, and as a similar practice obtains in other Presidencies, the present change of policy will not operate prejudicially to the interests of the Hindu community in Bengal; secondly, that for the purpose of granting relief to members of the mercantile community certain offices are to be kept open during the holidays not under the Act and that the Heads of such offices will make certain office arrangements by which the fewest number of Hindu employes will be kept at work for the shortest period of time possible. The first argument is met by the fact that the Doorga Poojah festival is of a particular character in Bengal, its peculiarities are numerous as regards the very formation and material of the image, the mode of celebrating the festival, the duration of the same and thousand other things. A measure in respect of these holidays which has suited Madras and Bombay cannot be expected to suit Bengal. And this non-suitability will be seen the more, the more this part of the subject is studied and examined. With reference to the Mahomedans, the granting of holidays not under the Act cannot for these reasons cause any inconvenience, because the nature of their religious observances is quite different from that of the Hindus, and the number of Mahomedan office employes is considerably smaller. The second argument seems in your memorialists' humble judgment to be wrong in principle. No single member of the Hindu community can, because he is an Office servant, be deprived of the privilege of enjoying a holiday granted to the whole Hindu community under a beneficent policy based upon the British Sovereign's solemn pledge—a holiday moreover which has been shown to be sacred in every one of its true aspects. And then again as an individual exception such person would feel the deprivation most keenly when he finds that he suffers it not for a public purpose—not for any extraordinary exigency of the State, to meet which he would be ever ready for any sacrifice, serving as he does a virtuous Sovereign, devotion to whom is as much his duty as to make a Poojah—but simply to help a few, a very few foreign merchants who may be somewhat inconvenienced or who may think they can make a little money during at most four, not consecutive, days' time, to which the contention is now narrowed down. This argument must therefore prove fallacious.

That both the above arguments may be viewed in another most important point of view. The British Government, regarding the Mahomedan community far behind the Hindus in point of education, is naturally inclined to indulge it in various ways. So in the matter of holidays, such is the commendable anxiety of Government not to give cause to the masses of ignorant Moslems to interpret the motives of Government as tending to interfere with their religion, that in respect to Mahomedan holidays not under the Act there is little chance of these being curtailed in future, according to the requirements of any member of the Christian mercantile community or to any change of views of the Executive Government. A glance at some points in the history of the Mahomedan holidays will make this clear. Formerly, on Mahomedan holidays the Civil Courts only used to be closed, but there being then a few Mahomedan employes in Government Offices who used to obtain leave under Office orders, no general Government proclamation was needed. Since the increase of Mahomedan appointments in Government Offices, Government has only very recently thought fit to advertise Mahomedan holidays under an executive order. But if your memorialists are not very much mistaken, such is the spirit of indulgence, that the object is safeguarded, against the possibility of any misunderstanding being made, by the instruction that all Mahomedans are to have these holidays. And as a matter of fact, no Mahomedan is compelled to work on these holidays against his will. Again, the number of offices which are to remain closed on occasions of Mahomedan festivals are on the increase in reverse ratio with those which are to be closed on Hindu holidays. In Offices which do not come under exceptions in respect of Hindu holidays not under the Act, Mahomedan employes will

now have the privilege of enjoying vacations under both Mahomedan and Hindu holiday rules. For many long years therefore the Mahomedan community should have no fear of their holidays being curtailed. In the case of the Hindus, however, their total number of holidays is being periodically curtailed. The number of *Doorga* and *Laksmi* Poojah holidays heretofore safeguarded by notification under the Act has now been cut down from 12 to 6 days, and even the *Punchumi* and *Sashti* days so absolutely required for religious purposes have been thrown out of the operation of the Act. The remaining six days including two Sundays, of the hitherto allowed holidays of co-ordinate importance with the above six days, have not only come under an executive order whereby their future reduction is contemplated, but already certain offices have been exempted from this order, and even the Secretariat Offices not required to be kept open for mercantile purposes, have been excepted. The executive arrangement in such Offices by which the least number of Hindu employes for the shortest number of hours are expected to be at work by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (though the arrangement is wrong in principle) will, it is feared, be impracticable and, even if in the initiatory year or for the matter of that during the present régime, the rule be adhered to, it cannot but be relaxed as years roll on, or under future administrations, and more Offices will come under the exceptions and more clerks for more hours will be required to work in proportion to the development of the all enveloping British commerce and the peremptory demands of the merchant princes; till the advertisement of these six days will cease to encumber the future pages of the Gazette. And who knows that the notification under the Act will not also cease to be issued in some not distant future year? The appointment of non-Hindu clerks is also talked of in certain Offices, and certainly a more promising method of discouraging the cry for the Poojahs could not be devised. Be that as it may, the fact of the matter is that the all powerful Bank of Bengal and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce accept the concession, made by the Government by curtailment of the long established Hindu holidays, as an instalment only for the time being of the reduction of the holidays, necessary to release trade of the so called restriction under which it now labours. This attitude of the Bank and the Chamber is a positive indication that they are dissatisfied with the present concession and will be more extortionate in their demands in future. The worthy Secretary Mr. Cotton admits in his letter to the Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies, "that the attitude of the Chamber becomes a stronger one every year and that in the *Doorga* Poojah holidays only the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed at present to consent to any reduction under the Act. The other public holidays might remain unchanged for the present."

That under the recent orders in the offices not excepted under the executive order, Hindus may be said to have the privilege of enjoying a vacation, both on account of Hindu and Mahomedan festivals. But they do not consider this new favor as a compensation for the consequences of the new policy by which some of their co-religionists would suffer and they themselves in time would come under the exceptions.

That as regards the origin of the *Doorga* Poojah, it may be traced to Raja Ram Chandra, the hero of the great epic *Ramayana*, the beau-ideal of what a sovereign should be, who celebrated it as an autumnal festival in its present form. It has since been observed not only in all India but in certain Buddhist dominions and in not a few islands in the Indian Ocean. Its celebration by every Hindu is not only strictly enjoined in the *Shastras* as a meritorious deed, but the omission of it is declared to be a positive sin. It has its esoteric and exoteric aspect. Its institutions have so entwined themselves with the innermost fibres of Hindu society from long ages that all Indian households, whatever may be the intellectual condition of their members, are astir with the enthusiasm on the occasion of the Poojah. Its importance has attracted the notice of Western scholars who have laboured to trace its analogies in certain festivals of distant lands in distant times—in Assyria and ancient Egypt, in Greece and Rome, and even in pre-Moslem Arabia. Although from historic and other causes the worship of the Goddess, like other old institutions, has been swamped, or more or less abandoned in many other parts of India, it may still be recognised under the name of the *Dussehra* Festival so universal throughout India. But of the magnitude of its importance and the enthusiastic manner of its celebration in Bengal, no adequate conception can be conveyed to a European. After repeated and prolonged discussion of the subject, the Government fixed the minimum number of days for which, in due regard to the protection of Hindu religion it should grant holidays on this occasion. These days, therefore, cannot by any possibility be curtailed to any extent without prejudice to the due performance of the religious duties of the whole Hindu population.

This memorial is summed up as follows :—

1st.—The minimum number of *Doorga* Poojah Holidays now allowed (12 days) cannot be divided as days of "religious obligation," and days of "social observances only." The distinction

is a *non sequitur* because founded upon wrong issues of a still more wrong opinion of a wrongly held authority on the subject.

2nd.—Advertising the 12 days as *Doorga* Poojah Holiday under the Act does not interfere seriously with trade generally, some few Christian tradesmen of Calcutta being only partially affected; nor with the shipping business, because its representative does not complain of it; nor with monetary business generally, because the exchange banks do not require it to be altered.

3rd.—The fact of Mahomedan Holidays advertised under executive order only not having caused any inconveniences to the Mahomedans and the recognition of the principle based upon the above distinction holding good in other presidencies, do not, as has been shown above, affect the question, the cases not being parallel.

4th. The briskness of certain kind of business in Indian quarters during the Poojah cannot be cited as a ground for curtailing any portion of the Holidays because such business is transacted by Hindus as well, and because of the great fair which is its necessary accompaniment.

5th. The arrangement in certain offices for the few Hindu employes to work during the Poojah is unjust, as it would operate as a restriction upon the performance of their religious duties, such arrangements moreover being demanded not for a public purpose but for securing some monetary advantage to some private Christian gentlemen who happen to be merchants and tradesmen.

6th. The *Sashti* day is as indispensable a Poojah day as the three following days and the *Visarjan* day and that the *Panchumi*, preceding the *Sashti*, as an absolutely necessary and important day, it being a preparatory day for the Poojah with all classes of Poojah makers, and that the four days between the *Visarjan* and the *Laksmi* Poojah as the terminal days of the *Devipaksha* are days for the discharge of many religious duties, religio-social formalities and other important works, and lastly that the day added to the last day of the *Laksmi* Poojah is necessary to enable people from the Mofussil to rejoin office.

7th. That with reference to the accompanying circular it is apparent that even in the initiatory year, nay even immediately after the publication of Your Excellency's order, the Currency Office has been ordered to be kept open as usual, the hours of business as contemplated by your Excellency in Council are not to be contracted and your memorialists further understand that far from 3 or 4 clerks being required to work in all the excepted offices taken together during the holidays, advertised under the executive order, in the Currency Office alone not less than 25 Hindus have already been ordered to attend office during these holidays. And that at the Government Account Branch at the Bank as well as in private offices no consideration is likely to be shown to the Hindu Assistants as the Government was given to understand. Thus the fear expressed by Your Excellency's memorialists that the arrangements made by office masters for working with the least number of Hindus and by contracting hours of business are impracticable, is about to be realized even in the first year of the promulgation of the order.

8th. That in the Currency Office, in the Office of the Registrar of Assurances and in the Government Account Branch at the Bank and in most of the other exempted Offices, as will appear by an enquiry being made, little or no work is done by the Christian merchants, directly. These places are the more favourite resorts of the Indian trades people and the public generally, and when those who are mostly affected by the closure of those Offices for twelve days together, do not want it, Your Excellency's memorialists consider it a very great hardship that their co-religionists in public service who are debarred from speaking for themselves, should be compelled to forego their religious observances for the sake of merely upholding the *zid* of a few alien merchants who deal mostly in cheques instead of currency notes, &c., and, as has been shown, only a microscopic number of them have any thing to do with the Office of the Registrar of Assurances and the Government Account Branch at the Bank, &c.

9th. That the so called inconvenience to trade and commerce on account of 12 days of the holidays in succession, complained of by the Chamber, can better be remedied by the trading community themselves generally, with a little forethought and prearrangement by so shaping their bills and promissory notes as the due dates thereof might not fall within the 12 days.

Your Excellency's memorialists humbly pray that, out of Your Excellency's usual catholic spirit and unbounded generosity and magnanimity, Your Excellency will condescend to give this Memorial a careful perusal and, attaching a due weight to the reasons set forth therein in Your Excellency's deliberations on the recent order about the curtailment of the Hindu Holidays, and regarding it in a political, religious, social and humanitarian point of view, to order that it may be reconsidered and reversed, so that a widespread discontent and alarm among the whole Hindu population of Her Majesty's Indian dominions, consequent upon a direct interference with their religion, in spite of Her Majesty's repeated emphatic pledge to the contrary, may be prevented; and thus love and attachment to the British throne firmly secured by ordering the 12 days' Holidays hitherto granted on account of the *Doorga* and *Laksmi* Poojahs to be continued as usual.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.



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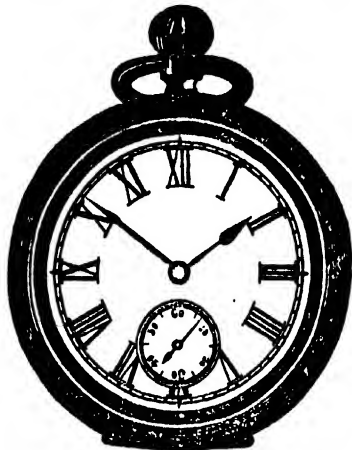
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1890.

} No. 448

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### REGRET.

If I had known, O loyal heart  
When, hand to hand, we said farewell,  
How for all time our paths would part,  
What shadow o'er our friendship fell,  
I should have clasped your hand so closed  
In the warm pressure of my own,  
That memory still would keep its grasp—  
If I had known.

If I had known, when far and wide,  
We loitered through the summer land,  
What Presence wandered by our side,  
And o'er you stretched its awful hand,  
I should have hushed my careless speech,  
To listen, dear, to every tone  
That from your lips fell low and sweet—  
If I had known.

If I had known when your kind eyes  
Met mine in parting, true and sad—  
Eyes gravely tender, gently wise,  
And earnest, rather, more than glad—  
How soon the lids would lie above  
As cold and white as sculptured stone,  
I should have treasured every glance—  
If I had known.

If I had known how, from the strife  
Of fears, hopes, passions, here below,  
Unto a purer, higher life  
That you were called, oh, friend, to go,  
I should have stayed my foolish tears  
And hushed each idle sigh and moan  
To bid you last, a long godspeed—  
If I had known.

If I had known to what strange place,  
What mystic, distant, silent shore,  
You calmly turned your steadfast face,  
What time your footsteps left my door  
I should have forged a golden link  
To bind the hearts so constant grown  
And kept it constant ever there—  
If I had known.

If I had known that, until Death  
Shall with his finger touch my brow,  
And still the quickening of the breath  
That stirs with life's full meaning now,  
So long my feet must tread the way  
Of our accustomed paths alone,  
I should have prized your presence more—  
If I had known.

If I had known how soon for you  
Drew near the ending of the fight,  
And on your vision, fair and new,  
Eternal peace dawned into sight,  
I should have begged, as love's last gift,  
That you, before God's great white throne  
Would pray for your poor friend on earth—  
If I had known.

CHRISTIAN REID.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Bengal Government returned to Calcutta on Tuesday the 11th. There was a goodly number of welcomers—official, semi-official and unofficial—at the Railway station. Sir Steuart was joined by Lady Bayley the next day, with Miss Bayley whom they give away to Mr. W. B. Gladstone. The wedding comes off early next month. The sooner the merrier. We wish them godspeed and happiness.

Sir John Edgar has returned from Europe and joined his post.

THERE are to be several changes in the heads of local administrations. Sir Steuart Bayley makes over charge to Sir Charles Elliott on the 16th December, leaving Calcutta the same day to catch the Bombay mail of the 20th. Lord Connemara has obtained permission of Her Majesty to resign the Governorship of Madras. He departs probably in March next. We suspect his presence is required there at the call of his spouse—dear no more. Sir Charles Crosthwaite from Burma replaces Sir Charles Elliott as Public Works Minister. Mr. A. Mackenzie goes to Burma, and Mr. A. P. Macdonnell, the Home Secretary, becomes Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

IN the Governor-General's Legislative Council, Syed Ameer Hossein and Raja Durga Churn Law have sat out their terms and are to be succeeded by Nawab Asanoolla, of Dacca, and Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter. The appointment is no particular honor, perhaps, to a retired Judge who has acted as Chief Justice of our High Court. The Nawab, doubtless, will appreciate the fun of being an Honourable man for the nonce. We hope his recent travels have restored Sir Romesh's health sufficiently to bear real earnest work. The country expects much from his ripe experience. He belongs to no party and is respected by all. His selection is sure to give universal satisfaction. We wish we could say half as much for the other selection. The officials who know their man will not be disappointed, though. An excellent host has been secured, if not any addition to legislative wisdom. Of speeches, good set speeches, there need be no want, if great men care for such yarn, any more than of sermons in England. What we are afraid of is that the extent of contributions to debate or advice may be in inverse ratio to those to public subscriptions.

THE several Secretariats of the India Government have begun pouring in into the capital. The last to come back is the Foreign Office, which stays out at Simla the meandering down tour of the Viceroy—to draw one more month's Simla allowances than the other departments.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

THE last Simla Season was significantly unhealthy. It commenced with influenza and pneumonia and closed with smallpox. Both the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne are sick of the place already. Her Excellency went away to England, while His Excellency suffered long and much. It was at one time rumoured that he meditated an immediate retirement, to escape the Simla climate. That ought to settle the "Exodus" question, during the present Vice-royalty at any rate.

MR. Herbert Gladstone has declined with thanks the chair of the Indian Congress for the current year. No Chairman has yet been fixed upon. Why should not Father Hume allow himself to be elected? Surely, he should at least have the chance given him of refusing the iron crown of his own forging. The Congress will be held this year in this city. The idea of holding it at the Town Hall has been given up. Kumar Debendra Mullick has placed his Tivoli Gardens free of charge at the service of the national gathering. This is the sixth year of the Congress, and it is time to dissolve it or place it on a permanent footing. Towards the latter end, Mr. M. B. Namjoshi has a proposal for

"1. The foundation of a Congress-hall and a library and Congress office thereto attached.

2. The foundation of out-houses or barracks for the delegates from the different provinces to be maintained by the provincial committees of the Congress.

3. The establishment of branch or Taluka committees with paid officers for the popular education of the masses as to their duties to the state, to the society in general and to themselves."

The preparations for the gathering are not on a luxuriant scale. The number of delegates has been cut down to one thousand, and the expenses will be limited to bare housing and boarding.

BABOO Surendranath Banerjee is gaining in the confidence of Government which would not retain him in the regular service. Sir Rivers Thompson accepted him as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate. Sir Stuart Bayley has given the Baboo independent second class Magisterial powers in his own place at Barrackpore. But will he be saved the ignominy of disaffiliation of the Law School of his College?

BOMBAY has opened an asylum at Matunga for the aggregation, commonly called segregation, of lepers. Fortynine vagrant lepers were on the 7th instant driven in carts to their new home where they will be provided with free board and lodging. Other unfortunes in the Presidency must prepare themselves for the jolt.

THE Nimitola Burning Ghat will be added to for the accommodation of those taking dead bodies there for cremation. When the Port Commissioners raised the present structure, they did not provide for any shelter for such persons. The Municipal Commissioners have agreed to remove the want, the Port Commissioners consenting to find the land.

A NATIVE policeman while carrying a lighted kerosine lamp tripped and fell. The lamp exploded and burnt him severely about the face and head. He is in hospital.

HERE is a judicial denunciation of imprisonment for debt :—

"On October 11 His Honour Judge Abdy sat at the Edmonton County Court to dispose of a large number of judgment summonses, the amounts varying from a few shillings to a good many pounds, chiefly debts incurred with tradesmen. His Honour spoke very strongly upon the existence of a 'stupid law' which made it incumbent upon County Court Judges to adjudicate upon judgment summonses in the existing mode. It was the most miserable of all the duties which County Court Judges had to perform, because they were never sure that what was told to them about the means of the defendant was true. Tradesmen foolishly gave credit to many people of whom little or nothing was known, and when payment for goods supplied could not be obtained, County Court Judges were asked to send the debtors to prison. He was of opinion that no one should be deprived of his liberty in reference to civil debts, unless it was conclusively shown that the debtor possessed the means of paying, and would not. He certainly would never in future make an order of commitment unless it was proved to his satisfaction that the person who owed the money had had the means of paying it. If tradesmen suffered, it was their own fault for giving credit. He would stop the system as far as he could, and would insist upon undeniable proof of possession of means by defendant before he ordered a commitment. Imprisonment was intended for acts of violence, felony, and many other offences, but not for debts. During the day, His Honour refused to make orders in numerous instances, and observed that it was remarkable what small interest plaintiffs seemed to take in the cases. They were

chiefly conducted by agents who made a little money by appearing for plaintiffs, who seldom thought it worth their while to attend."

THEY are running an electric subterranean railway between London and Stockwell.

It has been ascertained, from statistics for whatever they may be worth, that of dark haired women 79 per cent. are married and of blondes 55 per cent. Again, fair-haired people are less able to withstand the insanitary conditions of large towns than dark-complexioned, the conclusion being that the law of natural selection operates against their increase.

THERE is no waste :—

"Until lately the cotton waste used on printing presses has been cleaned from the oil and re-used, the grease being considered as useless and thrown away. It has, however, been found that the oil thus destroyed can be made, after very simple treatment, to yield first-class printing ink, and it has been ascertained that one ton of this spent waste yields about fourteen hundredweight of oil, from which ink of an improved quality and a reduced price is manufactured."

THE longest tunnel is that of Segemnitz, a mining town in Hungary. It is 16,524 metres long, or 1,600 more than the St. Gothard, and 4,000 more than the Mont Cenis. It is 6 feet high and 5 feet wide, and was built in the course of about a hundred years.

A SCHOOLMASTER scoured a boy's mouth with soap for bad language. The boy soon after died of diphtheria. His parents traced the disease to the soap, and has sued the schoolmaster for damages. Unhappy pedagogue! we hope he will meet with a sane judge. For the rest, the incident should be a warning against the indiscriminate use of these Western abominations.

THE publishing firm of W. & R. Chambers has been registered as a limited company with a capital of £100,000, in £100 shares divided among members of the family and employes.

THE proprietors of the *Birmingham Daily Post* charged Mr. Moffatt, special Correspondent of the *New York Herald*, with theft of a copy of the *Post* containing a detailed notice of the life and death of Cardinal Newman. He was found at the telegraph office with the copy, cutting out slips and pasting them on forms for the purpose of telegraphing to New York. Moffatt did not deny the offence and pleaded guilty to the "indelicacy" of appropriating the copy. The Magistrate too took the same view and permitted the summons to be withdrawn.

HERE, from a back number of a scientific journal, is a description of the recently discovered

#### AFRICAN ANTS.

"The bashikonai ants must be a terrible plague. They travel night and day, in armies miles long. The elephant and gorilla fly before them; the black man runs for his life so soon as the ants are seen. It is related by a traveller that as he was going up one of the mouths of the Zambesi, he saw a whole village suddenly deserted by the inhabitants, who fled with all they could carry off, a proceeding which as there was no foe in sight, rather puzzled him till he found they were fleeing from the ants. When these ants enter a hut, they clear it of every living thing in a few minutes. Huge cockroaches, almost as large as mice, centipedes, mice, and rats are instantly devoured. A strong rat is killed in less than a minute, and in another minute its bones are picked. A leopard, dog, or deer is soon dispatched and devoured, for they kill by their numbers. They are quite half an inch long, and one variety is so strong that it will bite pieces clean out of the flesh. They possess, however, one meritorious quality—they mortally hate, and, whenever they can, put to death the mischievous white ants which make such destruction in houses. In addition to these and the sand ants, which bite like scorpions, leaving a distressing pain behind them, there are several varieties of flies which sting horribly, such as the igogonai—small gnats—whose bites go through the tough hide of the negroes, causing a terrible itch; the ibolai—flies or gnats—which sting as though with a needle, and whistle as they dash at you; the richouma, which fill themselves with your blood before you know they are there, and then leave an itching that lasts for hours, varied at intervals by certain sharp stabs of pain; the sloway, or nest-building flies, not quite so big as a bee, which cling to a man even in the water, and assail the natives with such ferocity that if a canoe, by chance, touch one of their nests, the men instantly dive overboard."

THE Roman prototypes of the modern printer, engraver, binder and bookseller were librarii, librarioli, biblioepi and bibliopola. The librarii multiplied books by transcribing MSS.; the librarioli illustrated them by ornament on the title pages, margins and terminations; the biblioepi employed their skill on the embellishment of their exteriors; and the bibliopola were engaged in the disposal of them.

WE read in the *Effective Advertiser* :—

"Jules Verne's workshop is at the top of a three-story house. A corner room with windows looking in two directions is his combined study and bed-room. In his library, which adjoins it, hangs a big map of the world. It is marked all over, the routes taken by the heroes of his romances being indicated by means of lines and flags. His penmanship is small, and the pages of his manuscripts are covered with corrections and interlineations. He rewrites his stories many times. Of his last book he made no fewer than ten versions before he brought it to perfection. He has been at work for nearly thirty-seven years, producing on an average two books a year."

That shows—and it is one instance of many—that the longer a man practises writing, the more difficult it becomes.

WHAT a development of manufacturing industry does the following cutting from the same journal exhibit!

"A list of the firms of papermakers who were represented at the inspection of the works of the Manchester Ship Canal gives an imposing idea of the extent of the papermaking industry in Lancashire and on its borders. The magnitude of the import trade in connection with it is indicated by the fact that our annual import of the raw material now amounts to half a million of tons. The representative of one important firm stated that one-third of our entire paper trade will probably be carried on in the district served by the canal. He prophesied that this new and commodious water-way will enable the papermakers in that part to save every year a sum of money equal to the entire cost of working and maintaining the canal."

Judging from casual observation in this country, whence the cheap and nasty German rag has driven out the sound British article and where mills are starting up, we were disposed to a pessimist view of the prospects of the British paper trade. It gives us sincere pleasure to find ourselves mistaken.

RAI BAHADAR S. Subramaniam Iyer, of Madras, visited the Monegar Choultry and, on learning that the inmates wanted *Kumbhis*, then and there gave a cheque for the purpose. Such visits are always welcome. The pity of it is that they are

Like those of angels' short and far between.

HAVING served for eleven years in the Italian Army and risen to be an Artillery Lieutenant, Phoad Pacha, youngest brother of the Khedive, has joined the Turkish Army as an Artillery officer and been taken in as an honorary Aid-de-Camp to the Sultan.

IN New York, they have a Ladies' Club. It was started a few months ago with thirty members. They now number over four hundred. They hold lectures, readings and social meetings. There is a restaurant and a set of sleeping-apartments. What a dreadful place that must be! Four hundred, and all ladies! bluestockings and reds, and no mutes!

THE Chamber of Commerce, after its successful raid against the Doorga Pooja holidays, suddenly showed a humane desire to respect the religious sentiments of the Hindoos as regards the Kali Pooja. It is satisfactory to find that the meeting of proprietors of the Bengal Bonded Warehouse announced for Wednesday the 12th has been postponed, the day, as the advertisement says, "being a gazetted holiday."

THE Bengal Government has ruled that no candidate who is already serving under another Government will be allowed to compete in the examination of Deputy Collectorship, unless he obtains the previous permission of that Government. The rule applies to the next March examination.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

AT request of Peers, Prelates, members of the House of Commons and leaders of all circles, the Lord Mayor of London has called a meeting to discuss the oppression on the Jews in Russia.

HER Majesty's twin screw cruiser *Serpent*, being driven out of her course in a storm, foundered on the rocks on Monday night, twenty miles to the north of Cape Finisterre, close to the village of Avaminas. There were one hundred and seventy six all told on board at the time. There was no time to lower any boats, and she sank with all hands, except three who were badly injured by the rocks while swimming ashore.

THE prying, punctuating German Doctor, Dr. Koch, is always seeing something or other. He now claims to have discovered a cure for Lupus Tubercular diseases of the glands, bones and joints. He believes that phthisis is curable, but is not confident yet that the cure is final. The Berlin doctors, we are told, favor his pretensions and Berlin surgeons have successfully tried his remedy—the injection of a certain lymph. The lymph hitherto tried has been obtained from Dr. Libbertz of Berlin. The Berlin Government has placed ten thousand pounds at the disposal of Dr. Koch for a hospital for the treatment of the diseases by his method. We expect to hear more by and by.

THE Irrepressible Leitner still holds out, and will hold his own—Congress. An unsatisfactory telegram of the 12th says that the Committee of the Orientalists has fixed London as the place and September next as the time for the meeting of the International Oriental Congress, Dr. Leitner being the Secretary for organising the meeting.

A NEW and unprecedented visitation is approaching India. The Czarevitch is expected during Christmas. Let no body be alarmed. He comes not for the invasion of India, but as a guest of the Queen-Empress. The Great Northern Bearling will need no muzzling, he is in suitable charge, and provided with good leading. The Heir to all the Russias comes as a Prince of Peace. Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, Private Secretary to the late Viceroy, accompanies the future Czar as *cicerone*. The visit, according to Lord Salisbury at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, pregnant with benefit both to Russia and Great Britain, is a pledge of peace. Charming alliteration to be sure. We only hope the averment will prove more correct than Louis Napoleon's epigram, *The Empire is Peace*. After all, the Premier is right. In such a case it is in the power of a great statesman like him to keep himself right. Peace, according to modern statecraft, is a constant preparedness, it not state, of war.

HAVING rode the high horse through the Doorga Pooja holidays, Lord Lansdowne went into camp. He is still on tour. He is as gaily received by the Native Princes as ever, as by Native custom and by duty bound. The reception throughout has been loyal and there is no complaint of any omission. The Viceregal utterances have not as yet been peculiarly noteworthy.

IN the Shikarpur defamation case, the Sadr Court has rectified the cruelty of the two lower Courts on the editor of the *Phoenix*. We congratulate Baboo Nogendranath Gupta on the remission of the sentence of imprisonment on him.

THE order of Mr. Kennedy in the Warburton prosecution of the *Tribune* has been assailed from both sides. Neither the prosecutor nor the accused were satisfied. They all applied for reversal of the order. The arguments have been heard by the Divisional Judge of Lahore who has reserved his decision. Mr. Warburton has let off Mr. Buchanan by extracting an apology of his own dictation. The poor Baboo was reserved for vengeance.



GENERAL Chesney's term as Military Member expires in June next. But he retires, we believe, in March. He is not likely to go back to Simla, having broken up his camp there permanently. He has made some presents of his books to the Military Department. We hope they will be of more use to Government.

THE Maharaja of Cooch Behar is best at his entertainments and brilliant at polo. There was a match at Meerut on the 14th. The Maharaja of Patiala's team played against the Meerut Station. The former was composed of the Maharajas of Patiala and Cooch Behar, General Goordik Sing and Patiala's Private Secretary. Captains Watkins, Young, Kitson and King composed the Station. It was a fast and well contested game, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar shining most as back for his side. Ultimately, the Patiala team beat the Station by two goals to one.

AT a meeting of the London Association of Correctors of the Press, Mr. E. Cottam, discoursing on "The Reading boy and his Education," pointed out as defects in the training of boys in the London Board Schools, that "it was impossible under the present system for a boy even to read fluently or intelligibly, and that writing was a lost art." We may say the evils have voyaged unto India. Here, moreover, the pronunciation is unEnglish, the words are wrongly accentuated and misspelt. Both the courses of study in our schools and colleges and the system of University examinations loudly call for change. The country is so lost in the University, that there is not a place in Calcutta for education of a higher course for a student not succeeding in the Entrance examination, and yet the University certificates and diplomas are by themselves no test of merit or passports to public or private service.

MORPHIA and strychnine lozenges have run out their day in America. Quinine is recovering ground. The fashionable restorative now is that alkaloid, usually administered in the form of pills. Every American lady—of *ton*—is armed with an ornamental cut-glass bottle with a gold stopper containing the pills. When tired, she takes two pills; when in a draught, one; four or five pills allay her hunger, and the number for wet feet is ten. Six are a cure for indigestion. Two grains of quinine enter into the composition of each pill.

The change is from the frying pan to the fire. Begging Mr. Ram Chandra Bose's pardon, the Yankee gal is a colourless delicacy not famous for vitality. She has long since injured her teeth from the national fondness for Western *khadjá*, *gajá* and *peragi*. Poppy and Nux Vomica latterly undermined her constitution. The finishing will be given by the slow poison of the South American Bark—with the loss of her eyes and ears.

THE parting Lieutenant-Governor has recorded a splendid *éloge*—the inspiration of the friendly muse of the Hon'ble H. J. S. Cotton—on the retired Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. The Resolution on the administration report of the municipality for the year 1889-90 concludes thus:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor cannot conclude this Resolution without expressing his high appreciation of the services which have been rendered to the City of Calcutta by the late Chairman, Sir Henry Harrison. For nine years he was Chairman of the Corporation, and the successful administration of the affairs of the Municipality during this long period, the firm financial credit of the Commissioners, the innumerable sanitary reforms effected, especially the extension of the water-supply and the conservancy of bustees, the increase in material prosperity in the city which in consequence of these reforms has shown itself in so marked a degree that the value of land in Calcutta generally may be said to have doubled, the reorganization and reconstruction of nearly every department of work, the hearty zeal and co-operation with which the Commissioners as a body now unite with the Executive to advance the welfare of the city,—an attitude for which they were not always distinguished, but which is in itself the best testimony to the capacity of a Chairman,—the methodical and systematic development of civic administration in all departments, are a sufficient and lasting tribute to the manner in which Sir Henry Harrison has discharged the duties of his responsible, difficult, and thankless office. His name will always be honourably associated with the growth of municipal institutions in the Metropolis."

The accuracy of that statement will not, we believe, be disputed by any man of candour and generosity, by any but a hostile critic. It may not be the whole truth, but no Lieutenant-Governor, in the absence of special information, can possibly suspect if a screw is loose some-

where or if the Chair is too kind to subordinates for perfect discipline or adequate efficiency. It is certainly fortunate for Sir Henry Harrison's permanent reputation, that there had been a change in the head of the Local Government before he came to leave the administration of the town. Sir Rivers Thompson could scarcely have been so liberal in commendation. He would have qualified. He would have been bound to remember his own sanitary Commission on the Corporation, of which Commission Mr. Cotton himself was a member. The whole resolution is redolent of the two heroes who saved the Municipality and the cause of Local Self-Government in Calcutta. If Sir Henry Harrison himself were the Lieutenant-Governor or the Secretary in the Bengal Financial Department, he would not write less. Every point of the report which could possibly be construed against the views of Sir Henry, has been taken up and disposed of to his credit. So, after all, his Chairmanship has not proved a "thankless office."

THE Resolution of Government on Sir Alfred Croft's last education report clearly and strongly approves a principle in regard to the expansion of primary education which we have advocated from the first. A great deal of waste of public money has already taken place in pursuance of what for brevity may be called a policy of show, and it were high time to retrace steps towards real progress. It affords us great satisfaction, therefore, to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has now distinctly directed, on Sir Alfred Croft's recommendation, that the consolidation, rather than an unlimited extension of the primary system should henceforth be kept in view. The Director has justly raised the question whether there is any good derived from the expenditure of money on ephemeral schools, which make no appreciable impression on the ignorance of the rural population and which used to be started up by way of a response to an eager demand on the part of departmental subordinates for mere numbers, irrespective of other considerations. The Government Resolution compliments the Director for having raised the question opportunely, but we fear the foolish system of making numbers the test of progress has been allowed to continue far too long. It was under a reaction against higher education that the fiat went forth to multiply primary schools as fast as possible, and large funds were directed to be spent for the purpose. The Department of Education was rather too compliant in carrying out the new policy, the mistake of which has at last been found out.

MR. Toynbee, in his last report on the Bardwan Division, says very truly that "the position of an official Chairman of a Municipality is altogether a stronger and more popular one than that of a non-official. The latter's every act is regarded with distrust and suspicion; parties are formed to thwart his measures and question his executive action, and his position is by no means a bed of roses." He is satisfied, however, with the working of Local Self-Government upon the whole, and mentions the names of Baboo Lotit Mohun Sing, Vice-Chairman of the Hooghly District Board, of Baboo Siva Naryan Mookerjee, Chairman of the Uttarparah Municipality, of Baboo Nalinaksha Basu, Chairman of the Bardwan Municipality and Vice-Chairman of the District Board, and of Baboo Ishan Chunder Mitter, Chairman of the Hooghly Municipality, as deserving to be specially brought forward in this connection.

THE Presidency Division Commissioner also speaks fairly well of the working of Local Self-Government. He has also a kind word for our Ratepayers' Associations which "display considerable activity in criticising the proceedings of Municipal Commissioners, their Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen, and serve as a check upon irregular proceedings and extravagant expenditure of public money."

WE are glad to find the Maharajkumar of Nuddea, who took over his estate from the Court of Wards last year, is reported by Mr. Smith to be taking great personal interest in its management. The Raja of Naldanga is the only landlord in Jessore highly spoken of. In Moorshedabad, the Nawab Bahadoor and the Maharani Surnomoyi and other Zemindars distinguished themselves by their liberality during the distress.

In his last administration report of Central India, Mr. Henvey pays off his critics in the press on a subject which has made much noise. The young Maharaja of Gwalior, he writes,

"is being brought up under a system which aims at combining the best of home influences, viz., the care and solicitude of the boy's mother, with the advantage of English teaching in the hours devoted to study. The spirit of the wishes which the dying Maharaja Scindhia is said to have expressed is faithfully respected. No one dreams of anglicising the Maharaja or of drawing him away from his mother and native friends, or of moulding him into the modern fashion of the social and sporting Chief; but he will nevertheless receive the education of a gentleman."

This hardly mends matters. At any rate, the explanation is dubious. Much will depend upon the interpretation one puts upon the word *gentleman*. And still more on the distinction between the spirit and the letter of the dying Maharaja's wishes. Indeed, the *animus* of Aboo is apparent from the doubt sought to be put on the dying Scindhia's views. There cannot be a shadow of doubt on the subject. It was no wish merely but absolute request of the dying Prince to the British Government.

Mr. Henvey is more severe in his reply to the public criticisms of the investment of a portion of the Gwalior hoards. He says:—

"The finances of this important State are in a flourishing condition. The accounts submitted by the Durbar are not printed, because they would be unintelligible to any one who is not acquainted with local terms and with the Marhatta method of book-keeping. The general result, however, is that, besides over 5 crores of rupees invested, Gwalior possessed, at the close of the Gwalior year ending June 1889, a cash balance of 4 crores and 30 lakhs in the various treasuries, and a working annual surplus of 20 lakhs, or considerably more than the whole revenue of Rewa. The disclosure of these facts is enough to demonstrate the folly of those critics who have endeavoured to persuade an ignorant public that the British Government has squandered the treasure of a State confided by a dying friend to its fostering care. The truth is that the interest on loans suffices, and even more than suffices, to cover the whole cost of the roads, bridges, jails, barracks, stately memorials, and other public works which Mr. Harris has so successfully planned and executed at Lashkar and elsewhere, and the Council are free to lay out all that can be reasonably expended upon other requirements of the country, while adding a vast sum yearly to the Maharaja's hoards. No honest objection to this is conceivable, except by those who hold that the prosperity of a State is measured by the quantity of its coin lying uselessly buried in nooks and corners of the palace. A well-intentioned adviser would rather encourage the Durbar to diminish still further these unproductive hoards and to invest money in some undertaking of great utility, such as a State Railway, which should both bring profit to the country and serve as a lasting monument of the Maharaja's minority."

Mr. Henvey speaks highly of the firmness of the late Maharaja Tukaj-Rao Holkar, and illustrates it by his successful action in the capture of Tantia Bhil. He says:—

"As an instance of the vigour of His Highness's action when his mind is made up, I may note the capture of the celebrated free-booter Tantia Bhil. This capture was effected, as every one knows, by a joint expedition organised, equipped, and sent out at Maharaja Holkar's request. But it is not so generally known that the Indore Durbar had led up to this crowning exploit by a series of well-planned measures all tending to the isolation of Tantia and to the diminution of his prestige in Indore territory. His family were removed from the border; his patrons were arrested and punished; and a powerful personage, whose influence extended over the region frequented by the outlaw, was sent into temporary exile. I must not forget, however, while giving the fullest credit and the greatest honour to the Durbar, to mention those by whom the capture was actually accomplished. The lance-shaft was Maharaja Holkar's, but the steel point was furnished by Sardar Bahadur Ishri Parshad and his gallant comrades of the Central India Horse and Bhopal Battalion, whose services have been cordially acknowledged."

Shortly after the close of the year under review the Darbar's men and the Khandwa Police succeeded in killing Bondria, who was Tanti's most formidable lieutenant, and in utterly dispersing his gang. This is another point scored by the Maharaja, and he has only to stamp out dacoity and cattle-lifting in Malwa in co-operation with Gwalior and other States in order to win for himself the reputation of being one of the most enterprising Chiefs in Central India."

THE following notice of Bhopal from Mr. Henvey's pen will be read with interest:—

"Bhopal has been tranquil since December 1888, when the administration was changed, but the death of the Begum's husband, Maulvi Sadik Hassan, was a grievous blow to Her Highness. The ruler of this State, though still living behind the veil, takes a keen interest in public affairs, and she is ever ready to give ear to friendly advice. Her Minister, Munshi Imtiyaz Ali, is doing his best to introduce needful reforms. He is confronted by many difficulties in his efforts to revise the assessment of land revenue, which is well known to press heavily, for Bhopal is no exception to the rule that under the lax and slipshod system of revenue administration, which in Native States is carried on

chiefly through *mustajirs* or contracting lessees, no regular and trustworthy record of data exists from which a sound conclusion regarding the proper share of the State can be arrived at. It will probably be found that a rough and summary revision, coupled with training indigenous agency to keep fairly accurate registers of cultivation and rent is all that can be at present attempted with tolerable prospect of success."

HERE is the latest journalistic joke—against the butt of newspaper proprietors' envy. The *Star* professed to have received, one of these mornings, the following, neatly printed on a card of subdued colour:—

"Died of the Rickets, Sept. 13, after a lingering illness, Master London Edition of the *New York Herald*, Aged 20 Months, the third newspaper offspring of James Gordon Bennett, Esq. Notwithstanding the scientific exertions of those experienced Press Physicians, Doctors L. J. Jennings, M.P., and Joseph Hatton, who had been in attendance night and day, the Child passed away peacefully."

A vigorous patrifamilias with a prosperous progeny may afford the occasional loss of a brat, so long as his bullion-harvesting boy is hale and hearty.

It is a pity the men of the press have no loyalty to the Prince of their order.

THE modern aphorism has it, History repeats itself. And well that it does so, or else the world would have been distinctly poorer: we would not have got the Father and King of biographers. It was Plutarch that introduced the literary custom of comparison between the different great men of antiquity. Since then, every great man, in whatever department, has been weighed in the balance against another, who, in his career and qualities and defects, has approximated nearest to him. The importance of the method discovered by the learned Theban—using the term without reproach—may be recognised when we remember that this Comparative Biography has descended from authors down to the debating societies of young men. We are not disposed to believe in unique Sultanic greatness. The test of greatness is to have a parallel.

The star of Lord Wolesey is still in the ascendant. He has found—or they have found for him—his historical "double." The *Army and Navy Gazette* writes as follows:—

"In some of the best points of his very marked character Lord Peterborough, of whom, by-the-bye, our old friend and whilom contributor, Colonel Russell, of Aden, Military Attaché at Berlin, lately wrote a 'Life' of great merit, was prototype of Viscount Wolesey. His energy was irresistible, his versatility amazing, his industry unconquerable; he was gallant, courtly, ambitious—a writer—a soldier—bold and able in the field and cautious in council. He was successful in many great enterprises. Finally, he made enemies. The 'invincible comes virtutis' was fully his. Peterborough was not unlucky enough to have to reorganise a War Office, or to battle with a Secretary of State over matters which he understood, and the latter did not; and he was lucky enough not to have his speeches taken down in shorthand on the spot and printed a moment after they were spoken, and not to have written 'A Soldier's Pocket-Book.' But Peterborough would have been regarded at the War Office, had it been running on the lines of to-day, as a very troublesome fellow, and his departure from it would have been accepted without weeping and gnashing of teeth in the inner chambers. Indeed, it is whispered that, although there was always an *entente cordiale* of manner and pleasant social relations with the powers that be therein, Lord Wolesey's exodus from Pall Mall did not occasion any immediate order for sackcloth and ashes in high places."

Whether the greatest general in England will be thankful for comparison with the hero who had seen more kings and more postilions than any man in Europe, we do not know. The true parallel of Wolesey seems to us to be our Indian celebrity, the victor of Meanee, soldier, administrator, diplomat, and author—an able startegist, a dashing warrior, a trenchant pamphleteer—thoroughly conscious of his merits and value and cursed with a wonderful capacity for making enemies—and yet, take him all in all, a character such as we shall not see the like of soon unless we see in Wolesey.

HERE, from the same source, is a notice of a formidable German invasion of England:—

"Bessemer! Siemens! Krupp! Gruson! Schneider! Abel! these are great names in the world of steel, iron, guns, plates, and military dynamics! They are none of them English. Although we are fond of claiming for ourselves supremacy in metallurgy, it is a fact that we have, in our manufacture of iron and steel, largely profited by the labours of foreigners—Germans, Swedes, &c. Now it is reported that the Germans, favoured by the fostering genius of Free-trade, are establishing themselves as makers of guns and military matériel in England."

What a commentary on the Indian Humiliation decree called the Arms Act! Foreigners may manufacture military arms and am-

munition. Thanks to the liberality of British polity, the standing or historic enemies of England may make any number of guns and grow rich by supplying them against her. But alas for India and the Indians! In this country, England is the veritable successor of the Great Mogul, and her Indian subjects are not allowed to protect themselves from highway men and burglars and the beasts of the forest, with the paltriest sword or a rusty pistol! We wish our powerful London contemporary might realise the grim absurdity of it all.

*THE Army and Navy Gazette* is decidedly wiser in its generation than many of the leading purely political organs. Here is a passage from it pregnant with meaning and with sound patriotic counsel:—

"All other countries in the world, as far as we know, watch over the interests of their native industries—agricultural, manufacturing, mineral—with protective care, but England lets them take care of themselves. Our Government act on a different principle—they buy wherever they can get what they want, and do not care how or where it is made. We read that gentlemen representing the War Office, the Admiralty, the Board of Trade, &c., went off by special train to see and admire the works and processes of Messrs. Mannesmann and Siemens at Swansea, and it seems the most natural thing in the world to give them encouragement. But it would be astonishing if France, Germany, Italy, or the United States followed our example in the like case, and we only hope our iron and steel industries will prosper till that good time comes."

Political Economy is a good thing, but there is a disposition in many quarters to make too much of it. As a British science, the British may well be proud of it. But surely they ought not to elect to suffer by it. There is use as well as abuse of it, as of any other thing, and it is the abuse that we complain of. There are fallacies of Free Trade as well as of Protection. In escaping from the terrors of a foolish restriction, England has plunged into absolute recklessness. It is her geography and her supremacy at sea that postpone for her the day of retribution.

IN the triennial report of Charitable Dispensaries in Bengal, Dr. Hilson traces the comparatively small number of in-door patients to the Indian's innate aversion to hospital. He says:—

"The native of India, when sick, prefers to be treated at his own house, and at such a time will not leave his family if it can possibly be avoided—a characteristic which seems to be more strongly marked in Bengal than elsewhere. The desire is only natural, and he cannot be blamed for it; but it seems to me that one cause of it is to be found in the very limited provision of separate accommodation for the families of patients at dispensaries, and this is a point well worth the attention of Municipal Committees and others interested in these institutions. In the Punjab and North-Western Provinces many of the dispensaries have a few rooms apart from the main building, which are reserved for the accommodation of well-to-do patients and those who bring relatives with them, and they are largely taken advantage of."

His remarks on the virulence of the Bengal malarial fever cannot be read by the lay reader without a shudder:—

"Malarial fevers are not more common in Bengal than in other Indian provinces, but they have this peculiarity that they are usually of a more severe and fatal type, which is probably due to the damp, relaxing nature of the climate. They leave their traces behind in the form of anæmia, enlarged spleen, diarrhoea, and dysentery, and it has truly been said that if the prevalence of malarial fever could be abolished one-half the diseases of the country would disappear with them."

It is gratifying to have Dr. Hilson's favourable testimony as to the interest taken by Municipalities and District Boards in these charitable institutions. The contributions by municipalities and subscriptions from native gentlemen form the chief resources for their maintenance.

A VENERABLE patriarch has passed away in Baboo Shib Chunder Deb. Born in 1811, he was close upon 80 when he breathed his last on the morning of Wednesday last. Always of a slim figure, he lived on spare diet and kept regular hours and was active till the last. He had always work to do, never idling himself. He held Government service for 30 years, commencing as an assistant in the Surveyor-General's Office and ending as a Deputy Collector. He retired in 1863 and drew about a lac and 10 thousand rupees as pension. His father was a pensioner of rupees five only, but longer lived than the son by a decade. He was of the first batch of students who drew their inspiration for after life from DeRozio. Baboos Russick Krishna Mullick and Radhanath Sikdar and the Revd. K. M. Banerjee have all passed away. They are now followed by Baboo Shib Chunder Deb. The only one of the lot survives in Baboo Ramtanoo Lahiri. An unostentatious man, he was not unmindful of his duties to others. His life was devoted to good

works. He made his own Connaghar. He found it an insignificant village of the Kuyasth Bhadracracy, and he leaves it a respectable and most interesting municipal township. Its institutions are all of his making—products not only of his brain and energy but in a good measure also of his purse. He founded a school for boys, another for girls, a dispensary, a library and a Brahmosomaj. A man of strict habits as of principles, Baboo Shib Chunder Deb will be long remembered by his friends and large circle of relatives. His loss will be especially felt by the Sadharan Brahmo Somaj, of which he was a pillar. A man who had never had a quarrel and who had never sworn at a servant, was invaluable as a peace-maker among a sect distinguished above all others for its liability to schisms.

A MARRIED Hindu girl of eighteen along with her father turned Mahomedan and took a second husband of her new persuasion. The girl was charged with bigamy and the father with abetment. Moulvi Abdool Jubber, the Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, has committed both to the Sessions. The Magistrate held that although the second marriage was valid under the Mahomedan law, the first marriage under the Hindu law survives, for the Bombay High Court—Justices Pinhey and Melville—have held that a Hindu marriage cannot be dissolved even if the husband or wife turns a Christian or a Mahomedan.

LET the foreign rowdies beware! Our boys too are becoming rowdily disposed, and by and bye they will give a good account of any unmannerly curs who try their temper too sorely.

There was lately an incident of American backwoods judicature in one of our quiet Bengal courts. The scene was in the interesting little town of Monghyr, of historic fame, at the court of the senior Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Khagendra Nath Mitter. While Mr. Palit, Jr., barrister, was addressing the court against an accused, he appears to have suffered interruption from the Pleader for the defence, Baboo Prosonno C. Mitter. He showed his irritation after the grand manner of the barristers in the High Court towards the native attorneys, by pelting him with a book. The Pleader's Krishnaghur blood was up at this public insult, and he sprang upon his assailant. Seizing him as a ram by the beard, he dismissed him with a kicking. The scene that ensued may be imagined. The Magistrate was in every way equal to the occasion. After restoring order, he made a proceeding of the incident and, after taking the depositions of the belligerents, he charged them with contempt. The Pleader was tried by the second Deputy and fined Rs. 25. The European District Magistrate himself tried Mr. Palit and fined him Rs. 500. We wonder he did not order him the historic punishment of being dropped from a tower of the fort—or, in the absence of any suitable tower in these days, from the roof of Ram Persad's Ghat—to the river!

Mysterious are the ways of Providence! The poor solicitors and solicitors' clerks are avenged for their injuries from the barristers in Calcutta by Pleaders on barristerlings in the country!

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 15, 1890

### THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION IN MUNICIPAL BENGAL.

IN a short time hence, there will be the tumult and bustle of another general election in the Municipalities of Bengal. The preliminaries are being arranged by the district officials, and, by the time they are ready, the tug of canvassing will have commenced. From the outset, we have taken a warm interest in the movement. We expected a good deal from Local Self-Government. We thought it was time enough that people should be left to manage their own village affairs without the immediate guidance of officials. Our experience, however, of the operation of the system has somewhat shaken our faith. It has not, indeed, disappointed us, but it has not quite fulfilled our expectation. Many were the passages at arms

we exchanged with Mr. Monro, then Commissioner of the Presidency Division, for his determined opposition to this measure. The then Governor of Bombay, Sir James Fergusson, incurred no small public odium for a similar attitude. But time is a great healer of differences, and we now find that they had taken a far more correct view of the scheme of election than ourselves. Not that we had not anticipated the outbreak of party-feeling and even a certain deterioration of administrative efficiency—the two chief evils which have attended the introduction of Local Self-Government. We were quite prepared for these effects, and we thought they were an inevitable price which must be paid for any noviciate in political training. As regards the first, we had hoped that party-warfare would soon blow over, and it seems we were not far wrong in this view. Already, there are indications of a lull after the storm—a gradual subsidence of party-spirit, or at any rate the disappearance of it in its active and aggressive aspect. As to administrative effects, judging from official reports, the municipalities under the un-official *régime* show a fair record of progress. Judged more closely, a palpable falling off in efficiency will probably be detected in some respects, but this may be hoped to rectify itself in time like the first outburst of party-spirit. We are nevertheless far from satisfied, on the whole, and our reasons are, briefly stated, that neither the elections by the people nor the nominations by the Government appear to have succeeded in finding out the right sort of persons—we won't say in all cases, for that is expecting too much from any system—but in a fairly reasonable proportion of cases.

Some of the incidents which attend these Municipal elections are ridiculous in all conscience. Votes are given for persons whom the voters do not know by sight or even by name. At the Cossipore-Chitpore elections, there were workmen-voters brought up before the polling officer who could not say for whom they voted, but it was some *Sahib* whom they did not know. Electors of this class have been known at other places to give their votes to some Baboo of whom they had never heard. What is perhaps more serious, the votes of even more respectable people are given under an express or implied stipulation that their municipal taxes should be reduced when the returned candidates come into power. That elections under such circumstances should have resulted in the return of improper persons cannot therefore be at all surprising. The elections are already regarded as a farce, and not much interest is taken in them by the people generally. If there is nevertheless a fair muster of voters at the elections, it is due to the exertions of the candidates themselves or of party leaders rather than to any genuine interest in the electors themselves. A good proportion of them who might well attend, keep away from the farce. Elections conducted under such circumstances must result in the return of a bad lot, but the evil of this might be somewhat mitigated, if not completely removed, by the nominations being made by Government with care and knowledge. But nominations to the Municipal Commission are no whit better. We do not quite see how this latter evil can be prevented. The District Magistrate who makes the nominations is naturally guided by the opinions of the Municipal Chairman for the time being, who, in his turn, naturally selects from his own party. Men selected chiefly on the score of their partizanship may turn out good men and true, but the chances in a majority of cases are the reverse. They lie

under a more direct stipulation to support the man or the party they owe their appointments to, than the elected candidates to the voters. Altogether, there is little honesty possible under such a system, and, with honesty at such a considerable discount, no administration can inspire public confidence. The subject has various aspects, and we shall return to it at some future occasion.

#### SIR WILLIAM HUNTER ON HINDU MARRIAGE REFORM.

SIR W. W. Hunter is sure to prove a powerful ally to the Hindu marriage reform cause. Brilliant, indeed, is the array of friends whom Mr. Malabari has interested in behalf of his movement in England, but mere English support is not all that is required to arrive at a settlement of the question satisfactory to all parties. On the contrary, as we said lately, English support had its advantage as well as its disadvantage, and our view is corroborated by Dr. Hunter himself, whose letter in the *Times* is perhaps the ablest presentation of the subject that we have had for some time. After describing graphically the large measure of sympathy which has been aroused among all classes and sections of the English people for the reforms advocated by Mr. Malabari, and complimenting him for the devotion with which he has worked in the cause, Sir W. W. Hunter says: "So influential an expression of opinion in England must re-act powerfully upon the Government of India. There is no danger that the question will be neglected. The real danger is lest the weight of English public opinion should be used by the more extreme party of Indian reformers to force the hand of the Government and to substitute sensational action for deliberate and well-matured deliberation." While Dr. Hunter is clearly of opinion that legislation is called for to mitigate the evils of the system of infant marriage and enforced penitential widowhood, he deprecates English agitation on the subject. "The conditions of family life and the religious conceptions of paternal responsibility among the Hindoos differ so widely from those to which we are accustomed in this country, that an English movement initiated with an imperfect appreciation of those conditions and religious conceptions is likely to stir up an organised opposition in India which might seriously hamper the action of the Government and throw back the cause of domestic reform even among the most highly educated and enlightened classes." The reform must be left to the initiation of the Indian Government who have never lost sight of it.

Sir W. W. Hunter expresses a decided opinion that the time for legislative action on the subject has now arrived, and considers the proposed reform a just, moderate and necessary one. He does not state the grounds on which he has now come to such an opinion, and with all one's sympathy with the reform itself, one cannot fail to be struck with the fact that a short time ago the tendency of Indian official opinion was contrary to the one now so emphatically declared by an ex-Indian minister. The result of the enquiry into the subject initiated by Lord Dufferin was, as he himself states in his letter, that nine out of the ten Provincial Governments consulted found themselves compelled to report against official interference. Nor was this due to any want of sympathy with the reform on the part of the dissen-



tient Governments. Dr. Hunter himself admits that the evidence did not at that time allow the Provincial Governments to come to any other conclusion. It is a pity he should omit to refer to the new evidence which he has since obtained and which justifies his present change of opinion.

The Hindu marriage system is then described. The origin of it is laid in the times of foreign invasion and internecine war which characterised the history of India before the advent of British rule. During this period of insecurity and anarchy, the supreme need of Hindu women was not independence but safety, and, according to Sir W. W. Hunter, it was "to meet this supreme need, the Hindu marriage system was developed into a powerfully constructed organization of protection—a system which endeavoured to give the *maximum* security to Hindu women as a whole, and which deliberately acted on the principle that their general safety must be ensured, even at the cost of hardship to individuals among them." This system arising thus out of historical expediency soon acquired a sacramental character and subsequently came to be enforced by the Hindu law. The concluding paragraph of the first of Sir W. W. Hunter's letters shows the spirit of caution with which he approaches the problem of reform:—

"Such is the Hindoo marriage system—a strongly constructed organization of female protection and female obligation resting on the threefold foundation of historical expediency, Divine ordinance, and human law. But to a large section of educated Hindoos, it is now becoming apparent that such a system of enforced protection, however useful it may have been in past periods of invasion and rapine, has ceased to be in accord with the facts of modern life in India. They perceive that the compulsory protection of woman as a sex means the compulsory submission of women as individuals. 'Good and evil, we know in the field of this world,' says Milton, 'grow up together almost inseparably.' Serious-minded Hindoos are asking themselves whether under the altered circumstances of our times, the evils incident to their marriage system are not beginning to preponderate over the benefits. How to secure for their wives and daughters the old safety of dependence with a larger measure of the freedom of modern independence, and how to effect the transition with the least disruption of religious tradition and of family life—this is the fundamental problem of Indian domestic reform."

Dr. Hunter has since followed up his present communication with two others in which he has set forth a practical scheme for giving effect to the reform. While at one with the reform-party as to the need of legislative interference, he does not, like them, regard the case as analogous to that of *Suttee*, or of infanticide. These he declares as false and misleading analogies, the use of which is likely to do more harm than good to the cause. He would proceed, it is true, with this reform on the same principle as earlier English rulers did with regard to infanticide and *Suttee*. That principle was to harmonise their original pledges to the people of religious non-interference with the dictates of justice and humanity, by applying a rule of interpretation to those pledges. Acting on this rule, it was held that there was a limit to this non-interference imposed by the supreme duty of every Government to protect the lives of its subjects, and infanticide was accordingly declared to be murder, and the conducting or abetment of *Suttee* as culpable homicide. Dr. Hunter now asks the rule of interpretation to be further extended, so as to include domestic practices like infant marriage and enforced penitential widowhood which interfere with the health or freedom of action of a subject. The Government has in the past exercised this right of interference with established customs or practices on the ground of their being destructive, not of the lives but, of the freedom or well-being of its subjects, and what is now claimed is that a further step should be taken in the same direction.

Sir W. W. Hunter's first letter is a historical exposition of the burning subject of the day. His second and third letters have since appeared. The more the merrier. The views of a scholar of his Indian knowledge and experience must always command respect. He has made Indian antiquities and sociology his especial study, and is entitled to speak with authority on the subject in question. His authority rests on another ground. A sober and thoughtful enquirer, he is singularly free from the crotchets and eccentricities of irresponsible scholarship, and withal, his sympathies for the people of this country have always won his utterances on Indian questions a respectful hearing. In his second letter, Dr. Hunter discusses the proposals of the Indian party of reform. Those proposals are—1st, to raise the age of consent to 12 years, 2ndly, abolition of the action at law known as the suit for the restitution of conjugal rights, 3rdly, legislative provision to enable infant marriages being repudiated unless ratified by consent within a reasonable time of proper age, and 4thly, the removal of legal obstacles to remarriage of Hindoo widows. He strongly approves of the first two proposals as well as the fourth, but has equally strong objections to the third. We reserve consideration of his last letter in which he proposes what he calls the true remedies.

#### MORAL OF THE HOLIDAY QUESTION.

SIR,—There are many incomplete and unsymmetrical characters in the British rule, rich in diverse elements of apathy and race-feeling. No selfishness, no vanity, no mere vulgar ambition can sanctify proud consciousness of power or most high-handed dogmatism; and in any case when we have to enshrine the memory of our rulers, we should realize an honest and magnanimous nature, swayed by a glowing earnestness for, and a passionate conviction of, the weal of the subjects. In the Holiday Question, there are two voices, the one applaudive, because intrinsic, the other denunciatory, because extrinsic. It is necessary to gather up the result, not indeed to pitch voice against voice, which would be simply useless, but to sift as clearly as possible the strain of truth from them and set before the public the question in as broad a light of fact and reason as the nature of it warrants. The curtailment of the Doorga Pooja Holidays, apart from its grotesque form in kindling feelings of gloom and despond, cramps and fetters the Hindoo mind in the avoidance of a sacred religious trust that was rivetted on our rulers. The trust as it was, was involved in a pledge of neutrality in matters of religion; but time, the archenemy, shakes it all. The historic lustre is carried away and the charm gone! Well may Providence repeat itself in regenerating New India, filled with prolific brains too mercurial in their workings. Well may the nineteenth century descendant of the old Saxon with the accumulated erudition and heightened sensibility of his national lore, admire the pride of his position, the subtlety of his reasoning, the glory of his diplomatic skill, as he condemns those who follow their own accredited and accepted ideal. Well may the long-limbed, the ponderous-shouldered, the firmly-articulated, the large-handed specimen of *Naya*, gain more, or at least something more distinctive from contact with intellects of a type essentially alien, minds as speculative as his own. But the hour of retribution comes too late to mend, though come it will. In balancing our interests with those of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or other classes of traders, it is obvious that the latter kicks the beam, because the interests of trade cannot prove superior to the interests of religion. Besides, it is not the Native element that predominates in this case; yet the Natives, or be it said, the Hindoos are doomed to clip an unmitigated enjoyment of 12 days' holiday, while their more fortunate brethren have a full share of merry Christmas. The urgent telegram from the Government of Bengal to your address dated the 20th October shows that the Memorialists should be informed "that the Governor-General in Council is unable to modify previous orders, but will give careful consideration to any representation that specific offices have been unduly kept open contrary to intention of para: 3 of the Government of India's Home Department letter of the 3rd July last." In this paragraph special arrangements should be made in Government offices "by contracting the hours of business, by limiting the work undertaken to what is really urgent, by granting leave to Hindu employes wherever practicable and by utilizing as much as possible the services of their non-Hindu fellow-

clerks to minimise the inconvenience which may be felt by those who have hitherto enjoyed close holidays on the days which will in future be open." The consciousness of inconvenience exists in its reality; the work of mortification aggravates the burden of toil. Thus the inconvenience, far from being minimised, is carried to its highest strain. Nor is this all. The poor Hindu clerk is crushed under a crushing conviction that his best privilege is compulsorily taken away from him, not for any unavoidable cause that affects all Indians as subjects, but because the poor down-trodden Natives, signifying of course Hindus, cannot enjoy a privilege, when the uncompromising sentence of Bishop Butler—"Things are as they are and the consequences of them will be as they will be," is surely the right and salutary maxim for both the governors and the governed. Yes, there is an honorable patriotism in endurance which we are bound to maintain in advancing the cause of our better-trained and better-gifted brethren. Further, it should be borne in mind that, while the curtailment-hardship affects not any considerable portion of the Hindu community but only three or four Hindu clerks under the Government of Bengal, (as the memorable paragraph imports), we have simply to have our lips sealed, and, like most men of big thoughts, bear under all outward show of brave and sometimes audacious words,—a saddened and shadowed heart that feels unutterably the mystery of fate. If a group of holidays—a vacation much rather, is a priceless blessing; if its repose is essential to the physical, social and religious welfare of the people; if its quieting, sanctifying influence on the minds of men is universally admitted; if, in these days of intense excitement, when men live at an express rate, when mental and physical activity are carried to their extreme limits, a vacation comes with a Divine influence and brings rest and quietude to millions of the human race, it will not be close firing if we still kept on bolstering up arguments to convince Government of the unreasonableness of a measure rather than boggle at the fiat that has already gone forth. Our Western friends are wont to suppose that the Doorga Pooja season amongst Native traders is the busiest of all seasons in the year, the shops are kept open even in the Pooja days and there is no lack of activity that is due to religious obstruction, so that the curtailment of the holidays cannot affect our religious interests. It is a Pig Philosophy that argues in this strain. While the night apparently equalises the circulation, it is not sufficient to restore its balance for the attainment of a long life; hence one day in seven, by the bounty of Providence, is thrown in as a day of compensation to perfect, by its repose, the animal system. Physiologically considered, power saved is power gained, and the waste of power from every kind of excitement defeats the purpose of the day. In the present instance, the reduction of 12 days to 4, destroys not only the religious but the physiological effect, and there is no saving nor gaining power. On the other hand, there is a considerable waste of power from the unmitigated enjoyment from the *Suttee* to virtually the *Lukkipooja* day, making in all 10 days, although 4 are "strictly religiously observed" to use the words of the redoubtable *Nayaratna*. Hence, grandest as the festival is of all others of us Hindoos, 4 days' rest can be no more than a meagre blessing conceded to us at all. Those who think otherwise and argue otherwise, say nothing with a higher feeling, so that their arguments, if arguments they can be called, are boxed up in false logic. The Christians believing in the authority of their Lord's day as a religious institution, desire, in fact, the recognition of that authority by others who are not Christians. Thus the Christian holidays signally experienced in our country, have a charm to one and all in various aspects; and while I would anxiously desire that the non-Christians should intelligently appreciate the Christian day of rest, I would at the same time urge with reason and common sense that our Christian friends should preserve the religious and moral character of a festival that intimately concerns a wide class of Indian subjects. Toleration is not a phantom but a reality. It is the blessed outcome of a civilized Government, suiting the fancies not of a "microscopic minority" but the beliefs, the usages of a pre-historic race. Talk of the Red Indians, the Africans, the Australians, whose religions are probably as old as their languages, and so—excuse the adjective—as old as our own language. But we know nothing of their antecedents, nothing but the mere surface of to-day, and that immense surface explored in a few isolated spots only, and often by men utterly incapable of understanding the language and thoughts of the people. And yet we are asked to believe by the followers of the Theoretic School that this mere surface detritus is in reality the granite that underlies all the religions of the ancient world, more primitive than the Veda, more intelligible perhaps than the Old Testament, more instructive than the mythological language of Greece and Rome. It may be so. The religious map of the world may show as violent convulsions as the geological map of the earth. All I say to the enthusiastic believers in this contorted evolution of religious thought is to wait till they know a little more of Hottentots and Papuans. In the meantime, what does the *Nayaratna* and his school say of Ancient India? Are the Vedas to be classed with the Legends of the Eskimos? Is the *Gita* other than the Science of Religion and the Science of Thought? Does it contain words and concepts and

imaginations that are unintelligible, inexplicable, and irrational? Let the self-styled religious Pundit myrmidon speak. He has sacked the Troy of Hinduism with fancied joy of a crowning victory. It is England's duty to weave her choicest laurels to deck his brow. But before she did it, she should consult the religious interests of the wailing down-trodden Natives. I wish a happier issue next year. The interval brings with it a feeling of suspense. Let India leave the issue to England and to God!

### THE DOORGA POOJA HOLIDAYS.

We issued the following Extraordinary on Monday the 20th October last:—

"Today is the seventh of the moon—the first of the four grandest days of the blessed Doorga Pooja! Alas! blessed no more!

This year's Pooja is a Pooja of mourning—thanks to the government of the foreigners who fatten on the trade of our land! This year we are doomed to mingle our tears with the holy waters of the Ganges in our offerings to the Goddess. For the first time since the people of Bengal, of their free instance, invited the British to sovereignty in India, the darkness of disappointment and pain clouds this auspicious Religious Festival. For the first time, the Government has mutilated the leave for the Pooja by one-third. It is not often that the British Government in India in such matters reminds the people of their utter insignificance and abject helplessness in their own land.

#### Urgent Telegram.

Day 20. Hour. 8. Minute 48. [Oct. 20. 1890.]

From—THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL,  
Financial Department,  
Darjeeling.

To—BABOO SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,  
1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane,  
WELLINGTON STREET,  
Calcutta.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has received the following telegram from the Government of India dated 18th October.

'No. 2117, Public, your letter (of the 8th instant, on the subject of the Doorga Pooja Holiday. Please inform the Memorialists that the Governor-General in Council is unable to modify previous orders, but will give careful consideration to any representation that specific offices have been unduly kept open contrary to intention of para 3, of the Government of India's Home Department Letter of the 3rd July last.'

THE paragraph referred to in the Government of India's telegram to the Lieutenant-Governor runs as follows:—

'The Governor-General in Council accepts the proposals of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as regards the offices under the Government of Bengal to be kept open during the holidays which will henceforth not be notified under the Act. In all these offices special arrangements should be made, by contracting the hours of business, by limiting the work undertaken to what is really urgent, by granting leave to Hindu employes wherever practicable, and by utilizing as much as possible the services of their non-Hindu fellow-clerks to minimise the inconvenience which may be felt by those who have hitherto enjoyed close holidays on the days which will in future be open. Under proper arrangements, so far from hardship being entailed on any considerable section of the community, not more than three or four Hindu clerks under the Government of Bengal are likely to be affected by the change. Separate orders to the same effect will be given by the Government of India in regard to the offices directly subordinate to it which are situated in Calcutta.'

### SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENCE.

Financial Department.

No. 814 T. M.

From—H. J. S. COTTON, ESQ.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To—BABOO SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

Darjeeling, the 28th October, 1890.

SIR,

In continuation of my memorandum No. 711 T. F. dated the 20th October 1890, I am directed to forward a copy of the orders of the Government of India, No. 2118 dated the 18th October 1890, passed on the memorial received with your letter of the 3rd idem praying for a reconsideration of the orders recently issued by that Government in the matter of the Doorga Poojah holidays in these provinces.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. J. S. COTTON,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2118.  
From—C. J. LYALL, ESQ., C.I.E.,  
*Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.*  
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.  
Simla, the 18th October 1890.

*Home Department. Public.*

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 583T.F. dated the 8th instant, with which you forward a memorial on behalf of the Hindu inhabitants of Calcutta and its Suburbs, praying for a reconsideration of the orders recently passed by the Government of India in the matter of the Doorga Poojah holidays in the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

2. In reply I am to say that the Governor-General in Council regrets that he does not, as at present advised, see any reason for modifying the orders contained in my letter No. 1289, dated the 3rd July last, which were passed after full consideration and with every desire to respect the religious scruples of the Hindu community. I am however to add that the memorialists should be informed that should they hereafter be able to show to the satisfaction of the Government of India, that in any specific instances offices have been unduly kept open or work imposed on Hindu employes, contrary to the intention of para. 3 of the Home Department letter cited above, their representations will not fail to receive careful attention from the Local Government and the Government of India.

I have, &c.,  
Sd. C. J. LYALL,  
*Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.*

*Reis & Rayyet Office,*  
1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street.  
Calcutta, 3rd November 1890.

From—DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

To—H. J. S. COTTON, ESQ., C.S.,

*Secretary to the Government of Bengal,*  
Financial Department.  
Darjeeling, Bengal.

SIR,

The signatories to the memorial to the Viceroy praying for reconsideration of the orders recently passed curtailing the Doorga Poojah holidays recognized by Government in Bengal, which I had the honor to forward to the Lieutenant-Governor for submission, owe the illustrious heads of both Governments their thanks for the kindness of His Honor in promptly forwarding it on and giving notice of that despatch and for the condescension of His Excellency in acknowledging receipt of the memorial and giving assurance that the matter would receive careful consideration.

I duly received your telegram of the 20th October conveying the Government of India's telegram of the 18th October from Simla to the address of the Lieutenant-Governor asking him to "inform the memorialists that the Governor-General in Council is unable to modify previous orders but will give careful consideration to any representation

that specific offices have been unduly kept open contrary to intention of para. 3, Home Department letter of 3rd July last," followed in due course by a copy of the same telegram through the post under No. 711T.F. without date of the Bengal Secretariat, Financial Department.

Since then I am in receipt of your letter No. 814T.M., dated Darjeeling the 28th October last, in continuation of the said No. 711. T. F., forwarding copy of the orders of the Government of India No. 2118 dated Simla the 18th October 1890 passed on the memorial.

I have the honor to request the favour of being supplied with copy of the letter of the Government of Bengal forwarding with remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor the memorial to the Viceroy and Governor-General and copies of the other official papers (other than those published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 16th July 1890) on which the decision of Government on this occasion as on the previous one is based.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Sd.) SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

Financial Department.

No. 871 T. F.

From—H. J. S. COTTON, ESQ.,

*Secretary to the Government of Bengal,*

To—BABU SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

Darjeeling, the 6th November 1890.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 3rd November, I am directed to say, that all the official papers, upon which the decision of Government, in the matter of the Doorga Poojah holidays was based, were published in the supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th July 1890, and that the memorial to the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to which you refer, was submitted to the Government of India without any further remarks.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
H. J. S. COTTON,  
*Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

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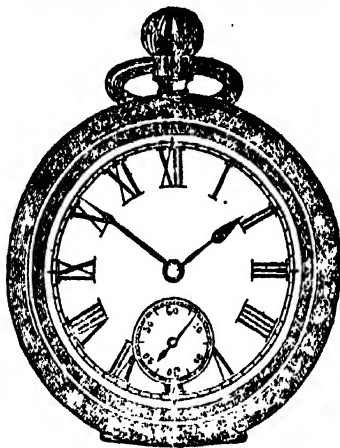
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1890.

No. 449

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

ALBANO.

BY RENNELL RODD.

THE lake lies calm in its mountain cwn,  
And the twilight star shows clear,  
And large and solemn it gazes down  
In the mirror of the mere.  
Was it here they rowed in their crazy aft,  
Where only the ripples are—  
The strange lake folk of the floating raft?  
Was it yesterday, said the star.

And the mountain slept, and the nights still,  
And thousand years rolled by.  
Was there once a city on yon low hill,  
With its towers along the sky?  
Did the cries of the war din of long ago  
Wail over the waters far?  
There is no stone left for man to know  
Since yesterday, said the star.

And the mountains sleep and the ripples we,  
And again a thousand years,  
And the tents of battle are by the lake,  
And the gleam of the horsemen's spears,  
They bend their brows with a fierce surmise  
On the lights in the plain afar,  
And the battle hunger is in their eyes,  
Was it yesterday, said the star.

And a thousand years—and the lake is still,  
And the star beams large and white;  
The burial chant rolls down the hill,  
Where they bury the monk at night;  
The mountains sleep and the ripples lave  
The shore where the pine woods are;  
There is little change but another grave  
Since yesterday, said the star.

## PRESCIENCE.

THE noontide sun beats fiercely down,  
Sweet scent of locust fills the air,  
The breezes lag through field and town,  
And life has lost its sense of care.

And stretched anear the panting flock  
That huddle in the locust shade,  
They watch afar the sails that rock  
All idly in the track of trade.

The white, white sails that idle lie  
They watch, but never seem to see,  
Their eyes are full, they sadly sigh,  
To-morrow must our parting be.

"To-morrow, love—nay, do not fear,  
To-morrow is a word of hope,  
And faith will keep your vision clear,  
Where love alone would only grope."

Ah, man, your talk but idly rolls,  
All words of cheer must idle be:  
The prescience of some gentle souls  
Is deeper than philosophy.

She hears the drowsy hum of bees  
Around them in the locust bloom;  
But over all she hears or sees,  
There vaguely falls a sense of doom.

"Dear love," she says, tears drown the rest;  
He tries to still her vague alarms;  
Her head sinks on his loyal breast,  
He folds her in his loving arms.

Next morn upon the strand they part;  
She hears the languid sea complain;  
Ah, maiden, press your aching heart,  
You shall not see your love again.

He may not come while ocean rolls:  
And so I hold it true to be,  
The prescience of some gentle souls  
Is deeper than philosophy.

JAMES MACCARTHY.

[Translation.]

## TO POSTUMUS.

Horace, Book II., Ode 14.

AH, Postumus, my Postumus, the years glide by apace,  
Nor love of the immortal gods shall from the human face  
Keep back the wrinkles, or avert old age's chilling breath,  
Or for an instant stay thy step, indomitable death.  
Should you three hundred bulls a year to Pluto dedicate,  
You could not hope the tearless king thus to propitiate,  
Who holds within the Stygian stream, that takes its course through Hell,  
The triple monster Geryon and Tityus as well—  
That stream, alas, which all of us who earth's rich bounties share  
Must some sad day be ferried o'er, though well or ill we fare;  
Whether, in regal purple born, we rule in splendid state,  
Or, like the wretched hind, the soil for bread we cultivate.  
The cruel god who rules the fate of war we flee in vain,  
Or Adria's billows tumbling hoarse upon the stormy main;  
In vain the autumn wind we shun, with prescience of death,  
That on our feeble bodies pours its pestilential breath.  
On black Cocytus we must look, winding in sluggish mood,  
With ever-wretched Sisyphus and Danaus' evil brood.  
Your broad domains must be resigned, and home and loving wife,  
And not a single tree or plant you tended here in life

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being untrue, and likely to cause confusion.

Shall follow to his sepulchre their transitory lord,  
Save yonder gloomy cypresses, by living men abhorred.  
A worthier heir than you, my friend, your Cæcuban shall drain,  
That priceless wine protected by a hundred bolts in vain,  
And shall upon his pavement a diviner vintage waste  
Than pontiffs at their festivals may ever hope to taste.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE historic French Sepoy Battalion of Pondicherry, which, after a good service of two centuries, was to have been disbanded on the close of December 1890, will, after all, be maintained, for the moment at any rate.

THERE are three Katywar Princes just now at the Cambridge University. All of them, as befits their race, are fond of manly sports. One of them, Ranjit Singh, is an enthusiastic cricketer. He applied to the Nottingham Champion, Mr. Arthur Shrewsbury, for a token of his play during the late season. Mr. Shrewsbury thereupon has presented Kumar Ranjit Singhji with his champion bat suitably inscribed, noting the triumphs of his instrument, and they have exchanged portraits. The ruling passion is not only strong in death but pursues us to the ends of the earth. The Indian's hunt after certificates, which so amuses and sometimes embarrasses Europeans, appears in full integrity in the Rajaling in his distant *alma mater*.

WE are sorry to see an educated Mahomedan gentleman of promise, belonging to the Statutory Civil Service, in the Small Cause Court for a tradesman's bill of Rs. 794, the more so as he had no case whatever.

ANOTHER native Judge in the South, and he another Malabari, is charged with corruption. Judge Davis of Tanjore has sent to the High Court a petition from a Pleader, named S. A. Sastry, against Mr. Krishna Menon, Subjudge of Tanjore, and suggested an enquiry.

THE Secretary of State has addressed the following despatch to the Governor-General of India on the subject of the duty on silver plate. It is numbered Statistics 45 and dated India Office, London, May 15, 1890:—

"My Lord Marquis,—Your Excellency has learnt by telegraph that it has been decided to abolish the duties on the importation of silver plate into the United Kingdom. The report of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech (Hansard's Debates, 17th April 1890, page 721,) shows that Her Majesty's Government remitted the duties in deference to the wishes and interests of the people of India.

2. The question of abolishing the British system of hall-marking and the views of the Indian Government on the matter were also considered. But it was decided not to interfere with the law and practice concerning hall-marking in the United Kingdom. The majority of people interested in the trade and those conversant with the artistic side of the question are believed to be strongly in favour of retaining the system of hall-marking. Her Majesty's Government proposed, however, to mitigate as far as possible any inconvenience under which the Indian silver trade might suffer, by providing that Indian silver work bearing an Indian hall-mark affixed under the authority of your Government should be admitted into the United Kingdom without being subjected to the British hall-mark regulations.

3. The Bill dealing with the matter will be forwarded to Your Excellency as soon as it is introduced. Meanwhile I shall be glad to learn at an early date what standard of fineness your Government would, with due regard to the practice of Indian silversmiths, propose to adopt for the Indian silver hall-mark. I forward (by book-post) a copy of a Parliamentary return showing the standards of fineness adopted by different European nations which maintain a system of hall-marking.

4. It is perhaps needless for me to observe that, if a hall-mark is established for India, it might be permissive and not obligatory. Any dealer who desired to send silver ware to England without being liable to the British hall-marking system would get his wares assayed and marked in India under such rules as Your Excellency might prescribe. I anticipate that the new law and practice in the United Kingdom will follow the practice now existing, whereby artistic silver ware or ware belonging to private persons and not intended for sale is exempted from the hall-mark regulations."

THE convenient cheap match box is not always safe. It should never be allowed to be the toy of children. The other day, a native aged only 3, residing in Barnishpara, Entally, died of burns at Campbell Hospital, from the fire to her clothes from the match which she was playing with and igniting, in the absence of her parents. Agony is not to be trifled with.

TWO new forms of the violin have been patented—the *agilo* and the *violinette*. The first by Mr. Barnardo has a raised neck of merely nominal length, with five strings tuned in fifths. It is claimed for the last, that it can be mastered by any tyro in a few weeks without any previous knowledge of music. It is much easier to learn than the instrument of which it is an adaptation, and suitable for both sexes.

COMING after the late accident, the last (Nov. 8.) inspection report of the Kidderpore Dock works is of more than ordinary interest. Major M'Arthur, R. E., and Mr. Connan write:—

"Dock No. 1.—The quay wall was completed with the exception of the coping which was in progress. We regret to record that in the beginning of October, or shortly after the expiry of the quarter ending September, to which period the progress herein stated bears reference, a considerable length of the walls of this Dock suddenly showed signs of failure. We understand that the matter has already been reported to Government, and that more detailed report is in course of preparation, which will be submitted in due course. As far as we could note during our inspection, the following is the present condition of the damaged work, the same being roughly indicated on the diagram accompanying the progress report and submitted herewith.

Movement of the long straight length of the east wall of the Dock has taken place over 2,050 feet, commencing about 50 feet from the angle of the short berth at the north end and extending to the angle of the wall at the south end. The displacement at the extremities of this length is shown by slight cracks on the face of the masonry extending through the wall and by longitudinal cracks along the course of the tunnel arch; but it is not considered that the latter extend through the solid masonry. The wall has been thrust forward by the earth backing, and tilted so as to bring the face to a vertical position along the whole damaged length. The movement is very slight at the two extremities and attains a maximum at a distance of 1,650 to 1,700 feet from the south angle, where the displacement at the coping level is 7' 5½". From this point of maximum displacement to the south angle, an almost perfect straight line has been preserved, the remaining 400 feet at the north end being more or less bulged. The original batter of the wall was ¼" to the foot or about 2' in total height from the foundation, and this amount would represent the forward movement at the top edge of the coping due to tilting, the remainder of the movement, or a maximum of 5' 5½", being the bodily transfer of the whole wall to the front sliding over its bed. The earth backing has sunk an average of perhaps 6' for a distance of 75 to 120 feet from the front of the wall, filling completely the gap caused by the displacement of the wall. The average height through which the wall has sunk is 15'.

Shortly after the occurrence above mentioned, a serious movement and fracture of the wall at the south-west angle of the Dock took place. About 450 feet of the inclined portion of the wall was affected, and about 50 feet adjoining this at the end of the Dock. The greatest forward movement was at a point 120 feet from the angle of the side walls, being 12' 11½", allowing 2 feet for the tilting of the wall, a forward movement of the whole wall of nearly 11 feet. The masonry of this portion is much shaken, showing cracks both on the face extending through the wall and longitudinal cracks. No less than seven cracks appear on the face of the wall and extending through it, while one appears at the extremity of the detached length at the end of the Dock. The mass of masonry here appears to have received a severe wrench from the fore exerted by the backing at the point of maximum displacement, the movement of the wall itself is small.

It was regretted to us that since the first movement of the walls no further displacement or settlement has taken place. The masonry of both the damaged walls appears to us to be of thorough good quality.

General remarks.—We are of opinion that fair progress was made with the work up to the end of the quarter, which would have been maintained to the date of our inspection but for the partial failure of the Dock walls. The quality of the work, as far as we have been able to judge, is satisfactory."

We understand Mr. Bruce is coming out to India to doctor the dilapidated lock. Whatever the chances of the patient, there is the certainty of another drain of the public purse. More money is to be sunk. "It must be found for his idle hands." With such a prospect of active commission on the part of the Commissioners' purchases is not enough to keep in peace at home an Old Indian Pasha of the Public Works. By the bye, has he explained his permission to Mr. Bush to receive the private honorarium for supervision of the repairs of the lost Sir John Lawrence?

From the Army and Navy Gazette:—

Two Crimean veterans are about to publish their memoirs, — Marshal, the hero of the Malakof, of Magenta—aye, and of Wörth, — he did all that skill and courage could do with 35,000 Frenchmen against a position assailed at last by more than 110,000 Prussians and Bavarians. Ex-President of the French Republic, General in the great wars, after a long career of military service, his opinions, relations, and reminiscences must be of the greatest interest to the soldier, the statesman, and the historian. The memoirs of Marshal Canrobert, if less important to the politician, should be of immense value to all who desire to learn from the lips of one of the most prominent of the actors in the struggle before Sebastopol, and in the tremendous days of fighting round Metz—where the old Marshal, at the head of the Imperial Guard, displayed the admirable qualities of which he had long before given proof on the plateau when he dashed to our aid in the ravine of Inkerman—his personal impressions of the events in which he bore so distinguished a part."

HERE is a quotation from an article on Mahomedans and the Play "Mahomet" in England from the *Daily Telegraph* :—

"Should Mahomet be presented on the stage? Should the susceptibilities of his followers be respected so far as to induce the French and English Governments to forbid representations of his career at the Paris or London theatres? The question presses. An English novelist of ability and repute has written a play on the subject 'for a famous actor and dear friend.' M. Bornier, the French dramatist, has also prepared a drama with Mahomet as its hero, and the other day it was about to be produced in Paris. On hearing this the Mussalmans of Bombay appealed to the Sultan to remonstrate, through his Ambassador, and to point out that it would be 'an insult and a mockery to put their Prophet on the stage.' The petitioners spoke, no doubt, on general grounds; had they known M. Bornier's method of working they might have been more earnest in their objections. The French dramatist takes considerable liberty with history. He makes Ayesha, the Prophet's favourite wife, a follower of Christ, and bitterly opposed to her husband's new creed. She also has a lover, Safwan, whom she prefers to Mahomet—a touch of French license which is, perhaps, inevitable in a play intended for the boulevards. At the end of the drama Mahomet desponds; he doubts his own success; he prophesies that Christianity will live for ever, and that Islam will fall. Finally having lost faith in his cause, in his wife, and in his followers, he commits suicide and brings the curtain down. It is certainly not surprising that such a play should be forbidden on political grounds. The English Government might call upon the French Government to prohibit a drama travestying the life of the man whom their Mahomedan subjects regard as their prophet and saint, the founder of their Empire, their policy, and their creed. During the second Empire, the Lord Chamberlain, as a matter of international courtesy alone, would have forbidden any drama in which Napoleon was represented in an undignified way. Yet French feeling for the great Corsican is far inferior to the feeling of Islam for Mahomet. We go even further than respect for religious susceptibilities; we do not allow our politicians to be put upon the stage. Some years ago the Lord Chamberlain stopped a burlesque in which actors were made up to represent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Ayrton. It was felt at once that, while our writers and artists were free to lampoon and to caricature our statesmen, their introduction into the theatre was a step beyond legitimate license. It would lead to the degradation alike of the theatre itself and of our methods of political controversy. Audiences would cheer or hiss according to politics, and we should turn pit and gallery into bear gardens, with free fights between contending partisans. If we thus wisely keep politics from our stage, how much more reason is there to exclude religion!"

SIR Charles Elliott is expected in Calcutta on the morning of the 26th. He does not come as Lieutenant-Governor, and he would not have his privacy intruded upon by obliging and officious friends, nor disturbed by the recognised Durbaris.

SIR Stuart Bayley has permission to resign the Lieutenant-Governorship from the 17th December next, when he makes over charge. The honors of the place will be continued to him till he embarks for Europe.

THE appointment of Sir Charles Alfred Elliott, K.C.S.I., as Lieutenant-Governor of the Bengal Division of the Presidency of Fort William is Gazetted. The Governor-General appoints him, subject to the approbation of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, to be notified in due form hereafter.

MR. A. Mackenzie, C.S.I., has made over charge to Mr. J. W. Neill, who officiates as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, pending the arrival from England of the new permanent incumbent, Mr. A. P. MacDonnell, C.S.I., the Home Secretary, on leave.

MR. Mackenzie is on his way to Ragoon *via* Calcutta. He arrives there on December 7, when he assumes the Chief Commissionership of Burma from Sir Charles Crosthwaite.

LADY Lansdowne returned to India on Monday, and joined the Viceroy, on Wednesday at Delhi. She was to have attended the festivities at Jeypore. This delay must have been disappointing to the Jeypore Durbar.

LORD Lansdowne has completed his visit to the old Mogul Palace. He held a levée there. The Viceregal camp has moved down to where there will be a Durbar.

THE Viceregal re-entry to Calcutta is programmed for Tuesday, 9th December. The Legislative Council is announced for Friday, the 12th following. The Calcutta season opens with the Levée on the 16th and the Drawing Room on the 18th December.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

LONDON is passing through a financial crisis affecting the whole trading world. Last Saturday, the *Times* came out with the startling news that a most grave crisis in the City has been averted by the prompt combination of the Bank of England and other leading houses to bolster up one of the most important financial houses in London, which is largely concerned in South American loans, the Bank of France lending the Bank of England three millions sterling to tide over the squeeze in money. The next telegram, that of the 17th, disclosed the honoured name of the Baring Brothers as the firm in difficulty, and the cause of its distress was stated to be the sudden withdrawal by the Russian Government of five millions. We suspect the real cause to be those South American transactions. A guarantee fund which then amounted to nine millions was started with one million of the Bank of England. It now stands at 15 millions. The New York stock markets were excited, followed by several large failures. The firm goes into liquidation, to revive, it is hoped, into a new Company with old partners but fresh capital. Mr. Thomas Baring has left New York on this mission. The latest news is that "Baring Brothers" will be converted into a Limited Company with Mr. Thomas Charles Baring for Chairman, with a capital of one million, which has nearly all been subscribed by the family and their friends.

THE fame of Dr. Koch's new cure has travelled wide, and phthisis patients are flocking to Berlin. Fifteen hundred foreign doctors have arrived there to study the cure. The Doctor has named his lymph "paratoid."

THE O'Shea-Parnell Divorce suit commenced without Mr. Parnell, who, as the event showed, had not a leg to stand upon. The wife charged her husband with adultery with her sister and others and with cohabitation. Mr. O'Shea is an honest knave and denied not promiscuous intercourse, but he protested against the base insinuation of a horny head. Mr. Lockwood, Counsel for the wife, informed the court that he would take no part in the proceedings. Mr. Clark, Counsel for the husband, proved meetings between the respondent Mrs. O'Shea and the co-respondent Mr. Parnell. Under the circumstances, the petitioner easily obtained a decree nisi for dissolution of marriage.

The conduct of Mr. Parnell is assailed in many quarters. The papers discuss the question of the retention of his seat in Parliament and continuance in the leadership of the Nationalist party. There is division in the Irish camp itself. At a meeting of the National League at Dublin, Mr. Edmond, in the name of the party, scouted the idea of Mr. Parnell's retirement from public life. Mr. Michael Davitt, on the other hand, demands the severance for the good of Ireland. The moral indignation against Mr. Parnell is a momentary cry. Where sinners abound, there can be no true boycotting of sin. Mr. Parnell is a more important public man than Sir Charles Dilke, and he will tide over his exposure more easily than the smart literary baronet. So it seems Mr. Parnell's mysterious movements were not all due to the exigencies of his peculiar public position. There was Love of woman at bottom, not merely Hate towards the Saxon. The exigencies of Lust explain the mystery and studied secrecy better.

THE Minister of Marine announced on the 14th, in the French Chamber of Deputies, the abandonment of the enormous guns in the Navy in favor of those of thirty tons capable of piercing any armour. We suppose the other Powers will now follow suit.

THE German Budget for the next year provides for a loan of sixty-four million marks for the Army, Navy, Railways and Post.

THE Tipperary trial has concluded. Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien and nine more have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment. How will the order be carried out on the absent delinquents? We may expect other proceedings when the agitators have done their work in America.

LADY Rosebery has succumbed to the fever that was preying upon her. We had hoped for her recovery both for herself and Lord Rosebery. She leaves a mighty gap in society.



THE Czarewitsch left Athens on the 19th for Egypt, on the way to India.

IN a Paris hotel, a Polish Nihilist has sent a Russian General to his last account.

A WING is to be added to the Lewis Jubilee Sanitarium at Darjeeling. Before he came down, the Lieutenant-Governor laid the foundation stone of a house to be called after the Zemindar of Dimla, in Rungpore. Baboo Janaki Bulluv Sen, who bears the cost of construction to the extent of Rs. 25,000. The addition is meant entirely for the accommodation of the orthodox Hindoo. Mr. Lewis, the Commissioner of the Division, is unremitting in his efforts to thoroughly establish the only place in Darjeeling for native tourists and visitors and the sick. It is lamentable that native Judges and members of Council consider it *infra dig* to take up their quarters at the Sanitarium. Being a native institution, they think it their duty to keep away from it. We hope such a feeling will not scare away other honorable members of the native community. Sir Stuart Bayley remembered that he was not likely to be at Darjeeling again, and thus gave out his mind and appealed for funds for the institution:—

"Darjeeling is growing rapidly: in a short time Lebong will receive the wing of a European regiment which it is destined for, and this means a very much larger addition to the population, and therefore to the trade of the place, than the mere number of soldiers for whom Government will build barracks. Again, in every direction I see new buildings springing up, some of them on sites which I cannot contemplate without misgiving. But apart from all this I am convinced, that the result of the Native Sanitarium when once its advantages are fully realised, will be something far beyond a mere increase in the applicants for admission to its own immediate benefit. It means that hereafter Darjeeling will become a health resort, just as much to the wealthier classes of the native community in Bengal, as it is now to the European, and this again involves a very large increase to the trade and wealth of the place and to the responsibilities of the Municipality, especially in the direction of controlling the selection of building sites, and the construction of houses. I believe Darjeeling to have a great future before it, and I deeply regret that this is the last visit I am ever likely to pay it, for notwithstanding the tastes which people are good enough to credit me with, I am profoundly attached to the place, and if I had only my own tastes to consult, I should have liked to spend (8) eight months out of every 12 here. In point of accessibility and scenery it is superior to every hill station in India; in point of salubrity I believe it to be inferior to none, and those who are able to enjoy as I do the innumerable and too little known walks in the neighbourhood cannot fail to love it. All the more are honor and gratitude due to those who have given their money, their time, and their influence to bringing these delights and advantages within the reach of an ever-growing number of our native fellow subjects. No boon could be greater, no method of public benefaction, more worthy or more useful. I notice that Mr. Lewis is again at work in endeavouring to raise subscriptions for the endowment of a number of free beds for the poorer classes of the community. I commend his endeavours to your hearty sympathy and co-operation, and wish them all possible success. Your institution will ever have my warmest interest, and I hope that it will have an ever increasing career of prosperity and usefulness."

A WORTHY and respected citizen of Bombay has passed away in the person of Muncheji N. Banaji. His services to the town have been suitably acknowledged in an unanimous Resolution of the Corporation. Member after member rose, Indian and European, to testify to the merits of the deceased.

The occasion was interesting as showing the strength of the *personnel* of the Western Corporation. Our Calcutta body is not to be compared for a moment with it. We are weak in both natives and Europeans, and we have not the advantage of such a practical element as the Parsees supply there. Even there, they are losing ground. The original Bombay strength may be gathered from the necrological bead-roll given in the following wail of the *Rast Goftar*:—

"It is sad to think that one by one the good old members of the Corporation belonging to the first generation of its corporate existence are passing away. Rao Saheb Mandlik has gone; Navroji Furdoonji has gone; Sir Frank Souter has gone, and now Mr. Banaji. The Corporation paid his memory a just tribute by passing a very appreciative resolution, on the motion of Sir Henry Morland and adjourning without doing any business. Among the members who rose on that occasion to testify to the worth of their departed colleague was our respected citizen, Dr. Blaney, who warmly commended Mr. Banaji's independence which he said he found in all the Parsi members of the Corporation, and which was, indeed, a very gratifying feature, because it was at the bottom of sound local self-government. The other speakers who rose to express their sense of the loss suffered by civic Government by Mr. Banaji's death were Mr. Dossabhoj Framji, a very staunch and old friend of his, Dr. Cowasji Hormusji, Mr. Javerilal and Mr. Acworth, the Municipal Commissioner, observing with perfect justice that Mr. Banaji joined to the remarkable business capacity of his race every quality that went to make an upright, a high-minded and an honourable gentleman."

THE decision of Colonel Marshall, the Sessions and Divisional Judge, Lahore, in the Warburton defamation case, is disappointing all round. It is solemn "chaff." The orders of the lower court have been upheld, except as to the fine on the proprietor which has been reduced by Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000. The editor's appeal has been rejected, as also the prosecutor's application for revision.

MR. Buchanan, the correspondent of the *Tribune*, found it hard to gulp the bitter pill of the apology dictated. He published a modified version which was not accepted, and he has been allowed time to publish it as it is, as the price of his acquittal. He must do the bidding, poor man! The law is stern, and Justice—blind.

IN India the Law is Draconian and administration absurd and pitiless to a degree unknown in other civilised lands. Just now, the courts are specially harsh towards infancy of the male gender. For girls there is sympathy enough, and to spare perhaps, but no mercy to boyhood. Not long ago, there was a painful case in the Lower Provinces. The last judicial outrage has occurred in the Panjab.

At Lahore, for jumping over a school wall and posting a bill defamatory of the schoolmaster, a student of ten was charged with lurking house-trespass and convicted and sentenced by the Magistrate to three months' imprisonment. On appeal, the District Magistrate thought that the boy should have been convicted of house-trespass at night and exhibiting objectionable literature. He therefore upheld the conviction, but reduced the sentence by half, on account of the boy's youth and his being a cat's paw in the hands of others. Not to be charged with a tenderness for the tender he did not feel, he took care to make up for the clipped half by adding a fine of Rs. 10. The High Court, on further appeal, considered the boy rightly served, and declined to interfere. The comment of the press is that the punishment is excessively severe. The freakishness of boys is wellknown, and is usually independent of criminal intent. They perpetrate a wrong for the fun of the thing, and the Judge is not worth his salt who cannot discriminate between fun and crime.

BEGUM Sakeena has sued, in the Madras High Court, her husband Prince Mahomed Manara Khan of Arcot, for one lac of rupees—her marriage dower. The first question raised was, Was the Prince exempt from attendance in Court? It was claimed by Mr. Willie Grant that he was, as, he argued, Act XX. of 1873 applied to all Arcot Princes, although it exempted by name only Prince Azim Jah and his son on succession. Mr. Justice Handley regretted that the Act went against the Prince. He was indeed, by birth and position, clearly entitled to the exemption, but neither the law nor the Government orders enabled the Judge to do as he would wish. He therefore refused an application to examine him by Commission. It transpired in the course of argument that the Prince is entitled to a salute, but the Government would not grant him the privilege of exemption from appearance in Court. Verily, India is a land of anomalies!

THE *Indian Daily News* of the 19th November commences a leaderette thus:—

"A rather nice question in morals, if not in law, is raised by a correspondent who complains bitterly in an up-country paper of 'the abuse of the value-payable system.' The case is put thus: 'A Calcutta tradesman who had sent in several bills to a mofussil customer without result enclosed one as a V. P. parcel, and thus obtained payment from his unwitting debtor. The fact was duly reported to the postal authorities, by whom no notice was taken of the fraud.'"

Our contemporary should have remembered that to discourage such a practice, the Postal Department has changed the *form* of the V. P. order. It requires a declaration by the sender that the parcel is in execution of a *bond fide* order. If the too clever tradesman realised his dues on such a parcel, he clearly transgressed the rule by a false declaration, which is certainly punishable under the law. The P. O. rule, it must be confessed, is more concerned with the realization of its commission than with the prevention of crime, for it makes the commission prepayable and if the parcel is refused the commission is not returned. That may account for the Department's unconcern complained of by the correspondent.

Our contemporary would justify the means by the end. The *I. D. News* asks, "But was it a fraud, where the object aimed at and accomplished was not to swindle anybody, but merely to recover

payment of a just debt?" The writer of course reasons independently of the element of the false declaration involved. But apart from that falsehood, his calmer judgment will surely tell him that it is sharp practice more worthy of a Yankee huckster than an honest British or ~~Indu~~ tradesman.

THE ninetieth birthday of Count von Moltke was observed with unusual ceremonies. On Saturday, the 25th October, there was a torchlight procession of 20,000 persons. The proceedings of the next day are thus described:—

"On Sunday morning Count von Moltke received the congratulations of the Emperor in the conference hall of the General Staff, in presence of all the military magnates of the empire, all the commanding generals of its twenty army corps, all the officers of the grand General Staff, together with Chancellor General von Caprivi, Field-Marshal Blumenthal, and other general inspectors of the army, his Majesty's *maison militaire*, and a brilliant gathering of others. Beside the Emperor stood the King of Saxony, the Grand Dukes of Baden, Hesse, and Saxe-Weimar; Prince Leopold of Bavaria, as representing the Prince-Regent of that kingdom; Prince Albrecht, Regent of Brunswick—all Prussian Princes; the Duke of Connaught, etc. Count Waldersee, Chief of the Staff, and General von Wittich, Commandant of the Imperial Headquarters' Staff, led in Count Moltke. Hastening to meet the Count, his Majesty led him into the midst and addressed him as follows:—

"I thank you in the name of those who have fought together with you and whose most faithful and devoted servant you have been. I thank for all you have done for my house and for the greatness of the Fatherland. We greet in you not only a Prussian leader who has won for the army the reputation of being invincible, but one of the founders of the German Empire. The presence of the King of Saxony, who has made a point of personally congratulating you, recalls the time when he and you fought for Germany's greatness. The distinctions conferred upon you by my grandfather leave nothing in which I can personally show my thanks to you. I beg you to accept the only evidence of my profound regard which I can bring you. It is with special pride that I renounce to-day the privilege of a Monarch—namely, to have the flags of the army standing in his ante-chamber, and I beg you to take possession of the flags of the Guards, which have waved under you in many battles. As a personal memento I ask you to take the Field Marshal's staff, which you have already won before the enemy, as a symbol of my regard, devotion, and gratitude. I call upon all those present to express their feelings of gratitude that Field-Marshal von Moltke has known how not to stand alone in his greatness, but to form a school of leaders of the army for time to come and for all future generations, by giving cheers for his Excellency."

"At this moment a photographer caught the scene, which is afterwards to be elaborated on canvas by Professor von Werner. Count Moltke could only find a few brief and incoherent words of reply, but he took the Emperor's hand and imprinted on it a long fervent kiss. Afterwards the building was invaded by a steady stream of persons bringing felicitations. Princess Frederick Charles, widow of the capturer of Metz, came personally with a bouquet of roses. The Empress Frederick and her daughters drove to the Königsplatz on Saturday, and remained a quarter of an hour with the Count. In the course of Sunday morning more than 1,000 letters and telegrams reached the Count from all parts of the world. Their Imperial Majesties gave a grand banquet in the New Palace at Potsdam in honour of the Field-marshal, covers being laid for nearly 200."

Moltke is a man of silence, wrapped up in the cloak of his own meditations. Without such habitual concentration and introspection, he could scarcely undertake to direct from home as it were the most weighty operations in actual war. A German friend of ours, versed in all languages and all the "ologies" and distinguished in several branches of inquiry, who lived as an immediate neighbour of the Count's, told us that, although daily crossing him on the footpath and saluting him, he never had a word with the old General and never saw him speak to another. To such a man all this crowded and noisy demonstration, however well-meant, must have been infinitely trying. But a grander compliment was never paid to any warrior servant.

Is the Republic reduced to rags? It is certainly disclosing its nakedness and vulgarity. There is a proposition to tax titles in France. A Bill on that behalf has been laid on the table of the Chamber, by M. Emile Moreau, a deputy for the Department of the Nord. He is not for reimposition of the Revolutionary decree of the 17th June 1790 of the Constituent Assembly abolishing titles of nobility. He is only fishing in the Red waters of Revolutionary ideas for some money. He has hit upon his project in the interests of the public treasury. And certainly a more original scheme of local finance was never propounded. His idea is to authorize every municipality to offer the use of its name as a title to the highest bidder. The names not only of towns and communes, but also of estates, farms,

and simple dwelling-houses, would thus, so to say, be put up for auction. Every commune thereby comes in for titles—to sell. He would reserve Dukes and Princes for the chief towns of departments, Marquises and Counts for those of arrondissements, Viscounts and Barons for cantons, and Chevaliers for villages. He is not devoid of moderation or even generosity. He has no desire to disturb the present holders. He would only make them pay for the titles. He proposes the following scale:—

"For the use of 'De,' 500 fr. per annum; for the repetition of that particle, 1,000 fr. per annum; for the title of Chevalier, 1,000 fr. per annum; for that of Baron, 5,000 fr. per annum; for that of Viscount, 10,000 fr. per annum; for that of Count, 20,000 fr. per annum; for that of Marquis, 30,000 fr. per annum; for that of Duke, 50,000 fr. per annum; for that of Prince, 1,00,000 fr. per annum; for that of Duke or Count, accompanied with the title of Highness, 2,00,000 fr. per annum; for that of Prince, accompanied with the title of Highness, 250,000 fr. per annum. 50 per cent. additional for all those who may permit their wives to participate in the use of their title, and an additional 25 per cent. would be charged for each child bearing a title derived from that of his father. Widows bearing titles would have to pay the full annual tax."

The depths of human baseness it is not easy to sound, and there may be those who will seize at this opportunity to be called somebodies by payment. We see many such about us among our own countrymen. Still we doubt whether the number of French Philistines ready to purchase respectability is large enough to make the measure a financial success. The ancient nobility would scarcely care to retain their titles on such terms. What then? Their titles may be confiscated, but, then, territorial names can not so easily be seized, and these are worth more than titles. Logically, the Bill should contain a provision for punishing those who address men by their titles resumed or in abeyance.

HITHERTO human research and ingenuity had been baffled in the search for a substitute for tobacco. But in our times—the hey-day of Science and of Shams—when nothing is too sacred for trifling—when silver and gold are mimicked without compunction, and even the most important gems are daily counterfeited, poor old Baccy cannot escape Vandalic raids. An Australian shrub, the *Duboisia Hopnoodii*, the leaves of which the natives there chew for soothing them in the midst of toil and allaying the pangs of hunger, has been advanced as the rival of the old royal conqueror. The leaves contain an alkaloid which has been named piturine, supposed, by some chemists, to be the same as the active principle of tobacco, nicotine; others think them to be only closely allied. The *British Medical Journal* now announces that Messrs. Langely and Dickinson have shown that there is no difference, the action of the one being in every respect identical with the action of the other.

THE Bamboo is one of the best gifts of God to our land, scarcely inferior to the cocoanut. In the first place, it is charming to behold. The old travellers wrote in raptures of it. Then, its uses are manifold. It is the people's house-architect. Nay, it performs all the duties of a substantial forest-tree, of a good furniture wood, of a plant for posts and sticks, and of common bush fuel. It is not much employed in medicine that we know of. But it occasionally yields a medicine of great importance, though as yet unappreciated by European doctors—we refer to the Tabasir of the Arabic pharmacopœia. A new value of it has now been discovered.

"It is generally thought that bamboo being so light and small make a bad fuel wood, and no one would think it of any value as fuel for forges; yet it is considered the best material for making charcoal for blacksmith work, and, according to a Bangalore paper, is in large demand all over Mysore. It is said to give off more heat than the best coke and to require less blast. A maund of bamboo charcoal fetches twice as much in the village-markets as the best charcoal than any other fuel. The method of charring bamboo is different to that used for harder woods—the stacks or kilns being carefully covered with green leaves and then plastered with wet clay. While the burning is going on care is taken to exclude air as much as possible, without extinguishing the fire."

This is really a discovery of no small economic interest.

THE Committee for Police Reform in Bengal, composed of Mr. John Beames, Commissioner of Bhagulpore, as President, and Mr. J. F. Stevens, Judge of Gya, and Mr. J. C. Veasey, Inspector-General of Police, as members, have been added to by the inclusion of Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, of Utterpara, as member, and Mr. H. H. Risley, of the Secretariat, now on furlough, as member and Secretary.

READERS of the delightful *Life of Scott* by his son-in-law will remember that, besides his journal of his Shetland journey, in 1814, the great literary creator left a Diary for the years 1825-32. Lockhart made good use of both, enriching his pages with copious extracts. One would suppose that he had extracted all the cream of the record. This is a hasty view. Literary men who have carefully examined the MSS. have expressed a different opinion. At any rate, the public will soon be in a position to judge for themselves. Edited by Mr. David Douglas, *Scott's Journal* will soon appear. And the publisher's *Quarterly Review* for October has an advance article to advertise it and whet public curiosity.

THE Bengal Chamber of Commerce which, by persistent hammering, broke through the continuity of the Doorga Pooja holidays, is a greater respecter of the Kali Puja holidays than the Government Dock Yard at Kidderpore. The Bonded Ware House meeting of the proprietors was postponed from the 12th, because it was a public holiday as was also the next day, on account of the Kali Pooja. Here, however, is the notice issued in the Docks by the Deputy Director :—

"The Dockyard will work to-morrow during the half hour midday interval and will ring out instead at 4 P. M. On Wednesday the Yard will be kept open for urgent work. Heads of Departments will arrange to give as many of the permanent staff as can be spared leave after 2 P. M. to-morrow, and on Wednesday will arrange also to give leave to any clerk that can be spared leave on account of that Pooja festival.

(Sd.) A. CAMPBELL,  
Dy.-Director.

3rd November 1890."

We also publish the office memo issued by the same officer of Government during the Doorga Poojas. By Government notification, the full twelve days of the holidays were to be observed in all the India offices in Calcutta other than the Office of Issue of the Paper Currency Department and the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. Yet we find the Deputy Director of Indian Marine directing that

"During the working days of the Pooja holidays, the Establishment will work throughout the midday interval and be rung out at 4 P. M. The Yard will be closed except for urgent work and repairs to machinery from 1 P. M. on Saturday until Thursday morning when work will be resumed. The work on the Torpedo slip will be considered as urgent and will be proceeded with.

One clerk will attend in Deputy-Director's office daily for such time as required during the close days.

(Sd.) A. CAMPBELL,  
Dy.-Director.

17th October 1890."

To understand the full consideration shewn by the Deputy Director to the employes, it is necessary to explain that there are about 50 Hindn clerks in the Establishment. The office hours are from 10 in the forenoon to 5 in the evening, except on Saturdays when the men are required to attend only from 10 to 1. Half an hour between 1 and 2 is allowed for lunch. The artificers are required to attend from 8 in the morning to 5 in the evening, excepting one hour for lunch between 1 and 2. There is no hour for refreshment on Saturdays when the men are free after 1 P. M.

A greater sinner is the Officiating Accountant-General, Bengal. Three or four days before the Doorga Pooja holidays, Mr. Kiernander issued a circular to the following effect :—

No Gazetted holiday should be observed as a holiday without the special order of the Accountant-General. Two days previous to any public holiday, the heads of Departments must report to the Accountant-General whether there is any arrear of work. Whatever the arrear, slight though it be, the Superintendents must report the number of hands required to go through the work during the holiday.

Only the four "strictly religious" days of the Doorga Pooja holidays were ordered by His Supreme Excellency the Accountant-General for the Book and Compilation Departments, the assistants, two dozens Hindus, being obliged to attend office all the other days of the long vacation, excepting Sundays of course. A greater number had to forego the Kali Pooja holidays. During the Juggodhatri Pooja, the Treasury Accounts Department was ordered to remain open, only such hands as could the previous day finish the work due that day being allowed to absent themselves on Thursday and Friday.

The Government of India assured the memorialists praying for preservation of the Doorga Pooja holidays that it was anxious that its orders as to excepted offices were not dead letter. Little did it know that its orders would be observed in their breach in the unexcepted offices. It is necessary, therefore, that Government should know how

the orders have been worked. We trust that both the Governments of India and Bengal will call for reports shewing how the holidays were and are observed in both the excepted and unexcepted offices under them.

ONE of the most interesting cases of beggar frauds has lately been discovered in France. The culprit is a physiological curiosity, who turned his personal peculiarities to account to obtain board and lodging at the public expense. He is an old soldier, of about 31 years of age, who had served under the French flag in Tunis. It was there he contracted scarlet fever. The doctor who attended him applied what is called the 'pencil test.' He drew a pencil along his skin to see if it would leave the characteristic white mark of this fever. The patient's skin gradually swelled up and the pencil tracing was clearly discernible. He treasured up the hint. On his return to France, he began imitating all sorts of fevers which affect the skin, by which he obtained easy admission to the public hospitals. Such was his success that he pursued it for a living. He lately applied at the Lariboisière Hospital, Paris, pretending fever, and, being admitted, in two days exhibited an eruption on his chest. Here, at last, he found his match in the physician of the establishment, Dr. Louis Gallet. The doctor actually aggravated the rash by touching his skin with a pencil. Having now made sure of his patient, Dr. Gallet traced on his back the words 'possessed by the devil,' and sure enough the skin showed the inscription in bold relief. The game was up, and the fellow made a clean breast of the whole thing. He had followed up the knowledge derived from his first real attack with various experiments on his skin and he had produced various phenomena. Keeping his own counsel, he had been able to live tolerably well each time he was thrown out of work. He simulated an attack of measles by pricking himself with a fork and inflaming his eyes with soap. Scarlatina he imitated easily with a brush. For other diseases, other methods were employed. He could bring on the depression and feverishness required to complete the deception by over-night's debauch with absinthe and cognac. He is sure to be heard of again. He has no mind to turn honest. Indeed, before leaving the hospital, he promised the doctor a rare fun, if he did not tell any one. He would now go and cheat the surgeons with mock paralysis as he had cheated the physicians with mock fevers.

THE energetic Assessor to the Calcutta Corporation has taken to bed again—a victim to overwork. He applied for six months' leave on medical certificate. The General Committee have granted the leave and appointed Mr. Cooper, the Road Superintendent who last time satisfactorily officiated for Baboo Mahatap Chand Mullick, to act as Assessor. Mr. Wintgens, Assistant Engineer in the Drainage Department, has also gone on leave. The Department gains in Mr. Johnstone, Superintendent, Water Works, who is expected to shew steady good work. He is replaced by Baboo Matilal Ash, who, as engineer to the late contractor Sham C. Koor, smoothed matters between him and Mr. Kimber and impressed the Engineer to the Corporation, and had since been taken in on temporary municipal service.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 22, 1890

### THE INCOME TAX—IN PRACTICE.

THE Government has at last made up its mind to make the Income-tax permanent. All the early professions of its especial character to meet an especial emergency, have been either lost sight of or differently interpreted, and it is now boldly declared that the question of its abolition or modification is not likely to arise within a measurable distance of time. As indications of this change in the Government mind, orders have recently been issued declaring service in the Income-tax Department to be permanent and pensionable, and the assessing agency has been revised and strengthened. There is joy among our Assessors, and we would gladly sympathise with them, only wishing that, with the present certainty of their position, they learnt to do their duty justly.

As it is, there is a large amount of oppression committed in the assessment of the lowest classes, and this consciously and of set purpose. The arbitrary rules of the Department's own ingenious devising, for the guidance of the practical work of assessment, are surely meant for a help to the discretion of the Assessors, but, being generally enforced rigidly, they are a source of great pain and misery to poorer dealers and tradesmen. These are the people who can least help themselves, and that is the very best reason in the Income-tax Department's eyes why they should be forced to pay even when it is known they earn no assessable income. The procedure for the assessment is thoroughly arbitrary, and redress from the assessors' arbitrary proceedings is hopeless with the poorer class of appellants. To be once in the Assessor's book dooms one's fate for ever, and appeals to Collectors or Commissioners are generally mere waste of trouble.

The hateful impost being now declared permanent, the public and the press must now direct their efforts to secure a fair and just administration of the tax. A great deal of its unpopularity would then be removed, but unfortunately there is no proper agency amongst us for this purpose. The press cannot deal with specific cases except casually, while what is wanted is an organisation to act as a systematic check upon the proceedings of the assessing officers. Our Rate-payers' Associations might usefully divert a portion of their municipal zeal in this new channel, and mitigate the harshness with which the operations of the tax officers are generally conducted. The one object of these men is to swell the revenue. This is by no means an unworthy object. The natural tendency of all fiscal officers is and must be directed towards it. But, however worthy an object it may be, it should be properly attained. In our view of the case, the revenue should be maintained by all means, but there are means and means. An able and just officer will swell the revenue by seeing there is no non-assessment in the upper grades of income. Such is scarcely to be expected of the present staff. The disclosures made lately in connection with the assessment of the Marwaris of Calcutta and other commercial and trading people of the upper classes, prove how much of under-assessment prevailed before. We fear there is as much of it in the country at large at this moment. Our assessing agency, who are so great bullies in dealing with humbler people, betray a very contrary attitude before richer classes, who easily manage to escape lightly. Great loss of revenue is the consequence, and it is made good by the overassessment and unjust assessment of helpless people, who either should not be assessed at all or assessed at a lower figure. This is one way of dealing with the revenue, and we fear one too common. What we would have is a legal assessment of the tax. We would have every one with an assessable income loyally yielding his just due up to the last pie, but none without an assessable income called upon to contribute anything. Can the Income-tax Assessors and the Deputy Collectors, who are called Collectors for the purposes of this tax, claim this amount of lawful fairness for their operations? Are they not consciously conniving at a great deal of over-assessment, as well as of assessment of unassessable incomes? This they do to increase the revenue. They are wittingly guilty of all this unfairness for an object fairly attainable with vigilant and careful knowledge by, in fact, simply preventing under-assessment of bigger incomes. Crime upon crime, while they let the

powerful rich who can as easily pay as make the tax-gatherer uncomfortable and even tremble for his place, they seize the poor whose misfortune places them above, or below if you will, fiscal legislation of all kinds.



#### - THE RISHIS RESCUED.

A GREAT deal of capital is being made of the unfortunate case of Hari Mohan Maiti by the advocates of so-called social reform. Almost all the Anglo-Indian papers are full of denunciations against our ancient law and religion, as if the only grievances we suffer from under the British rule are those arising out of the imperfections of our marriage laws. Our friends of the ruling caste may have a motive in their persistent efforts to cram down our throats their own ideas on the subject. They can not certainly have any sympathy with our political aspirations, and they might consider nothing more desirable than to direct our energies to other channels. To those who preach the present crusade against the ancient institutions of our country, with such objects in view, we have nothing to say. But we ask the really conscientious and thoughtful reformer not to proceed on the assumption that the sages whose legislation we follow were so many fools who had not the capacity to appreciate the advantages of adult marriage and Gretna Green-wedlock. Nor is there any ground to suppose that they were self-seeking priests who had a personal interest in enjoining early marriage of girls. For purposes of priest-craft, late marriage would have suited them as well as early marriage. The fact is, that in the state of things existing when our Rishis legislated, the enforcement of early marriage was perhaps the only remedy for bringing about a better order of things. The Rishis never explained the reasons for the doctrines which they inculcated. Their codes do not begin with any preamble setting forth the objects. But there are clear indications in our shastras that they had to cope with very serious difficulties in evolving order out of chaos. The very fact that they had to recognise twelve different kinds of sons, including in the list the son of the unmarried damsel and the son begotten before marriage, points unmistakably to the existence of a condition of society in which promiscuous intercourse was the rule instead of the exception as it is now. The Rishis could not by one stroke of their pen declare that the *kshetraja*, the *kanina* and the *sahodraja* were all bastards. But with that wonderful tact which characterizes their legislation, the sages recognized their legitimacy in a manner which paved the way of their being declared bastards afterwards. The reform which was thus effected was brought about partly by regulations imposing restrictions on promiscuous intercourse, and partly by enjoining the early marriage of girls. However sweet adult marriage and courtship may be to young men and women, no one can say that such matrimony does not involve serious risk, specially to the weaker sex even when protected by law. If we are to have the *gandhiyavya* form of marriage re-introduced into the country, we must also have a law for enabling the Sakuntalas of new India to claim heavy damages against their *quondam* lovers. Let our reformers think seriously of the matter and say whether they are prepared to subject the courts of the country to the infliction of having to deal frequently with cases like *Birdle vs. Pickwick*.



It must be obvious to every one that the parties who make love generally dive too deep and lose their heads in the torrent. If left to themselves, they run the risk of taking in marriage actresses, nautch-girls, and wily strumpets. The miseries brought about by such marriages are not unknown to our European friends, and if they are real well-wishers of India, they ought not to be anxious to give us the benefit of a form of matrimony which must in great many cases end in the Divorce Court.

With regard to such evil consequences of child-marriage as are emphasized by the case of Hari Mohan Maiti, our Rishis or their codes are not in any way to blame. Our shastras do not enjoin consummation immediately after the formal ceremony of marriage. On the contrary, intercourse between the married couple is strictly forbidden up to a certain period. We might cite innumerable authorities in support of this position. But the following from the Code of Manu ought to suffice for our present purpose. The great legislator lays down:—

"Let the husband approach his wife in due season, *i.e.*, at the time fit for pregnancy; let him be constantly satisfied with her alone; but except on the forbidden Parva days, he may approach her even out of due season if desired by her."

The meaning of the above will appear clear from the following commentary of Medhatithi:—

"The law relating to marriage has been dealt with. The relationship of husband and wife being complete after the ceremonies, the natural inclination of the parties, unless restrained by the *Shaster*, might lead them to proceed towards consummation at once. Hence the prohibitory injunction contained in the above *shloka*. The meaning of it is, that sexual connection should not take place from the day of marriage, but the parties must wait till the first menstruation of the wife. In the treatises on rituals, it is laid down that after the marriage ceremonies, the married couple must lie down for sleep on the bare floor for a certain period which may extend from three days to one year and also abstain from luxurious food and sexual intercourse during the same period. This must be reconciled with the above text by holding that if the first menstruation takes place within one year, the parties are not to have sexual intercourse during that time. It must also be held, that the parties should wait till menstruation even if it took place after one year. By this interpretation all inconsistency between the different *smritis* is avoided."

We commend the above to the notice of the advocates of enforced reform.

JOGENDRA NATH BHUTTACHARJYA.

### DRIVEN TO THE LION'S DEN: OR

LIFE UNDER MARRIAGE BY CHOICE.

THE secret is out. We have stumbled upon it by mere accident. But we won't anticipate. A good illustration of domestic felicity in the West is going round the papers, in an account of the relations between a travelling showman with a menagerie and the spouse of his choice. They might be happy, according to all calculations, but they were not; certainly not the man. They were not ill matched. If she was a strict disciplinarian, he was her obedient humble servant. So much the worse for him. He had not a moment's rest, except perhaps when

His wife was to a neighbour gone,

To hear the chit-chat of the town.

If at such golden intervals he was tempted to give himself some earnest meditation on his fortunes, say, to find out what sin in this or a previous birth had mated him thus, he was in danger of a rude awakening, like poor Dr. Syntax of classical and Hudibrastic memory.

But, while he pac'd the room around,  
Or stood immers'd in thought profound,  
The Doctor, 'midst his rumination,  
Was waken'd by a visitation  
Which troubles many a poor man's life—  
The visitation of his wife.

We fancy the poor showman's good woman  
Ten years perhaps, beyond her hey-day;  
But though the blooming charms had flown  
That grac'd her youth, it still was known  
The love of power she never lost,  
As Showman found it to his cost:  
For as her words were used to flow,  
He but replied or, yes or no.—  
Whene'er enrag'd by some disaster,

She'd shake the boys and cuff the master:

Nay, to avenge the slightest wrong,  
She could employ both arms and tongue,  
And, if we list to country tales,  
She sometimes would enforce her nails.

Her portrait has not been painted for the benefit of the public. We are not told if

Her face was red, her form was fat,  
A round-about, and rather squat;  
And when in angry humour stalking,  
Was like a dumpling set a-walking.

All we know is that

'Twas not the custom of this spouse  
To suffer long a quiet house:  
She was among those busy wives  
Who hurry-scurry through their lives;  
And make amends for fading beauty  
By telling husbands of their duty.

And Mrs. Showman demonstrated her counsel in the most telling way. If her husband was a niggard in speech and basely uncommunicative to his wedded consort, she was liberal to profusion. She was an incisive conversationist, never failing to dig her points into his laggard person and block head. Thus she managed to prevent his vegetating in repose, giving movement to his poor limbs and employment to his pate. As for the heart which, in some conjunction of stars, he had given her, the good woman never neglected it. It could not be heavy for a moment, seeing that she always kept it sore and bleeding. For pain and anguish, she was a ministering angel—of destruction. There never was such a minister to a mind diseased of the husband tribe. All the lady doctors on both sides of the Atlantic, with their hard-earned diplomas, pale before this self-made female Sangrado. She is certainly a grand Surgeon Major—a mighty phlebotomist. She gives the lie to poor Sir Walter Scott's libel on her kind. There is no coyness or uncertainty about her operations or ways. She, at any rate, is not

variable as the shade

By the light quivering aspen made.

Quivering, indeed! Husbands may quiver—not a wife. Aspen and shade, pooh! Such comparisons may suit the veiled ugliness of the Oriental home,—not the British woman who knows her rights and knowing, dare to assert them. She may be versatile in her methods of war—various in her weapons of attack or defence—but never variable in her purpose. Mrs. Showman's Policy is ever the same,

Kings may be blest, but *she* was glorious

O'er a' the ills o' life victorious.

By such a constant succession of successes, she wrought herself into a terror to her lord of courtesy. Her crowning victory remains to be recorded. One day Madam Britannia armed with her trident made such persistent war on her man, chasing him with her poker with such fury round and round the show, that the poor fellow, seeing no way of escape, flung himself for protection on the lion's den. He quickly opened the cage of the king of beasts and, entering it, bolted it fast against the incursion of the Queen of his household.

Who will charge him with rashness? The jaw of the lion is not more formidable than tongue of the woman of temper in a pet. Mrs. Caudle is a nuisance. Xantippe is a calamity. But when these two well-known characters are combined in one dear soul and she assumes the rôle of a warlike Semiramis, the domestic situation becomes truly critical. And when such a heroine, in unmistakable earnest, charges with iron prong upon the unfortunate husband, the man is simply doomed. The lion seems preferable to the Fury. And so he proved. The poor showman found that the magnanimity attributed by the ancient naturalists to the lion is no fable. The beast spared his prey when the latter sought his protection. Not so the—Beauty. She was not content to drive her husband into the jaws of the lion. Unable to continue her pursuit or reach her victim, she growled and brandished her iron rod at him and called him to come out, if he did not mean to offer himself a hearty dinner for his famished prisoner, whose company he had there sought. As he shewed no inclination to accept the challenge, even in the face of the terrible alternative presented to him, she, still unrelenting, kept raging and making faces at him and calling him names, especially vociferating, from time to time, "oh you coward!" We now understand why good old Mr. Punch cried out—  
DONT!

## ANCIENT INDIA AND INDIAN AUTHORSHIP.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—To the extreme left of religious orthodoxy is united in opposition the extreme left of heterodoxy. Those who hold by the old faith are afflicted, because they cannot find in the tree-trunk one niche, sanctified by the image of a saint, and because the dryads, all undraped, have here their haunt, and these people would, perhaps, rejoice to level to the ground with some consecrated ore the old, enchanted oak. Those who hold by the new faith, the apostles of liberalism, are angry, because they cannot appropriate it as a tree of liberty, nor even construct from its timber a barricade. In fact, the tree is too high; they cannot plant on its summit the *bonnet rouge* and dance the *carmagnole* at its foot. The public, in general, however, honor the old oak, because it stands erect in lordly independence, and fills the whole world with its perfume, its branches rising so majestically to the sky that it seems as if the stars are only the golden fruits of this wondrous tree. We cannot plant the *bonnet rouge* on the tree top; nor can Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, author of the "History of India" and other writers of his type either, because we all belong to the century of new progress and reform and are the children of our own times. India has been characterised by a certain habit of impulse and impetuous zeal in the realization of such unique convictions as Mr. Dutt and other typical Indo-English writers can understand. They appreciate greater spontaneity of thought and consequently of action and deem it loyalty to harden their hearts and dull their sensibilities in English fashion, against even that modicum of approval which might be consistent with such appreciation. The mechanical, metaphysical and scientific devices which have been forced upon their ill-bred tastes, have inflated their wisdom beyond the appearance of urbanity and candour. With a sense sure to detect the drift of society and events, streams of social tendency, the rise of the people, the varying and complex problems of the pressing future, they see no necessity of being worried by such questions of Ancient India as are not worth hearing. Their liberty of pure thought and expression, their method of action, much more imaginative than those of their bigoted conservative brethren, are, in all forms of logical activity, much surer of their results than any other, and, perhaps, they are the safest in the world. Yet when they choose deliberately to exercise their brains, there are unmistakable proofs that in practical realization of their intellectual beliefs, these qualities leave them in the lurch. Mr. Dutt is no doubt a humble citizen in the Republic of Letters. As a historian, he has to come in contact with diversities of mind. Subtle sources of sympathy open up before him in contrast with sources, not less subtle, of antipathy, and both of them are often interesting and instructive in the highest degree. To English minds, his production is tasteful and pleasant; to Hindoo minds, it is crude and unintelligible. If he examined his own imperfections, he would cease to be fastidious; if he restrained his scrupulosity, he would cease to be squeamish. Either the one way, or the other, he has compromised himself in making the ancient history of India a dry chronicle of dates and incidents existing in a mythical form. The English historian being an Englishman is quite qualified to narrate things and events in an intelligent manner, because he has the necessary intelligence to understand things and events as they happen in succession. The Indian historian in the present instance is not an Englishman like Sir W. Jones, Colebrooke, Elphinstone, James Mill, Orme, Ward, Professor Wilson, or Cowell, but an Indian; so that he should similarly possess all those qualities which characterise an Englishman treating of the history of England. But Mr. Dutt lacks the necessary faculties of correct observation and narrative. This shortcoming on his part is not intensified by racial prejudices and predilections and that sort of patriotism which influences the historian to see everything in him the reverse of everything which pertains to his neighbour, but by an anglicised taste which throws a veil over his inner nature, and makes him incapable of expressing his sentiments in a clear and unsophisticated form. He is predisposed to satisfy the advanced liberal thinkers, without believing that his orthodox countrymen have a right to appropriate a share in his vineyard. Like the pow-

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Coughs, Influenza.—The soothing properties of these medicaments render them well worthy of trial in all diseases of the respiratory organs. In common colds and influenza the Pills, taken internally, and the ointment rubbed over the chest and throat, are exceedingly efficacious. When influenza is epidemic, this treatment is the easiest, safest and surest. Holloway's Pills purify the blood, remove all obstacles to its free circulation through the lungs, relieve the over-gorged air tubes, and render respiration free, without reducing the strength, irritating the nerves, or depressing the spirits; such are the ready means of escaping from suffering when afflicted with colds, coughs, bronchitis, and other chest complaints, by which the health of so many is seriously and permanently injured in most countries.

erful Voltaire, he is certainly not disposed to accept without question any of those beliefs that underlie our ancient historic lore. He has assailed it with every weapon and has endeavoured to overthrow it. The ephemeral lustre of unbelief is visible in the grotesque procession of new opinions that feed the taste of the Ultramontanes. If Voltaire succeeded in making a new era for himself, Mr. Dutt has none of that reckoning, because the basis of his opinions is utterly unfounded. He says:—"Let the reader attach no value to the names which are mostly myths or to the incidents which are mostly imaginary; let him only endeavour to draw from it a picture of Hindoo life in the Epic period, i. e., the period of Aryan expansion in the Gangetic valley" (vol. I, Book II, chapter II, p. 189). Possibly, he would attach the greatest "value" to Ragnor Lodbrog or Junius of a much later date. If he called them "myths," he could not surely draw from them a picture of English life in the two distinct periods of English history. There are some English historians who admit these characters as real; there are others who ignore them altogether. The names and incidents connected with the two epics are taken as "imaginary." The existence of Vycramadyta or Yudisur has been ignored. But Mr. Dutt cannot ignore that Belus reigned in Babylon (B. C. 1322) or that Semiramis reigned in Assyria (B. C. 2075). He talks of the Vedas as simply a collection of hymns, liturgies and rituals;—and the Pentateuch is a solid historical record! The Institutes of Manu contain no historical facts, or genealogies of kings, but it is simply an exposition of Aryan society and the peculiar divisions into which it had been separated;—and Ahab, King of Israel (B. C. 923) bears the impress of historical truth! Further on in Vol. III. Book V. Chap. VI., p. 283, the author states with a degree of complacency:—"The caste system in India has much to answer for; but its worst and most lamentable result is this permanent breach and disunion where there should have been fusion and union, this weakness and death, where there should have been national strength and life." A sorry reasoning this, showing the frantic liberalism of an uncouth Indian. It is useless to deny that the caste system is founded upon an exclusively social and religious basis. It is a combination of both, serving to maintain the professed religious faith, and apart from that faith, to uphold the decent moralities of social life. Caste restrictions cannot be withdrawn, as that would give place to the wildest and most uncontrollable license, which, by the Hindoo religion only, would be wholly unchecked. Caste discipline is an aid to preservation of the outwardly decent morality of the people and the observance of laws which no profound jurist would see abolished until, by a purer faith and diviner air, eliminated by astute intellects like those of Romesh Chunder and his fellow-brethren, its aims as well as its practical effects could be accomplished. "Fusion and union" "national strength and life" represent a higher ideal, no doubt, but socialism needs a much higher explanation. Its legitimate demands and nobler aspirations must be satisfied by measures founded on a juster and sounder principle. The socialistic heaven must continue to work so long as the framework of society, that is built upon the old, remains materially untouched. So that the day is far to seek of that "national strength and life" which Mr. Dutt looks wistfully on.

J.

## JEANNE AND MARY.

BY MAURICE MONTEGUT.

[Translated for *Reis and Rayyet* from *L'Echo de la Semaine*.]

For the twelfth time I made the voyage between New York and Havre; and, as on the eleven previous occasions, I took my passage in the mail steamer the *Saintonge*, commanded by Captain La Pallue.

I had a partiality for the *Saintonge*; more than on any other ships, the table was comfortable, a thing important in a voyage; the cabins were in good order, the *personnel* amiable, the crew picked, and the Captain, a delightful man, who knew his business and had it at his fingers' ends, and was not for that a less jolly fellow. I loved that. On board the vessel, between the heavens and the water, I felt a veritable want of ambient sympathies; one only scowling look grieved me;—when I was obliged to consider it six times per hour during eight or ten days, this magnetic uneasiness was turned into an intercourse *à la persécution*. We were all nervous in our family. I admit this may be ridiculous, but it is incurable; every man has his foibles, is it not?

Four days after our departure from America, we came under a sky lighted by the sun from morning till evening and by the stars all the night, the wind blew softly, and the sea was like a female who rocked the cradle; we sang her the best songs. The passengers made a good figure. At the meal, in the dinner-hall, I had on my right and on my left two jolly and gay neighbours.

The good *Saintonge* on the march between the sky and the sea was like a little paradise, and many of the passengers desired to continue this voyage of dream for days still.

On the fourth day, at breakfast, the Captain said :—

"Ladies and gentlemen, this evening towards 10 o'clock, we will arrive at the middle of our route. We will find ourselves just at an equal distance between America and France, between the Old World and the New; then *diner de gala*, and, if the ladies like, some music after dinner. We will drink the health of the two countries, in thanking God for giving us a time truly favourable."

This petty discourse was received with a joyous uproar; and the cordiality of each augmented it for all.

All that day, a sort of fever ran among the passengers; the ladies pondered over it at their toilet; the men, the most grave among them, were naively joyous before the prospect of this unexpected *fête*.

It is to be remarked that we grow young again in a voyage: man is so little before the wide expanse of the sea and the height of heaven, that naturally he becomes once more an infant. For my own part, I remained calm. Eleven times already had I assisted at the *diner de gala*, at the *improvisée fête*, which celebrated the happy arrival of the *paquebot* at the middle of the route without any mishap. I knew it too well to be ruffled by it. But the happiness of others made me happy, and not to appear sad in the midst of so much joy, I affected to be prodigiously enchanted.

I walked along the deck, and when I passed before a group of Frenchmen, I sang—"Gai, gai, lari don, don lá!" Then ten paces farther on, near a clan of Americans, I shouted: "Hip! hip! hurrah!"

They remarked my gaiety and several times I had the pleasure of hearing behind me some voices say "I was an amiable man—a merry soul." What more to desire?

The hour of the expected dinner at last came. The table was splendidly served and La Pallue, in full dress, had the good air to preside between the two very jolly ladies of the passage, both of whom appeared in a low dress. Sunburnt, tall, broad, with eyes dry and glittering, our Captain was really a superb man.

We ate fast and drank much and the conversation became rather droll; but, as every one spoke at the same time, it became almost boisterous. To divert it, I proposed for discussion the superiority of the brunette over the blonde or *vice versa*. It so happened that, around the table, there were five brunettes and five blondes, partly equally balanced, who pressed their lips and kept silent. The Captain, whose opinion was asked on the matter, refused to express it with an exquisite tact, which extorted applause from the ladies of all colours. We praised him. He rose with the glass in hand. Then we toasted to you, to me, to all, and every time our enthusiasm increased. At dessert, we love our neighbours. Love opens the heart; this is the evangelical in the Devil. All of a sudden, La Pallue consulted his watch and rose up: "Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "in ten minutes we shall be at the precise point. Excuse me if I go out for an instant. Duty before all; I have some orders to give."

We bowed, he disappeared, and every one left his place; and, as the coffee was served, the men began to smoke; we cannot always be gallant.

Under an adorable moon of softness and melancholy, rolling on the blue carpet of the splendid sky, surrounded by the eternal stars, the black steamer on the blue sea advanced in silence, like a thing of life.

Midway on the stairs, I stopped myself. Above me on the foot bridge, I heard a loud voice, which disturbed the stillness of the night. I looked, and perceived the Captain. I came and heard him this time. At first, La Pallue turned to the back of the steamer towards America, and stretching out his arms, he cried :—"Till we meet again! In a month! dear Mary!" Then turning towards France, he shouted :—"In five days! Good morning, my Jeanne!"

Seeing me, the Captain was startled and then said—"Is it you, Monsieur Mézidon?"

"The same.....I came here to take a little fresh air. Are we near the dawn?"

"Yes, we are," said the Captain.

He looked at me; he divined, without doubt, that I had surprised him, for he asked :—

"Be frank; have you heard me?"

"Well! I did; I never lied."

"Then, Mézidon!" said he, "I owe you an explanation; you are almost a friend; you had made voyages twelve times with me and your fidelity to the *Saintonge* touched me profoundly. . . . Then I cried to the right 'till we meet again! Dear Mary!' and to the left 'Good morning, Jeanne!' This is the history of my life. It is about an hour at the table, you were discussing about the brunettes and blondes. My friend, the brunettes are divine, but the blondes are exquisite. I had always thought so. Then I had arranged my existence. Mary is blonde; Jeanne is brunette. Mary lives in New York; Jeanne resides in Havre. My life of voyages is divided between France and America. In each world, I have a *femme* who loves me, who expects me, and who thinks of me when I am away. I love both equally well. The human soul is vast enough for two loves. It is for these *amours* that I have this practice of giving a *fête* on this precise point of the streams, just in the middle of the Ocean which balances itself from the sides of America to the land of France. For here is the point of equilibrium of my heart, between memory and hope—between my two *amours*, followed from far by the one, and already waited for by the other.

"This is true," said I troubled, "Captain, you are a sage and a happy man, for all sages are happy. But at last a day will come when it will be necessary to choose—either to reside here or there, —in France or America, near Jeanne and far away from Mary, or near Mary and far away from Jeanne. . . . When you will no longer make voyages . . . in ten years—twenty years..."

"Oh!" said La Pallue, with a melancholy voice, showing me with a jesture the horizon of the sea, where a black cloud rose, "In our business, you see, we do not calculate so far, my friend."

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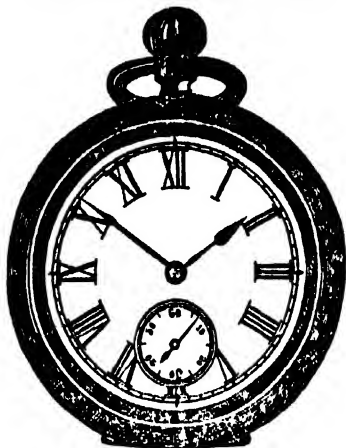
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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1890.

} No. 450

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

STANZAS.\*

BY C. A. KELLY.

To-morrow let Life's myriad cares  
Sweep on in sullen flight,  
O'er the vexed Ocean of our hearts,—  
We will be glad to-night.

Royally robed and garland-crowned,  
The happy guests recline,  
Amid the banquet-splendour bright  
Sparkles the sunny wine.

Into the soul the flute-tones melt,  
The glorious love-chant glows,  
And dark eyes flash beneath the brow  
White as Cithæron's snows.

"The foot-fall of the girl I love,  
Beats on the marble floor,  
The laughter of the lips I love,  
Floats rippling o'er and o'er.

"The murmur of my Love's sweet lips,  
Is as the silver sea's,  
That sleeps below the Moon all night  
Kissed by the summer breeze.

"Ah, when we revel in those eyes,  
And feel the soft cheek's touch,  
Not even the thought of darker days  
May vex us over much ;

R "When all too swift Time's chariot whirls,  
Adown the steep of years,  
Nor laughter of the lips we love,  
Makes music in our ears."

## UNDER THE CHESTNUT BOUGHS.

*From the Clipper.*

THERE'S a lad to-night far out at sea—  
He may never be home again.  
But, whether or not he comes back to me,  
My heart is his own, as when  
We were side by side on a day long fled,  
When I heard his eager vows,  
And blushed at the tender words he said  
Under the chestnut boughs.

They tell me a sailor's heart is bound  
By bonds that break at a breath :  
Others, perhaps, such love have found,  
But his will be mine till death.  
And whether he sleeps beneath the wave  
Or over the crest he ploughs,  
I must always be true to the pledge I gave  
Under the chestnut boughs.

It would grieve me less if the news were brought  
That he died in a far-off sea.  
Than if, sitting alone to-night, I thought  
He could ever be false to me.  
The lowland in winter garb is clad,  
Snow covers the mountain brows :  
No longer I stand beside my lad  
Under the chestnut boughs.

But I feel that my love will come back some day  
From over the stormy sea,  
As loyal and true as when, going away,  
He whispered farewell to me.  
My heart goes out by the foam-flecked shore,  
And never a doubt allows :  
We shall surely stand, as we stood before,  
Under the chestnut boughs.

## THE RIVER.

The lights of the city glimmer  
In the swift, black wave below ;  
Like ghosts that flit in the gloaming  
The white ships come and go.

White and dim and stately,  
The good ships seaward go ;  
Luck to you, Captains and sailors,  
However the winds may blow !

White and dim and stately,  
The good ships homeward throng ;  
Welcome, Captains and sailors,  
Your voyage has been long !

And sweethearts' eyes shall glisten,  
And wives shall joyful be,  
As the little children listen  
To your tales of the stormy sea.

But what are the wrecks you tell of,  
To the wreck of a love like mine ?—  
The river murmurs and glitters :  
Above the cold stars shine.

CHARLES H. ADAMS.

\* Taken from the beautiful poem on Pericles.—ED. R. & R.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THERE is a piteous call from Cambay on the Imperial Government for a public enquiry into the administration of the late Dewan, with a view to compensation to those injured in the riot, and adequate measures for the amelioration of the condition of the people and for other reliefs.

NO successor to Lord Connemara has yet been announced. His retirement is greatly regretted at Madras. The Vizagapatam people are extremely loath to part with him. They are particularly anxious to have him back as their Governor, and they quote as their precedent the re-appointment of Lord Cornwallis who ruled over India from 1786 to 1793. But they reckon without their host. They may be assured that the Governor reciprocates their sentiment. But then—the grapes are sour—for him, as they proved to poor Dilke.

THE Bombay University, we are glad to record, has agreed to confer an honorary LL. D. degree on Professor Wordsworth. The Punjab University also honors the Director Colonel Holroyd of Public Instruction in the Punjab with its D. O. L.

ACCORDING to the *Mandalay Herald*, "the value of land in Mandalay is deteriorating; a lot situated at a busy corner of the town, purchased sometime ago at its full market value, will not now realize anything like the cost price." Is that the official view? Evidently, there is no Sir Henry Harrison in Burma.

THE *Madras Mail* having suggested that, if Mr. Gladstone were to have the nominating of Lord Connemara's successor in the Governorship of Madras, he would probably appoint Mr. Bradlaugh to the post, the *Bengal Times* remarks: "It depends very much upon what *post* Mr. Gladstone would select for Mr. Bradlaugh. Perhaps in Lord Connemara's gubernatorial establishment, a head shoe-black, or sirdar coolie might be needed, and for either of these two *posts*, Mr. Bradlaugh would have our recommendation." So much for the amenities of Anglo-Indian journalism! But why "Sirdar coolie" for a Governor? Are the old days of private trade and business come back? Have our satraps taken to the open cultivation of tea or coffee or indigo, over and above dabbling in stocks and estates on the sly?

And above all, why a shoe-black? One would have thought the Great Benighted House was in urgent need of detergents rather than colouring matter; certainly, soot and blackness abounded there. A laundress and a white-washer would be more to the purpose.

A NEAPOLITAN Prince having assumed the travelling name of Count of Pollenza, a poor but by no means humble Italian has sued him for trespass into his domains and taking what belongs to others. Signor Porio—for such is his name—exhibits a genealogy of his connection with the old Counts of Pollenza.

WE welcome a new member to the Fourth Estate in the *True Light*, a Christian organ started at Lahore. It is a small fortnightly but good, conducted by men of education and character, and of course written with accuracy and a sense of responsibility—all qualities not too common in the Indian press. Though a religious journal, it is not a grim affair. The conductors show a sneaking yearning for the liberties of secular publicists.

THE number of the *True Light*, No. 19, before us, we confess, is not altogether satisfactory, showing careless editing. The following note is a fair sample of the quality, but by how many errors, typographical and even grammatical, is it disfigured!

"The recklessness (to say the least) with which Mr. Bradlaugh makes assertions, with a view to disparage Christianity, may be judged from the following statement in the *Natural* (? *National*) *Reformer* for 31st August:

"Of 362 criminals imprisoned in Bombay during the past twelve months, only 50 have been heathens, the remaining 312 being Christians of various denominations—a state of things which seems to prove that the Christians of Bombay hold good works in even less esteem than [sic] did the compilers of our own Thirty-nine articles."

Turning to the 'Government Administration. [sic.] Report on the Bombay Jails' for the years [sic.] in question, the only place that [sic.] we find these figures 362 is in the analysis of those passing through the Jails of the Bombay Presidency, which run [sic.] as follows:—

Christians	...	...	362
Muhammadians	...	...	6,194
Hindus	...	...	10,457

That sort of treatment of other people's doxies—not in the *Jolly Beggarly* sense, of course—used to be confined to the saints. The sinners were more honest.

As a proof of the successful British administration of Cashmere, it is claimed that

"During the last four official years the imports from that country have increased by about 19 per cent., notwithstanding a sudden decline representing 6½ lakhs of rupees in shawls, the fall in this item being due partly to the fact that this trade was formerly the subject of special encouragement in the late ruler's time, and in some measure to the Punjabis having become adepts in turning out well-got-up imitations of the genuine fabrics. Exports, on the other hand, have gone up by about 30 per cent., a noticeable feature under this heading being the enhanced demand for such commodities as metals, yarn, and dyeing materials, which seems to indicate considerable progress in the industrial arts, while the growing consumption of sugar, tea, tobacco and other superfluous would appear to point to a great improvement in the material condition of the people generally."

That is a poor and misleading account, neither true of the present nor true of the past. Thus, to talk of the Punjabis having mastered the secret of shawl-making ignores the great emigration of weavers from Cashmere.

COLONEL Nisbett made over charge of the British Residency in Cashmere to Surgeon-Major Joshua Duke, who makes it over to Colonel Prideaux from Jeypore.

COAL has been unearthed at Pinjore—a few miles from Kalka. The Geological Survey Department has been called up to pronounce its verdict on the find.

MR. W. S. Caine, M.P., of *Abkari* fame, now in India, has been elected a delegate from Sholapur to the approaching National Congress, to be held in this city. In the absence of a more desirable Chairman, he may be asked to guide the deliberations of the assembly. Whether he preside or not, or represent or not anybody but himself or any interest other than that of his party, he will be present, to give *clat* and weight to the ceremony, and afterwards report the business to the world. There will, of course, be an Abkari Resolution—somewhere.

THE Leprosy Commission out to India consist of Dr. B. N. Rake, M.D., Government Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the Trinidad Leper Asylum; Dr. A. A. Kanthank, M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., late Midwifery Assistant, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; and Dr. G. A. Buckmaster, M.D., formerly Radcliffe Fellow, Magdalen College, Oxford.

THE last rail of the Delhi-Umballa Section of the Delhi-Kalka Railway has been laid. The Section between Delhi and Karnal will be opened on New Year's day. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab travelled over a section of the Delhi-Kalka Railway on his way to Kapurthala to invest the Maharaja with full administrative powers.

THE Jodhpur-Bikanir line has commenced. Last week, the Maharaja of Bikanir, in the presence of the Political Agent, laid the foundation-stone of the railway station at Bikanir, at a distance of only a quarter of a mile eastwards from the city wall. The railway is expected to be complete in less than a twelvemonth.

THE Bengal-Nagpur Railway is nearing its completion. The end of December will see the end of plate-laying between Bilaspur and Kutni. The line may be open for goods traffic by the middle of January—and for passenger traffic by March next. But then the tunnel in the Saranda district will not be complete. There is, however, a diversion over which the material trains are now worked, and that may be utilized for passengers.

THE Sikh refugees at Pondicherry have, notwithstanding their intrigues in Maharaja Dhulip Singh's interest, been allowed, without molestation, to return to Delhi.

DURING the festivities at Agra, the Officiating Foreign Secretary Mr. Cunningham made a run to Gwalior. What may that mean?

MR. REES, the Acting Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras, has been put on special duty—to draw up an account of Lord Connelley's administration. He gains financially. "Aristotle" in the *Madras Standard* points out that Mr. Rees, while on special duty, will draw the pay of the Collector of the Nilgiris at Rs. 2,000 per mensem, the maximum deputation allowance of Rs. 10 per diem, and the local allowance Rs. 300 per mensem of the Persian and Hindustani Translator to Government, over the heads of his many seniors in the service.

PRESSED by the military authorities, the Government of Madras has accorded its sanction for the demolition of the outworks of Fort St. George—the Wallajah ravelin and two lunettes, to begin with. The General Officer Commanding the Madras District strongly urged that "their removal or even of a well selected few of these outworks would greatly improve the sanitation and ventilation of the Fort by securing a freer passage of air."

THE *Novoié Vremia* of St. Petersburg announces a new variety of the globe-trotter. There has arrived at Kiew a M. I. N. Balabouka, a tourist thoroughly independent of the progress of civilisation, who has travelled the world footing it all. He is but thirty-five years old and has already made above 42,500 kilom. (26,611 miles). He was to have commenced this month a new course of footing, kicking the peninsula of the Balkans as far as Mount Athos. Thence walking over the coast to Constantinople, he will proceed along the Bosphorus, and then cross over—by no miracle, we presume—to Jerusalem. Even at that Holy Shrine, the poor fellow will allow himself no rest. By way of the coasts of Syria and North Africa, he will proceed as far as Morocco, whence he will pass over to Spain, returning to Russia through Spain, France and Germany. This poor restless man must be a Hebrew—indeed the veritable Wandering Jew!

THE Acting Sessions Judge of Madura, Mr. J. Twigg, sentenced Mr. Robert Fischer, Barrister-at-law and a Lay Trustee of St. George's Church, Madura, who with his sister built the church and dedicated it to the Church of England, to simple imprisonment till the rising of the Court and a fine of Rs. 1,000. His offence is thus stated in the opening of the Judge's judgment:—

"Mr. Fischer, a Lay Trustee of St. George's Church, Madura, is charged under Section 68 of Act XV of 1872 as follows—that he 'on or about 7th May, 1890, at Madura, not being authorised under the Indian Christian Marriage Act XV of 1872 to solemnise a marriage, in the absence of a Marriage Registrar knowingly solemnised the marriage between Mr. Samuel Louis Ormsby and Miss Bibiana Elizabeth O'Connor both of whom are Christians.' The facts are briefly these: The Rev. Mr. Wansbrough, the Incumbent, was away on duty at Kudakinal in April and May last. In his absence the Native Pastor published the banns of the marriage, but left Madura three days before the marriage was to take place in spite of urgent requests that he would stay and perform the ceremony. In this emergency, recourse was had to Mr. Fischer who, as Lay Trustee, was taking the services in Mr. Wansbrough's absence. Mr. Fischer had doubts whether he was competent to celebrate a marriage, but thinking that since Laymen could christen and bury they might also in emergencies marry, and being fortified in this opinion by Mr. Johnson who had been for 17 or 18 years Marriage Registrar for the town of Madura, he came to the conclusion that he was competent to officiate and consented to do so. He wrote at once, however, to Mr. Wansbrough, detailing the circumstances and giving his reasons for consenting to perform the marriage. The letter reached Mr. Wansbrough in due course at midday on 7th May in time for him, had he wished, to have stopped the marriage by telegraph. He did not telegraph, however, as he was himself uncertain of the law on the subject. At 5 P.M., on the 7th May, Mr. Fischer solemnised the marriage in St. George's Church according to the Church of England ritual. Mr. Johnson was present—not as Marriage Registrar, but as uncle of the bride to give her away."

The trial commenced on the 3rd instant and, as befitted the position of the accused, continued the whole of that day and the next. Mr. M. S. Narayanasami Iyer, B.A., B.L., Public Prosecutor, Madura, prosecuted, and Mr. H. G. Wedderburn, Barrister-at-law of Madras, assisted by Mr. J. L. Pole, Barrister-at-law, and Mr. John Frelich, First Grade Pleader, Madura, defended the accused. The assessors were Messrs. M. Venkatasami Naidu and O. Vencatavarada Rao. The Judge took one day to consider his judgment which he delivered on the fourth day. The section of the law quoted runs thus:—

"Whoever, not being authorized under this Act to solemnize a marriage in the absence of a Marriage Registrar of the District in which such marriage is solemnized, knowingly solemnizes a marriage between persons one or both of whom is or are a Christian or Christians, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years, or (in lieu of a sentence of imprisonment for seven years or upwards)

with transportation for a term of not less than seven years, and not exceeding ten years,

or, if the offender be an European or American, with penal servitude according to the provisions of Act XXIV of 1855 (to substitute penal servitude for the punishment of transportation in respect of European and American convicts, and to amend the law relating to the removal of such convicts), and shall also be liable to fine."

The defence did not deny the facts, but contended that

"(1.) Admitting that Mr. Fischer was not authorised, the solemnisation by him of the marriage according to the ritual of the Church of England does not fall within purview of Section 68, as it was not what may be called a Registrar's marriage according to Section 5, Clause 4, to which alone the section refers, (11.) 'Knowingly' means knowing that he was not authorised and that he was doing wrong and Mr. Fischer did not act with such knowledge."

The Assessors gave their opinion that Mr. Fischer was not authorized; that he solemnized the marriage; that when doing so he knew what he was doing, and that the parties were Christians, but not that he was not authorized, or that he was doing what was wrong. The Judge was of opinion that criminal intention was not necessary for conviction and found Mr. Fischer guilty. Although finding against the accused, the Judge was not for visiting him with the severe punishment of the law. The order for imprisonment was barely nominal. The court rose, although it was not time for rising, as soon as the order was made, to allow Mr. Fischer to depart, and returned immediately to resume work.

The case has gone up to the High Court in appeal.

We must not omit to mention that the Marriage Registrar, Mr. Joseph Johnson, the uncle of the bride who gave her away, is being prosecuted for abetment. The parties were re-married by the Revd. Frederick Ray Wansbrough on the 4th August. The question remains, Whether the parties were man and wife from the 7th May to the 4th August?

IN memory of the visits of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor to Patiala, the Mahomedan Prime Minister of that State and his brother have each founded a gold medal in the Khalsa College for Sikhs.

THE Head Clerk and Accountant Rajender Coomar Guho of the City Moorshedabad Municipality, is being criminally prosecuted for receiving commission on goods purchased at Calcutta. The firms which had supplied the goods were examined by Commission. As usual in such cases, they all denied the payment. A single tradesman proved truthful, however, and proved the charge. We wish the other shops might be punished by all municipalities availing themselves.

THERE is an outcry against the Berhampore municipality for its recent prosecutions for burial of Hindu infants within its jurisdiction. There is no recognized place for such disposal of the Hindu infantine dead, while religion and custom prescribe their burial and not cremation.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT reopened on the 25th, at 1-50 P.M. The Speech from the Throne breathed Peace. The relations with all Foreign Powers continue to be friendly and the securities of peace remain undiminished. Her Majesty deeply regrets the potatoe famine in Ireland and the distress that threatens the Western counties, to avert which steps have already been taken. The legislative measures announced are the Land Purchase Bill, a Bill for augmenting the number of small owners to increase contentment and diminish political disorder in Ireland, a Tithes Bill, and a Bill for lessening the burden of compulsory education on the poor. Time permitting, recent experience is all the other way—other measures named will be introduced, including the Irish County Councils and the Nomination of a Public Trustee.

The same night, the Lords voted the address in reply. Lord Salisbury deplored the horrors perpetrated in Africa, but said they were past recall or remedy, as the author of the charges was not a British subject and the parties accused were dead. The gentlemen of the Lower House, as a new departure, passed a resolution of thanks by way of voting the Address, without proposing any amendments.

Mr. Smith announced in the House of Commons that the whole time of the House would be demanded until the Irish Land Purchase



Bill and the Tithes Bill had been read a second time.

On the 26th, Mr. Bradlaugh's India Councils Bill was read for the first time. He has abandoned his old Bill and has drawn up his second on the lines of the Government Bill passed by the Upper House last session. That Bill is already before the Indian public. It is a skilful compromise. It retains the principle of election, of course, but is withal a moderate and rational measure. There was also read the same night a Roman Catholic Disabilities Bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone, extending to a Catholic the privilege of becoming Lord High Chancellor of England and Viceroy of Ireland. It will, of course, pass the Lower House easily enough. The real fighting will be in the Lords, but it will pass there too, after all. Such nonsense cannot last. Such injustice is an anomaly in modern England. In fact the whole Settlement of the vaunted Revolution is an anachronism and must be abandoned *in toto*. A Roman Catholic may yet sit on the British Throne, unless that piece of state furniture be in the meantime swept away. Stranger things have happened in our day.

MR. Parnell still sticks to the leadership of his party. Mr. Gladstone advised him, through Mr. Morley, to offer his resignation following his own precedent after the Phoenix Park murders. The Parnellite party re-elected the Irish leader their Chairman. They meet again to consider Mr. Gladstone's advice. Mr. Gladstone threatens to withdraw his alliance with the Parnellites, unless Mr. Parnell retires. Mr. Parnell is said to be resolved, and he does not retire until his party pass a direct vote of want of confidence in him. The party hesitates.

THE King William III. of the Netherlands died—of uræmia—on the morning of the 23rd November. He was born on the 19th February 1817, and ascended the throne on the 17th March 1849. He first married in 1839 Princess Sophie, the second daughter of King Wilhelm I of Württemberg, of about the same age with himself, who dying on the 3rd June 1877, His Majesty married a second time in 1879 Queen Emma, born in 1859, daughter of Prince George Victor of Waldeck. She bore him, on the 31st August 1880, a daughter Princess Wilhelminia.

THE head and front of the Bishop of Lincoln's offending, after the persecution of several months, seems to be that he signed the cross at the *mantra* of absolution and blessing. This is an innovation which the Archbishop of Canterbury pronounces unjustifiable. His Grace's judgment on the other points are generally favorable to the Bishop. We presume the Bishop did not misplace the table, nor made a mess of the millinery.

THE Czarewitch arrived at Cairo on the 23rd. His Imperial Highness was received on the platform by General Dormer and Sir Evelyn Baring with the Egyptian guard of honour. The streets leading to the Russian Agency were lined with the Royal Irish and Dorsetshire Regiments. Visits were exchanged with the Khedive the same afternoon.

NOTWITHSTANDING proclamation, they held a procession at Enniscorthy in memory of the "Manchester Martyrs." The police resented this disobedience. They charged the mob, and, injuring several of the units, dispersed the crowd.

HEAVY rains and severe storms have flooded the greater part of the workings of the Manchester Ship Canal, causing great damage.

AN M. P., Mr. William Beckett, for Bassetlaw, while walking on the railway line near Winborne, was knocked down and killed by a passing train.

THE Queen's Bench has given a rude shock to the progress of female emancipation. That Court has fined Miss Cobden £125 and costs for sitting in the County Council.

WHILE in England they are recovering from the financial scare of the Baring Brothers, the bourse in Buenos Ayres is in a state of tumult. The premium on gold has gone up to 250, and several banks have shut up shop.

OUR suspicions have proved true. Lord Connemara resigns the Governorship of Madras on account of the Divorce proceedings in England. Lady Connemara has obtained a decree *nisi* against him. Sir James Hannen was satisfied, from the uncontradicted evidence of the petitioner, of cruelty and adultery on the part of the respondent.

IN view of the gold speculations of the day, we publish elsewhere the Government order on the connection of public servants with landholding and commercial speculation in India. That order is dated 13th May 1885. In December last year, Government drew the attention of heads of Departments to the said order, at the same time calling upon the officers in superior service to furnish statements showing the landed property owned by them in their respective Provinces, or in which they may have any interest, or which may be held by, and managed by, their wives or other members of their families living with, and in any way dependent on, them. It was further pointed out that such a register should be maintained in each office. Candidates for Government employment should also be asked to furnish the information before appointment.

IT is the age of pinchbeck and palaver. It is of course the age of steam and locomotion. Hence it has naturally given birth to great meetings of men from different places and distances, who strive to outtalk one another—meetings with a distinct tendency to periodicity. In India we have had some wellknown conventions of the kind. First, the political Congress with its five meetings, then the Social Conference with its several sittings. Not to mention the numerous minor or sectional organizations, the most important of which is the Educational Conference of Sir Syud Ahmad Khan, there has just now sprung up a religious Congress. It is an exclusive affair, of course, being confined to Hindus. The Bharat Dharma Mahamandal, as it is called, met at Delhi, under the presidency of our Bengali compatriot the young Zemindar of Taherpur, Raja Soshi Sekhoheswar Roy. The Bania element, we believe, predominated, though there was enough of holy Brahmanhood in attendance. The palaver was not brilliant, but there could be no question about the sincerity of faith of most of those forming the assembly. The chances of any *contresens* were reduced to a minimum when the Baboo was unanimously called to the chair.

The meeting decried Government interference in socio-religious matters, such as raising the age of consent, &c. At the same time, they denounced "the evil custom of demanding exorbitant money in matrimonial transactions and extravagance in marriage expenses, as being contrary to the tenor of the Dharma Shastras." The tendency to demand money is on the increase. It also indirectly helps to raise the marriageable age of girls. The curious part of the whole affair is that those who condemn the practice are not unoften the most unblushing sinners. In the decay of healthy public opinion in Hindu society, the sanctions of the Shasters are powerless to control the commercial instincts. Persons of education and position are not ashamed to trade on their sons in the marriage market.

THE Census Officer in Calcutta, Mr. H. F. T. Maguire, is deliberately sowing *cheap* and ought not to make *noses* if at harvest he has only *nasty*. He has reported that the total cost of the operations will not exceed Rs. 30,000, as he shows by a detailed statement. Of this he has just now called for Rs. 20,000.

Mr. Maguire, however, is liberality itself before the Census scare-crow down South. If in Bengal we order the matter cheap, in Madras they manage it simply *nil*. The sum fixed by Mr. Maguire for the remuneration of an enumerator is Rs. 10. The Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras has notified, that all who do good work as enumerators without payment, will be considered to have a preferential claim to employment as tabulators in the abstracting offices at Madras, Bangalore, Calicut and Berhampore, provided they are also otherwise qualified, but no qualifying examinations are requisite. An appropriate name for such an *imposing* board is "abstracting office," and a worthy Superintendent of abstracting operations is this officer! Enumeration is very far from a joke. It is real work, of discrimination, and no small difficulty, performed not in the quiet corner of a snug office, but requiring constant moving about, demanding intelligence, local knowledge, local popularity, conciliation and tact, some power of organization, an executive head, and what not. In an ignorant community, he is the referee of

hundreds explaining difficulties, removing doubts, allaying suspicions. He is the great little unit in the matter—the corner-stone of the huge fabric. The worth of the census will depend on his good faith and good sense. And he is the only labourer in the business who is not worthy of his hire. He alone is to go unpaid, for all his toil and moil and all his anxieties extending through months. We stand aghast at the coolness of the proposition. Nor is it a poor honorary magistrate who has drudged for years in the service of the state without so much as empty recognition that is the author of this original mode of uncostly administration. The unblushing atrocity of the scheme will be appreciated when one remembers that we owe it to the genius of the most pampered Service in the universe. The schemers are thorough political economists, if imperfect moral philosophers. They depend upon the poverty of the land to get the galley-slaves they require. They will get them. But what is the value of such service—in such a delicate matter? It is noteworthy that though the schemers have not conscience enough for justice to others, they have a child-like faith in the virtue of their victims. The Government had better pause before leaving the accuracy of the Census at the mercy of an army of starving pariah dogs burning under a sense of injustice.

RATHER too much is being made of a recent exhibition of international soft sawder and human nature.

At the banquet of the British Iron and Steel Institute at New York, the American General Sherman, in replying to the toast of his health, thus gave expression to his cousinly affection for the British:—

"We love the Queen as much as do our English brothers. To you she is a Queen, and to us she is a woman and a mother. Our hearts throb with the same emotions; we are reared upon the same food; we read the same Bible and the same books. . . England need never fear force, for if there should be any trouble America would come over and take a hand."

That "taking a hand" may be believed, but the question is—in what sense, and to what purpose? Where was your feeling heart, O republican hero, or what were your emotions when thou madest war on the South and carried fire and sword into its States and desolated the fairest Provinces? Were not the Southerners brothers too? Were they reared on any other food than what thou wert fed upon? Did they not read the same Bible and the same books? And is History a lie, and are the annals of the American Revolution all a fraud? Was the stamp tax a myth? What! was it on a deviation in diet, or a theological schism that the Colonies set their faces against the Home Government? Was it for a difference in ethical teaching or æsthetical taste that mother state and children fell out? Were there a Babel of tongues and a confusion of creeds that led to war and final separation between members of the same nation or body politic?

It may be expedient for grown up men to indulge in such "chaff." The wonder is that men of the world should be taken in by it. People who ought to know better, and even thoughtful publicists are continually deceiving themselves into the notion that a community of language and worship is the chief binding force in political affairs. It is *not*. History is witness through all ages and in all lands. And facts in support of its teaching stare us on all sides at this moment. Self-interest and passion are always mightier than lingual and religious fraternity. Not to go to the Europe of the French Revolution and the First Empire, contemporary annals furnish striking instances. What a spectacle was that of three Christian Powers—representatives of the Crusaders of old—joining in the Crescentade of Turkey and draining their resources and the best blood of their peoples in the desperate game of maintaining Islam in the European Continent in the heart of Christendom! Times have a good deal changed since then, and France in her stress shakes Russia warmly by the hand over the heads of Central Europe, still England maintains a sneaking fondness for the Sublime Porte. It is, as always, a fondness of interest—a match of convenience. And so long as England understands her own good she will stick to her noble ally. In similar pursuit of selfish views, Italy has discarded not only her sister in race and speech but also her greatest political benefactor, France, to hug to her bosom the sandals of the Imperial Teutonic virago, Germany. General Sherman's own country, with her Teutonic and Celtic population, her republican government and a constitution which precludes a foreign policy and forbids territorial ambition, is the best disposed of all states to the Cossack Empire. No international regard is more real than this *entente cordiale*. And yet upon sentimental grounds it might be pooh-poohed.

It is satisfactory to find that at least two of the Bengal Taluqdars have won the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.W. Provinces. Sir Auckland Colvin has caused the acknowledgments of Government to be conveyed to Sir Radha Prasad Sing Bahadoor, K.C.I.E., of Doonraon, and Maharani Surnomoyi, C.I., of Cossimbazar, for their subscriptions for the relief of sufferers from the late floods in the Billia district. These naïve magnates have shown a good example. Narrowness, intellectual and moral, is the distinctive failing of our untravelling people. Until we can rise to a higher altitude of consciousness as the subjects of a common polity, we shall not be fit for anything like political self-government, dozen Congresses notwithstanding. It is all very well to talk of the Indian nation, but talk should be followed by such visible tokens of sympathy as the Maharaja and the Maharani have given. Herein at any rate, the public will see the advantage of having Old Indians for Governors of Provinces.

We are far from suggesting that these two are the only instances of ultra provincial charity among our countrymen. Such an insinuation would be a libel on a people essentially and eminently charitable. It was most unfair to Bombay, and particularly to the Parsees. It would be unjust to the good Nawab Bahadoor of Moorshedabad. Above all, it would be an offence against the House of Vizianagram. The Maharajas and Maharanis of Vizianagram have always stood in the front of all Indians for large and large-minded liberality, and sympathetic charity, public and private, irrespective of creed or caste, of Presidency or Province, country or nation. Not India only but other countries also have benefitted from the open-handedness of this family. The late Maharaja's benefactions are well-known. And he has left a worthy Consort and a worthy son to continue his example.

THE administration of Lord Connemara has brought to notice at least one literary member of the local Civil Service, whom he made his Private Secretary and who has done him a yeoman's service as His Excellency's Historiographer. Mr. Rees is in Madras what Dr. W. W. Hunter was in Bengal. Like the veteran knight of the pen, this literary free lance has early taken an interest in Hindu social reform, but unlike his great prototype's his is an antagonistic interest. He has contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* an article on the subject in which he does his best to discredit the present demand for immediate legislation. The agitation in England has been so one-sided that Mr. Rees deserves the best thanks of the conservatives for his thorough-going championship of their cause. The reformers, representing the active intelligence of both countries, are quite able to defend themselves. Indeed, they have promptly answered Mr. Rees through Mrs. Fawcett in the *Contemporary*. Here, in the East, where the reforms are to be carried out, the *Indian Spectator*—Mr. Malabari's organ in Bombay—of course recognises the gravity of the omen that has thus made its appearance, and takes care early to neutralise its baleful effects. In a long, but not too long, article of great ability, bristling with facts and arguments and not a few telling sarcasms, our contemporary has exhaustively reviewed the essay, exposing Mr. Rees' pretensions and answering him at all points. On such a subject the native has an obvious advantage over the foreigner. Here, besides, the difference between the magazinist and the newspaper publicist was the difference between the man who reads up his subject for the occasion and the man who has made it the business of his life. We shall not try to repeat the substance of five columns of condensed matter—not in the printer's sense only—but will just indicate by one specimen the quality of the article. Mr. Rees makes much of a letter from a *Yogi* with which he finishes his argument against reform. This *Yogi* business is getting to be a troublesome nuisance. The *Indian Spectator* beautifully demolishes Mr. Rees' sacred ally. After showing up the inconsistencies of this English-speaking Hindu sage, our contemporary thus disposes of this new literary machinery in Indian polemics:—

"Mr. Rees might have known that a real *Yogi* never holds commune with men, not even with Private Secretaries. He might also have known, what is not unknown to the average Police officer, that some of these *Yogis* are whilom *Bhagis* who, having 'sown their wild oats,' having become bankrupts in spirit and in substance, set up for *Yoga* practice. We have nothing to say against this *Yogi* who may be a very worthy person; but that he was formerly a lawyer rather disturbs one's confidence in his *Yoga*, which is further shaken by his language, that of a clever but disconsolate theosophist."

Verily, there is genius in that epithet! What a permanent life-like portrait is given in that simple but suggestive tracing! In Madras—

the Head-quarters of Theosophy—it must be a biographic index-finger. There they would not have much difficulty in identifying the modern Rishi, as

Disconsolate, not daring to complain,

Silent he wandered by the sounding main.

It is not the true old Hindu *Yogi* of which the letter is the expression, but more probably the reaction of a new fangled theosophy.

Be that as it may, there is great shrewdness of observation and point in the general remark on the reactionary tendencies of not a few of our people in these days, who know no mean between the most grotesque Anglo-mania and the most outrageous Rishiism.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Statesman* writes from Furreedpore of the appearance of a new and formidable enemy in Eastern Bengal, to fill the cup of the peasant to the brim. He reports a great flight of locusts which passed over the District town in the afternoon of the 21st. He is a man of observation, and gives a rather interesting account. The enemy came sweeping from the south-west in dense columns, 30 to 40 feet deep and some 300 to 400 feet broad, and proceeded lustily, singing their triumphant march with a solemn ringing sound, and dropping liquid like drizzling rain, due north-east. This continued in the station till 3 O'clock in the day. Towards evening—after certainly an hour and a half's interval—there was another raid, not by a fresh host, but from the rear by the same flight that had passed before. It seems that the great Padma had arrested their march. That may sound Hibernian, considering that it was not a case of men or creeping reptiles or worms, or beasts of the field or forest or of any creatures pinned to the earth. And yet so it is. It is one of the mysteries of Creation. Science certainly has not yet fathomed all the properties of the omnipresent liquid. Water is not mere hydrogen and oxygen; at any rate, the combination of these gases in due proportions invests it with an occult presence. A narrow piece of water has been known to stop the progress of a plague. Why the subtle poison that travels in the air should be so arrested, who can tell? What wonder that a great river should scare the poor locusts and make them at least hesitate in their flight. As a matter of fact, these locusts were on the 21st stopped by the sight of the broad Ganges spread majestically across their line of march. They could have crossed it had they so willed it, but they thought it due to the genius of the River to show some respect. So they fell back upon the town. Such is the prestige of numbers that the feathery tribes which, as by instinct warned, had assembled at noon in anticipation of danger, all dispersed to thin air, as it were, no sooner the legion of the winged Lilliputians appeared. All the numberless kites and other birds, great and small, of prey or of song, that erewhile were noisily flying about, or hovering significantly, or making strategic movements in readiness for the coming opportunity, simply "skeddadled" at the appearance of the invaders, without firing a shot, or made a general retreat to the upper regions, leaving the field below to the foe, and making not a single capture. The very crows, usually so shameless, were dumbfound and, like rural Congress orators in presence of a magistrate, lost their prime faculty, the "gift of the gab."

THE sensation of the week in Calcutta was a pitched battle in the heart of the city, in its busiest and most crowded part. All sorts of rumours agitated the citizens on Tuesday. Luckily, the contest was brief, and no cold steel was employed and no powder burnt.

Hitherto, the Suleiman Khyel of Cabool have been the chief Afghan traders in Bengal. They bear deadly enmity to the Kharotee clan. Luckily, a member of the latter had been a *rara avis* in this city. Recently, however, the Kharotees have grown in numbers to the indignation and, indeed, consternation of the Suleimans, who are trying all possible means to keep them out. To the rude, untutored Cabooler, such ways are not many. They chiefly rely on their muscular strength to gain their ends. The others are not a whit less combative. Accordingly, both sides went to battle on Tuesday morning to try their respective strength. The battle field was at Khenraputty in Burrabazar. No arms being allowed under the wise sway and crushing peace of England, sticks of sorts did the duty of rifles and revolvers. At last, the fight proving bloody, a knowing Afghan intervened with the Koran in hand and, appealing to the sacred book, brought the fray to an end. Such is the faith and fidelity of this brave people that, no sooner the name "Koran" was heard than the combatants at once desisted, and, seeing the sacred volume, bowed to it and left the field in quiet. The Police of course did not enter appearance on the scene till the fight was over, to find the field strewn with broken heads and limbs. They proceeded in all their strength, reserve and all, mounted and foot,

*Holloway's Pills and Ointment.*—Soldiers and Sailors.—These well-known and easily used remedies are especially serviceable and convenient for those who, like soldiers and sailors, are exposed to great changes of climate, and the hardships inseparable from their calling. Many of the diseases engendered in the system from these and other untoward causes can be checked and controlled by attention at their onset, and in Holloway's remedies will be found a ready means of relief, without hindrance from duty. Many a man is invalided and rendered more or less a burden to himself and friends from neglect of the early symptoms of his complaint, which calamity might be averted by timely resort to the use of Holloway's Pills and Ointment.

and made several arrests and a brave show—as if they were ready to cut off the Ameer's head. Even then at the fag end, it was tough work for them. The offenders against Her Majesty's peace were no Bengalis but all true-born Afghans, careless of life or consequences. More by persuasion than by force, the Police did what remained for them to do. The Commissioner himself was there, or else probably the fight would have been renewed between the Afghans on the one hand and the Police on the other. Some of the leaders of both the Khyels were the next day placed before Syed Ameer Hossein Khan Bahadoor, the Northern Division Magistrate. The cases stand adjourned. We hope our good magistrate will pass as successfully through the ordeal of these Caboolers as he did through the Sikh invasion of his bench at Alipore.

SIR Charles Elliott is already in possession of the loyalty of the capital, before he has been formally installed as Lieutenant-Governor. The Calcutta Corporation gives him a steamer party to Barrackpore to the Water Works on the 8th December.

SIR Stuart Bayley makes over charge on the 17th December. Preparations are making for a public farewell to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor. It has been decided to present him an address. There will be an Evening Party at the Town Hall. The permanent memorial will take the form of a portrait if not something costlier. There will be the usual Service Dinner, of course. The Chamber of Commerce, who ought to be most grateful to him for his latest attitude on the Doorga Pooja holiday question, keep away from the demonstration. But the Behar Planters join the Behar Zemindars in bidding good bye to their Own Governor. Sir Stuart is best appreciated where he is best known, and we hope Behar will not be satisfied with a piece of canvas for a permanent memento.

It will be satisfactory to those who wish for a continuity of the methods and traditions of the present eminently conscientious and sympathetic rule, that the Bengal Chief Secretary does not go out with his Chief. Sir John Ware Edgar continues as Chief Secretary. Sir Charles Elliott could scarcely find a more experienced or wiser Vizier or one so independent of party, and yet in such thorough touch with the people and with public opinion.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 29, 1890.

### EDUCATION IN BENGAL LAST YEAR.

SIR Alfred Croft's last report is of more than ordinary value. Under orders of Government prescribing that in alternate years fuller explanations of details should be given, it embodies a large amount of information, and the general principles which regulate the operations of the Education Department are clearly elucidated. In a recent issue, we noticed the subject of primary education and the policy which has now been laid down with respect to it. That principle is one which has our warmest approval, and indeed we may say without vanity we have all through fought for its adoption, and are therefore especially gratified at its ultimate triumph. The administration of primary education has now, under the scheme of Local Self-Government, been vested in the District Boards, and these Boards are now being initiated in a work new and rather foreign to them. So far they have not succeeded in discharging this new responsibility well. The Government Resolution on Sir Alfred's report notices this point in the following terms:—

"The Director has, in a very proper spirit, as a friendly critic, drawn attention to some shortcomings in the work of certain District Boards. It is through no fault on their part that their educational operations have in some cases been hampered for want of funds, the income from ferries and pounds not having kept pace with their educational requirements. But they must be held responsible for such matters as great delay in the despatch of business, especially in disposing of reward bills and in making up examination results, irregularities in the method of accounting for public money, misapplication of the primary grant, or failure to spend fully the allotments for primary education. These are matters which the District Boards are quite capable of cor-

recting for themselves. It is not a matter for surprise that their control and management of middle schools of various classes is less efficient than when the work was performed by high officers of the Education Department. Sir Alfred Croft rightly observes that this decline in efficiency is part of the necessary price paid for Local Self-Government. The policy of entrusting District Boards with certain educational work, in which the Department has given them its steady support, has been deliberately adopted for reasons which have often been stated, and improvement can only be obtained by perseverance. The transfer of large educational powers to Local, as distinguished from District, Boards appears to have been prematurely attempted in some places."

The progress of higher education, as judged by numbers, is altogether gratifying. There has been, during the last three years, an increase of nine private Colleges, making the total 38. The demand for University education is steadily increasing, and the development of private enterprise to meet this demand also keeps pace. To Sir Alfred Croft these are reassuring indications of progress. He says that "the policy of the day clearly tends more and more towards the concentration of higher educational effort in the Presidency College and the gradual retirement of Government from the outlying colleges where private enterprise may in time be trusted to take up the work." We have no objection to the policy with the very wise limitations with which Sir Alfred Croft's great experience of the subject has led him to hedge it in. The retirement of Government from the field can only be very gradual as a matter of fact, if the policy is to be carried out without serious disruption of the work.

Secondary education does not show any marked expansion. This is explained as due to an unnecessary multiplication of schools and an unhealthy competition among them. But we suspect there is another more potent cause at work, namely, inadequacy of funds. These schools are maintainable at a scale of expenditure above the means of extra-urban people, and can only be set up and kept alive with aid from the Government. But the funds at the disposal of the Department for this purpose are, so far as we are aware, not commensurate or at any rate not expansive. New grants are hard to obtain, and old ones are often cancelled or reduced. The Government admits that, while the Education Commission recommended that a periodically increasing provision should be made in the education budget for the expansion of aided schools, financial exigencies and the needs of primary education have prevented compliance with this policy. Now that Primary Education is to be organised upon a new basis, we trust secondary schools will not be starved for its sake.

The subject of discipline and moral training continues to receive the attention of the Government. The Resolution has the following summary of measures adopted or to be adopted towards their improvement:—

"Measures have been adopted during the year for giving effect to the views of the Government of India in regard to discipline in schools and colleges. The summary of these measures given in the Director's report hardly admits of further condensation, but some of the more important steps taken deserve notice. The establishment of a special training college for teachers has been sanctioned and will be carried out as soon as funds are forthcoming. Principals of Government colleges were addressed on the subject of elevating the moral tone of the students, and the Lieutenant-Governor drew attention to the many opportunities which the study of ethics, and other occasions of college life, afforded to Professors for moral instruction of a character such as to influence their pupils and make a permanent impression. The adoption of suitable moral text-books for schools of all classes has been kept in view: and the example set by the University in preparing a book of selections for the Entrance Examination is to be followed so as to meet the requirements not only of the junior classes of high schools, but also of middle and primary schools through the medium of works in the vernacular. The maintenance in every school of conduct registers, with a record of the head-master's opinion of each boy's character and behaviour, based upon personal knowledge, has been insisted upon, and special attention is to be paid to the entries in the conduct registers of candidates for employment in Government offices.

The appointment of monitors under proper safeguards has been authorized, and the system is being tried in institutions to which hostels are attached. More recently these monitors or prefects have been entrusted to a limited extent with punitive powers. A rule has been issued with the object of minimising the evil of having in the same class grown-up lads and little children. The attention of school authorities has been drawn to the necessity of encouraging outdoor games and exercises, on the understanding that no attempt should be made to create a race of acrobats out of our students. Should physical exercise in other forms not be popular, some form of drill is, under the orders of the Government of India, to be compulsory. The Director adds: "It is believed that schools at the sadder stations will find no difficulty in obtaining a person able, if necessary, to give instruction in drill; but such exercises as parallel bars, dumb-bells, cricket, football and indigenous games, including athletic sports, running, jumping, &c., are more to be commanded and more likely to be generally acceptable. It has been explained that no reasonable outlay will be refused for the purpose of setting up gymnastic appliances, or of aiding cricket and football clubs." As to discipline, it is admitted that the more closely a school is connected with the Department, the better is its discipline, and in most cases it is not so much the absence of morality as of good manners in the boys and the junior teachers that requires to be corrected. Defiance of authority, indifference if not positive disrespect, a rule offhand manner, showing no sign of respect to a superior, are sights too common in many schools. Cases of actual misbehaviour towards teachers are said to be happily rare; but they are entirely absent, and the punishment of rustication for a year or more has had a salutary effect. Cases of grave misconduct on the part of teachers themselves are not wanting: and to some extent the unhealthy state of public opinion in regard to discipline gives rise to troubles in school management. The opening of a new school as a money speculation, near an old and established institution, often has the effect of disorganising school discipline in the locality for a time. Sir A. Croft considers that it is very desirable that certificates should be refused to schools that defy the rules of discipline, or to those that are opened in a mere spirit of opposition and rivalry to other non-Government schools, without any prospect of permanence and to the injury of sound education. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs in these views, and will be prepared to receive definite suggestions on the subject. It is very satisfactory to learn that the operation of the transfer rules has been entirely wholesome, and that the revised rules recently issued are likely to check many irregularities that formerly prevailed. Simple rules for the transfer of pupils in middle and primary schools, in the spirit of those approved by Government for high schools, are being framed. Having regard to these measures, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that a very considerable advance has been made in the direction desired by the Government of India. The policy indicated has had his entire concurrence and support; he has not expected anything but gradual improvement, and he looks to the co-operation of all officers of the Department in the endeavour to reform the whole tone of education in Bengal on the lines laid down by the highest authority."

Several of these measures are destined to be inoperative. They will, so long as the interest in the subject is fresh, furnish a topic for discussion in annual reports and resolutions, but never emerge into the region of practical politics. The idea of a Training College is a mistake, and, if carried out, will entail a waste of money which could be more usefully employed. Character registers will soon fall into disuse, and the monitor system break down in practice. The multiplication of rules is on principle to be avoided. The enforcement of them will involve an extent of clerical labor on school authorities which must interfere with their more important work of teaching. The adoption of moral text-books, like Mr. Tawney's Entrance Course, is likely to be financially fruitful. Beyond this, it has little to recommend it. The character of the compilations judged by the work to hand differs little from that of those which are to be superseded, even from a moral point of view. The inter-school rules, though attended with hardship in some cases, are on the whole necessary. The fee, however, might be reduced in *bonâ fide* cases of transfer justified by circumstances.

#### THE BENGAL MUNICIPALITIES.

ABOVE the signature of Mr. Secretary Cotton appears, in this week's official Gazette, a lengthy review of the working of the Bengal municipalities. Its tone throughout is kindly and indulgent—indeed, the proper tone to adopt in view of the novelty of the system under judgment. The Government is, on the whole, like ourselves, not disappointed with the result, although it does not fail to point out defects and probe the weak parts of the system.



The weakest point in the system is, as we have often pointed out, in regard to the administration of the taxes. Non-officials are at a disadvantage in enforcing taxation unknown to an official *regime*, and this is a difficulty which has operated in keeping down the municipal revenue almost everywhere. The average incidence of municipal taxation throughout Bengal (excluding Calcutta) in the past year, was only 11 annas and 11 pies per head of the population, and in no less than 67 municipalities it is so low as to amount to 8 annas or less per head. Although obviously there is scope for increase, any attempt in this direction on the part of the Municipal Commissioners is sure to raise a storm of opposition. In the Rampore Bauleah Municipality, the Commissioners had a hard time of it in carrying through a revision of the assessment. "A hue and cry was raised, in which those whose assessments had not been increased, nay, even those who had been exempted from assessment, joined. The municipal office was literally besieged with objection petitions.....A party of men, who affected to pose as friends of the poor, but who really had at heart some grudge against the municipality, actively set about rousing the people against it under this colourable pretext. For nearly two months there was scarcely any collection of house-tax. Everybody refused to pay." In a municipality in the Shahabad district, a Municipal Commissioner was threatened to be killed if the tax was increased. The Chairman of the Tikari Municipality was violently assaulted at his house by hired *lattials*, at the instance of the Vice-Chairman. The Government remarks on these incidents as follows :— "The year's record shows indeed that the path of duty is strewn with difficulties, which can only be overcome by honest perseverance, consistency, and firmness; but it may be expected that as experience is gained in the benefits derived from municipal improvement, the attitude of the rate-payers, as well as of the more retrograde and obstructive section of Municipal Commissioners, will become, as it has in other portions of the world, more tolerant of necessary taxation." In the meantime, the necessity of augmenting it is growing more and more urgent. "It is not too much to say," writes Mr. Cotton, "that in all municipal towns in Bengal there is a crying want of funds to meet expenditure which is gradually being forced upon the Commissioners, especially in the direction of improved sanitation." At the same time, the taxation as shown already is exceedingly low, and any attempt to raise it is attended with a general outbreak of hostility.

As in assessment, inefficient administration is the marked feature of the collections of the tax. The following remarks which we quote from the Resolution will show this :—

"The general result shows some improvement, but it is not so marked as might be expected, looking to the low rate of taxation which prevails, and the urgent need that exists everywhere for increased income to meet necessary expenditure. In regard to the Dacca Division, it is explained that the net decrease is to a large extent nominal, as the collections in 1888-89 included arrears of previous years, and were therefore considerably in excess of the normal realisations. In the case of the Chittagong Municipality, it is stated that a decrease of about Rs. 8,600 in the collections is due partly to the same cause as in the Dacca Division, and partly to the fact that for nearly three months the sircars had to attend on the auditor who was examining the accounts, and that in consequence the collections were smaller than ought to have been made. These excuses appear to the Lieutenant-Governor to be insufficient. It is satisfactory that the arrears have been liquidated, but they ought not to have been allowed to accrue. In any case it is to be regretted that the total gross collections show a falling off. It is a too common defect in Bengal municipalities that the executive is in arrear with its collections and it has been lately pointed out in a circular of Government that far greater promptitude must be insisted on in the collection or remission of taxes. Not more than one complete year of arrears should in any case be allowed. Municipalities

which, like Ranchi and Kurseong, work in a business-like manner never have more than two quarters' arrears, and very often not more than one; and if municipalities in general avail themselves of the means provided in sections 120 to 129 of the Act, there is no reason why collections should ever be allowed to fall more than 12 months into arrear. As a matter of fact, in many municipalities the accounts are four or five years in arrear, and whenever this is the case it affords the clearest evidence of executive inefficiency."

The Resolution contains copious extracts from the Divisional reports. Mr. Toynbee's report of the Burdwan Division is pronounced to be the best. His remarks on the absence of a fixed scale of pay for municipal officers show his close and intimate knowledge of the subject, and we reproduce them for the benefit of Municipal Commissioners who should be guided by them.

"The examination of the budgets of the municipalities in this Division for the current year brought to light a marked tendency on the part of Municipal Commissioners to give occasional increases of salary to members of the establishments, instead of laying down a fixed scale (with periodical increase, if necessary) and adhering to it. This practice is one which should, in my opinion, be consistently and firmly discouraged, as being unfair to the tax-payers and demoralizing to the recipients. The funds of all the municipalities are very limited in comparison with their wants, and any increase allowed to establishments must necessarily decrease, *pro tanto*, the surplus available for works of general utility. In most cases the proposed increase was disallowed, and the Municipal Commissioners were asked to consider what their requirements were as regards the strength and pay of their establishments, to lay down a scale once for all, and to adhere to it for the future. The spectacle of a municipal subordinate canvassing the Commissioners to vote for an increase to his pay (not fixed by any scale) is not one that is consistent with a proper discharge of his duties."

The Commissioners of Divisions generally take more or less favourable view of the working of the Municipal Act. Mr. Toynbee says that, in spite of many faults of omission and commission, the municipalities in his Division have worked successfully. The absence of out-door supervision is however complained of. Mr. Smith testifies to the smooth working of Local Self-Government in the Presidency Division. The Commissioners of the Bhagulpore, Orissa and Chota Nagpore Divisions have recorded similar opinions. The Dacca Commissioner, being new to his Division, passes no general opinion. The Commissioner of Chittagong appears far from satisfied. He admits there has been much good individual work, but complains of laxness in the accounts, and the preponderant interest excited by personal matters over more important public matters. The Commissioner of the Patna Division metes out praise and blame to the municipalities in his Division according to their work, without offering a general view. Altogether, the work of the year under review is one on which the municipalities may be fairly congratulated, although in regard to the enforcement of proper municipal taxation, they failed to display either efficiency or aptitude.

#### CONNECTION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS WITH LAND-HOLDING AND COMMERCIAL SPECULATION IN INDIA.

No. 21—799, dated Simla, the 13th May 1885.

From—A. Mackenzie, Esq., Secretary to the Govt. of India, Home Department.

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Appointment Department.

In the course of correspondence with a Local Government, it has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that some misapprehension exists as to the precise scope and proper interpretation of the standing orders which regulate the connection of public servants with land-holding and commercial speculation in India. The Governor-General in Council accordingly considers it desirable, in continuation of Home Department Resolution No. 5—224-246, dated 20th February 1884, to frame, for facility of reference on the part of Local Governments and Administrations and Officers serving under them, a brief summary of the existing rules, and of the more important interpretations which have been placed upon certain of them by the Government of India with the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

2. Acquisition and possession of landed property intended to be applied to

*agricultural purposes.*—Covenanted civil servants, military officers in civil employ, and all persons holding civil offices ordinarily held by

\* To Secretary of State, No. 40, dated 16th June 1873; from Secretary of State, No. 99, dated 26th August 1873 (embodied in Home Department Resolution No. 13—467, dated 13th February 1874).

buildings for residence and their usual appurtenances.

3. Natives of India appointed under the Statutory Rules are permitted to hold any lands actually in their possession when they enter the service of Government, or which may come into their

† *i.e.*, *bonâ fide* gifts from relatives or near friends.

given to the Local Government, which will consider in each case

‡ Home Department Resolution No. 11—426-37, dated 17th March 1882; and circular letter Nos. 26—1095-1104, dated 21st July 1882.

(Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 68, dated 8th June 1882.)

4. Uncovenanted officers exercising independent judicial or revenue functions, whether of European, Eurasian, or Native descent, are not debarred from acquiring or possessing landed property in British India for agricultural purposes, provided that they must not hold landed property in the districts in which they are employed. Although uncovenanted officers are not precluded from holding land, it is inexpedient that appointments which necessarily confer a considerable amount of power and influence on their occupants, such as those of Munsif, Deputy Collector, and Tehsildar, should be filled by persons holding

§ Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 22, dated 10th August 1861.

ing landed property within their jurisdiction.¶

Officers of all classes (including candidates for office) must be required to make a declaration of the fact of their being in possession of, or of their having acquired, landed property, stating the district within which it is situated, with such other particulars as may be considered

|| Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 22, dated 10th August 1861.

necessary, of which registers should be kept by the Local Governments concerned.||

6. It is incumbent on the several Local Governments to take care that no officer who may be in possession of landed property in British India or elsewhere, to whatever branch of the service he may belong, shall apply any portion of the time and attention which ought to be devoted to his public duties, whether civil or military, to the management of that property, and that longer or more frequent leaves of absence are not permitted on that account.¶¶

¶ Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 22, dated 10th August 1861.

7. Acquisition and possession of landed property in Native States for any purpose.—Civil servants and military officers in the actual service of the Crown in India are prohibited from holding lands in a Native State for any purpose whatever. This prohibition does not extend to land occupied merely by buildings for residence and their usual appurtenances\*

8. Investments other than those in land for the profits of cultivation. With regard to investments other than those in land for the profits of cultivation, officers of every rank and class in the public service are expected to abstain from any investment (though of itself unobjectionable) which interests them privately in affairs or undertakings of the kind with which their public duty is connected.\*\* Subject to this general proviso, there is no objection to Government†† servants holding shares in mining or other companies (including agricultural companies) having for their object the development of the resources of the country, provided that they must not take part in the management of any such company, and that they must not be employed in the districts where the

operations\* of the company with which they may be connected are carried on. (Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 46, dated 31st May 1862.) This latter prohibition must be held to apply sometimes with less, sometimes with greater, force to certain officers connected with the central administration, such as Members of the Local Government, Members of the Board of Revenue and their Secretaries; and to indicate the necessity of great circumspection on the part of such officers as to the undertakings with which they become connected in any part of the province in which they are employed. (To Madras Government, No. 1086, dated 10th July 1884.)

9. In the matter of taking part in the management of a company, it has been decided (Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 73, dated 19th July 1883, paragraph 4), that the prohibition was not intended to apply to the participation of Government officers in the direction of those companies only which are designed to develop the resources of the country, but also to preclude such officers from taking part in the direction of such institutions as banks. (Paragraph 4 of despatch from Secretary of State, No. 73, dated 19th July 1883.) It has also been held that the prohibition against officers taking part in the management of a company applies (From Secretary of State, No. 99, dated 7th September 1882) to public servants on leave equally with those in active service, but that it does not extend (Resolution of the Public Works Department, Nos. 1650-1672G, dated 14th December 1882) to officers who, with the consent of the Government of India, take service under Railway Companies working under concession from Government, nor does it apply to the management (Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 73, dated 19th July 1883) of associations which are established *bonâ fide* for the purpose of mutual supply and not of trade and trade profit (provided in this latter case that the interests of Government do not suffer by the double employment of the officer concerned. Although the prohibition against taking part in the "management" of a company cannot, taken literally, be held to debar an officer from taking part as a promoter or as one of the applicants for registration in the Memorandum of Association, the Governor-General in Council has held that the danger against which the prohibition was aimed, namely, that of official influence being abused or official trust betrayed, is under such circumstances not much less than if the officer took part in the management after the company has been started. Government servants are therefore distinctly forbidden to take any part in the promotion or registration of companies.

10. Speculation generally.—It is a standing order that servants of Government are required to abstain from speculative investments; but no literal definition has been laid down as to the stage at which, or circumstances under which, the holding of land or other valuable property becomes speculative. It is obviously speculative to secure a grant of land supposed to be auriferous with the object of disposing of it hereafter to companies. Habitual speculation by officials has been always held to be an evil; and the Government has reserved† to itself full power to deal stringently with the practice whenever it appears to prevail. The general distinction which exists between permanent and speculative investments is sufficiently described in the extract‡ from Home Department letter to the Government of Bengal, No. 1495, dated 10th April 1873.

11. The foregoing paragraphs contain a brief summary of the more important orders which have been issued from time to time on the subjects under notice, and the Governor-General in Council trusts that they will serve as a useful guide to Local Governments and Administrations and to officers serving under them. It should, however, be understood that this summary merely embraces the more important orders, and does not profess to be exhaustive.

\* N. B.—The right of officers, civil and military, to hold shares in agricultural companies operating in Native States, is regulated by the same rules as apply to their holding shares in similar companies within British territory.

Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 22, dated the 25th November 1862, paragraph 5.

† Paragraph 7 of Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 40, dated 16th June 1873.

Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 99, dated 26th August 1873.

‡ The Government of India consider that there exists an essential difference between permanent and speculative investments; that the distinction is one of motive, and that the frequency of a man's purchases and sales may be, and usually is, very good evidence of his motive in effecting them. If an officer habitually buys and sells securities of a value notoriously fluctuating, it is clear that he is addicted to speculation, and he thereby undoubtedly lays himself open to the disapproval of Government, which can be expressed in various ways, and in a degree proportionate to the nature of the dereliction. If he engages in such pursuits to an extent which attracts public notice and unfavourable remark, so that his integrity or his application to his public duties is discussed and doubted, then he has given rise to a scandal with which the Government will have to deal.

\*\* Paragraph 6 of despatch from the Government of India to Secretary of State, No. 40, dated 16th June 1873; despatch from Secretary of State, No. 99, dated 26th August 1873; and Home Department Resolution No. 13—467, dated 13th February 1874.

†† The Secretary of State has held (Despatch No. 73, dated 19th July 1883, paragraph 5), that the standing orders as to the connection of Government officers with trading companies apply only to gazetted officers of the Covenanted and Uncovenanted Services, and do not apply in the case of clerks and other ministerial officers in Government employ, with regard to whom the supervision of heads of departments should suffice as a check.

## Law.

## INFANT-MARRIAGE.

Mr. Justice Muttusamy Iyer, of the Madras High Court, has delivered judgment in an appeal which had been engaging his attention, as also that of Mr. Justice Shephard, for some time, in which a most important question of infant-marriage was involved. The following are extracts from the judgment in the case of P. Vencata Charlu (plaintiff appellant) *versus* C. Tirumala Runga Charlu and another (1st and 2nd defendants), respondents.

The plaintiff sued in the Munsiff's Court of Bapatla for a decree appointing him guardian of his minor wife Vencatarungammah in lieu of her parents, the defendants, and giving him the custody of her and also restraining the defendants from re-marrying her to another person. The District Munsiff decreed that the plaintiff was not entitled to have the present custody of his legally married wife the minor; that until she attained puberty, she must remain under the charge and care of her parents, the defendants, and that defendants be restrained from re-marrying her to any other person. Against this decree the 1st defendant preferred an appeal to the Court of the District Judge of Kistna, at Masulipatam, which reversed the decree of the Munsiff, dismissed the plaintiff's suit with costs throughout, and declared that the marriage was invalid. This decision was appealed against in the High Court and resulted in the following judgment :—

This was a second appeal from the decree of the District Judge of Kistna, who dismissed the appellant's suit for an injunction to restrain respondents from marrying their daughter, Venkatarungammah, to any one else. The second respondent was the first respondent's wife and their daughter is a child aged 9 years. In June, 1884, the mother bestowed the girl in marriage on the appellant, and the marriage ceremony was duly solemnised in Narasimawamy's temple at Mangalagery. The father, however, was not present during the marriage nor had the mother his permission to marry their daughter to the appellant. There was an averment in his plaint that such permission was granted, but both the Lower Courts have found that it was not proved. There was also some evidence in the case to show that the father was present when the girl first proceeded to the appellant's house after the marriage, and what was commonly known as the *Grabapravesam* ceremony was performed. But the District Munsiff discredited the evidence and the Judge apparently concurred in his opinion. The respondents resided in the village of Sreerungapuram, and it appeared that the father went on a visit to his disciples about June 1884, when the mother took the child to Mangalagery, and there married her to the appellant as stated above. The District Munsiff considered that she acted as she did because she was probably not willing that the girl should be married to the father's mother's nominee, and that the appellant was a more suitable husband; and on this ground he was of opinion that the marriage was not fraudulent. But the Judge referred to the evidence that the mother represented falsely to the officiating Brahmin at Mangalagery that she had her husband's permission, and concluded from it that the marriage was a fraud on the father. Upon these facts the question arising for decision was whether the marriage was one which ought to be set aside under the Hindu law. Their lordships held that there could be no doubt that a Hindu marriage was a religious ceremony; according to all texts it was a *Samskaram* or Sacrament, the only one prescribed for a woman and one of the principal religious rites prescribed for purification of the soul. It was binding for life because the marriage rite completed by *Setapady* or the walking of seven steps before the consecrated fire created a religious tie, and a religious tie when once created could not be untied. It was not a mere contract in which a consenting mind was indispensable. The person married might be a minor or even of unsound mind, and yet if the marriage rite was duly solemnised, there was a valid marriage. . . As a religious ceremony it became complete when the *Setapady* was performed and there were several *Smritis* to that effect. *Manu* said :—“The relation of husband and wife was created by the texts pronounced when the girl was taken by the hand. Be it known that those texts end, according to the learned, with the texts prescribed for walking seven steps.” *Vasishta* said :—“In connection with the formation of relation of husband and wife, agreement is first prescribed; then taking by the hand is prescribed. It was said that mere agreement was defective and that of the two taking by the hand was indispensable.” *Yama* said :—“Not by the pouring of water nor by the work of gift is the relation of husband and wife formed, but it is formed by the rite of taking the bride by the hand and when they walk together the seventh step.” Their lordships observed that the marriage ritual prescribed for Brahmins, and now in general use amongst them, was what was known as the *Brahma* marriage, and this was the form customarily adopted even where the father accepted the price for the girl, and the marriage was in substance of the *Asura* kind. The ritual, so far as it extended to *Setapady* might be divided into three parts: the *Vakdanam* or the promise to give; the actual gift of the bride, or *Kanyakadanam*; and

the marriage rite which commenced with taking the bride by the hand (*Panigrahanam*), and ended with the seventh step taken around the consecrated fire. For their Lordship's present purpose the *Vakdanam* and the *Kanyakadanam* might be treated as forming one essential part and the marriage rite was the other. It must be remembered that the ritual was prescribed for a minor or a child. For according to Hindu law and custom a Brahmin girl must be married before she attained maturity and therefore at a time when she was not in a position to choose a suitable husband for herself. Two principles, therefore, formed together the groundwork of the marriage ceremony. A natural or legal guardian, acting in the interests of the girl with due regard to her welfare to choose a suitable husband for her, and the choice consecrated by the marriage rite and thereby unalterably fixed. Hence two propositions of law might be taken to be established beyond controversy, *viz.*, where there was a gift by a legal guardian and the marriage rite was duly solemnised, the marriage was irrevocable, and where the girl was abducted by fraud or force and married and there was no gift either by a natural or legal guardian, there was a fraud upon the policy of the religious ceremony, and there was, therefore, no valid religious ceremony. . . The third proposition of law which was material to the case before their lordships was that when the mother of the girl acting as her natural guardian in view of her welfare and without fraud or force gave away the girl in marriage and the marriage rite was duly solemnised, the marriage was not to be set aside. This view was supported by authority and was sound in principle. . . Moreover several *Smriti* writers prescribed the gift of the daughter in marriage before maturity as the father's duty and not as his right. So *Brahaspati* enjoined the father to give the daughter in marriage before she menstruated and declared that if he failed to do so he was guilty of causing abortion. *Narada* and *Yajnyavalkya* pronounced him guilty of child murder. *Samvarta* declared that a disgusting punishment was prescribed for the next world for this dereliction of duty on the part of the father. As regarded the doctrine that a marriage rite once duly solemnised was not to be set aside, *Narada* said :—“Once is a partition ordained, once is a girl given in marriage, and once does a man say ‘I give.’” The author of the *Smriti Chandrika* forbade a second *Samskaram*, or marriage, for the *Kali* yug. The theory was when a legal relation was once consecrated and confirmed by mantra or Vedic text, it was permanently fixed. Hence it was when a boy was invested with a sacrificial thread and consecrated by Vedic texts as belonging to his father's *Gotram* he was not eligible for adoption into a different *Gotram*. There was also another reason why when this marriage rite was once duly solemnised the marriage should not be set aside except on clear proof of fraud. The religious theory was that when an adoption or a marriage which was forbidden was consecrated by Vedic text and the sacrament was thereby defiled, a servile state supervened and not that the prior status remained untainted. As regarded adoption, the author of the *Dattak Meemansa* said in Section IV Sloka 40 :—“Should one be adopted on whom the ceremony of tonsure and other rites had been performed, a servile state ensued not that of a son. See also Sloka 46. It had, however, been held by this Court that when an adoption could not be upheld owing to a legal defect, the adopted boy did not forfeit his status as son in his natural family, and in the same way it might be held that when a marriage rite was set aside on the ground that it was forbidden by the very law which prescribed the rite, the girl's prior legal status remained without taint, the rite being defiled and being inefficacious on that ground. The religious theory mentioned above and the social difficulty which might arise from the marriage rite being set aside was a legitimate ground for recognising the doctrine of *factum valet*, except in the cases of clear fraud or force when the religious ceremony might be pronounced to be defiled by fraud upon its policy. Applying the foregoing principles to the case before their lordships, they thought the Judge was in error in setting aside the marriage on the ground that the mother falsely stated to the officiating Brahmin that she had the father's permission and thereby committed a fraud upon him. The Judge acted probably on the policy of Lord Hardwicke's Act in England, which was passed in a great measure to prevent the marriage of minors without the consent of their parents or guardians and which declared that the marriage of persons, wilfully intermarried without the license from a person having authority to grant the same (the grant of which was forbidden to minors, without the consent of parents and guardians) was null and void, the officiating Brahmin under Hindu law was hired for the occasion and was not a person clothed with a statutory authority to be exercised subject to the guardian's consent, and there was no analogy between the English statute and the Hindu law. Moreover, it had already been shown that the giving of a daughter in marriage was more a duty than a right, and in the case before their lordships the District Munsiff had found that the mother acted *bona fide* in the interests of her daughter and as her natural guardian, desiring to provide her with a suitable husband. Their lordships, therefore, reversed the decree of the District Judge and restored that of the District Munsiff, directing respondents to pay the appellant's costs in the High Court and in the Lower Appellate Court.

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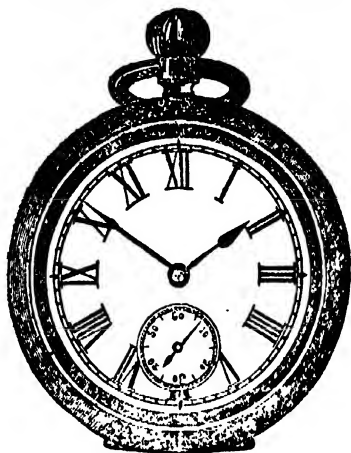
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This Company's Steamer "BARODA" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 2nd prox.

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The steamer "THIKAK" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 9th prox. (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 6th prox.

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Calcutta, the 26th November, 1890.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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AND

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1890.

No. 451

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### CHARLES KINGSLEY'S LAST POEM.

*From the newest Edition of his Works.*

"ARE you ready for your steeplechase, Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree?

Barum, Barum, Barum, Barum, Barum, Barum, Barea,  
You're booked to ride your capping race to-day at Coulterlee,  
You're booked to ride Vindictive for all the world to see,  
To keep him straight, and keep him first, and win the race for me.

She clasped her new born baby, poor Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree,  
"I cannot ride Vindictive as any man might see,  
And I will not ride Vindictive, with this baby on my knee;  
He's killed a boy, he's killed a man, and why must he kill me?"

"Unless you ride Vindictive, Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree,  
Unless you ride Vindictive to-day at Coulterlee,  
And land him safe across the brook, and win the blank for me,  
It's you may keep your baby, for you'll get no keep from me."

"That husbands could be cruel," said Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree,  
"That husbands could be cruel I have known for seasons three;  
But, oh! to ride Vindictive while a baby cries for me,  
And be killed across a fence at last for all the world to see!"

She mastered young Vindictive—oh! the gallant lass was she;  
And kept him straight and won the race as near as near could be;  
But he killed her at the brook against a pollard willow tree,  
Oh! he killed her at the brook, the brute, for all the world to see,  
And no one but the baby cried for poor Lorraine, Lorree.

### A GLOVE.

AH, yesterday I found a glove  
Grown shabby, full of tiny rips,  
But dear to me because my love  
Once through it thrust her finger tips.

A glove one would not care to see  
Upon his arm along the street;  
Yet here I own there is for me  
No relic in the world more sweet.

A faint, far scent of lavender  
Steals from it, as the clover smelt  
When through the fields I walked with her,  
And plucked the blossoms for her belt.

Faith! but I loved the little hand  
That used to wear this time-stained thing,  
Its slightest gesture of command  
Would set my glad heart fluttering.

Or if it touched my finger, so,  
Or smoothed my hair—why should I speak

Of those old days? It makes, you know,  
The tears brim over on my cheek.

Poor, stained, worn-out, long-wristed glove,  
I think it almost understands  
That reverently and with love  
I hold it in my trembling hands.

And that it is so dear to me,  
With its old fragrance, far and faint,  
Because my mother wore it, she—  
On earth my love, in heaven my saint.

JAMES BERRY BENDEL.

### THINGS THAT NEVER DIE.

THE pure, the bright, the beautiful,  
That stirred our hearts in youth,  
The impulse of a wordless prayer,  
The dream of love and truth,  
The longing after something lost,  
The spirit's yearning cry,  
The striving after better hopes—  
These things shall never die.

The timid hand stretched forth to aid  
A brother in his need,  
The kindly word in grief's dark hour,  
That proves a friend indeed;  
The plea for mercy, softly breathed,  
When justice threatens nigh;  
The sorrowings of a contrite heart—  
These things shall never die.

Let nothing pass, for every hand  
Must find some work to do;  
Lose not a chance to waken love,  
Be firm and just and true;  
So shall a light that cannot fade  
Beam on thee from on high,  
And angel voices say to thee,  
"These things can never die."

*The Guardian.*

*Holloway's Pills.*—The Great Need.—The blood is the life, and on its purity our health as well as our existence depends. These Pills thoroughly cleanse the vital fluid from all contaminations, and by that means strengthen and invigorate the whole system, healthily stimulate sluggish organs, repress over-excited action, and establish the circulation and secretions throughout every part of the body. The balsamic nature of Holloway's Pills exercises marvellous power in giving tone to debilitated and nervous constitutions. These Pills remove all obstructions, both in the bowels and elsewhere, and are, on that account, much sought after for promoting regularity of action in young females and delicate persons who are naturally weak, or have from some cause become so.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

ALL is up with Lord Connemara. He made over charge of the Governorship of Madras, on Monday afternoon, to the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Garstin, officiating Senior Member of Council. He will, however, be allowed all marks of respect due to his resigned position till he departs. He does not go to England direct, but starts for Japan on Sunday. He was offered a parting dinner by the officiating Governor which his Lordship thankfully declined. There is a movement for a permanent memorial. An oil portrait of Lord Connemara is for sale, and a public subscription has been started to purchase it.

THE next *pucca* Governor of Madras is Lord Wenlock. He is expected at Bombay on the 19th January. We hope Lord Wenlock will prove a better respecter of the ties of wedlock.

THE death of two retired prominent Anglo-Indians is announced this week. Sir Rivers Thompson, the late Lieutenant-Governor of these Provinces, and Sir Barnes Peacock, late Chief Justice of our High Court, are no more. Out of respect to the memory of the late Governor, the Bengal Secretariat was closed on Monday. The Chamber of Commerce has started a movement for a permanent memorial. It must be more than a portrait, for there is one already in the Town Hall.

SIR Tanjore Madhav Rao is retiring from active public life. The other day he resigned the membership of the political Congress Committee. He has now withdrawn his connection with the social Congress. These bodies have evidently outgrown the Raja's notions of agitation and progress. Notwithstanding all, we may be excused for doubting the earnestness of the resolve. Our people have a strange puerility. They are not ashamed of sham moves to enhance their prices. We have a magnate nearer home who has retired fifty times if he has retired once, during the last quarter of a century.

THE offer of Rani Manmohini Debi of Putiya, in the Rajshahye District, to construct a number of wells, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 per annum for four or five years, has deservedly found a place in the *Calcutta Gazette* of this week. This is the orthodox way of doing charity and good, and it is much appreciated in the district.

MR. William Hayes, Barrister-at-law, Bangalore, prosecuted Mr. O'Shaughnessy, municipal Executive Engineer, with obstructing him, by catching hold of his horse, in his drive along the Brigade Road under repairs. The Engineer was fined Rs. 5, by the Sessions Judge Colonel W. Hill. It seems the municipality is not competent to absolutely close a thoroughfare against the public, although it is liable in the absence of proper precautions against accident along a road under repairs.

THE next Criminal Sessions will commence on Monday, the 8th December, under the presidency of Mr. Justice Pigot. The Calendar includes the Jain Defamation case, which has obtained a name from the number of counsel engaged on both sides.

THE Budget of the Rampore State, as prepared by the Council, shews a surplus of Rs. 7,13,000 on an income of Rs. 26,00,000.

THE sacrilegious hand on the Doorga Pooja holidays is to be continued next year. The *Calcutta Gazette* of the 3rd December publishes the following notifications:—

## "NOTIFICATION.

The 2nd December 1890.—Under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881, entitled 'The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881,' the Lieutenant-Governor hereby declares the following days to be public holidays during the year 1891:—

13th and 14th February ...	... Sripanchami.
25th March ...	... Dolejatra.
28th " ...	... Easter Saturday.
17th June ...	... Dashahara.
26th August ...	... Janmashtami.
2nd October ...	... Mahalaya.
10th, 12th, 13th and 17th October ...	... Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs.
2nd November ...	... Kali Poojah.

10th and 11th November ...  
24th and 26th December ...

... Jagadhatri Poojah.

... Christmas Eve and the day following Christmas Day.

Sundays, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and Christmas Day are public holidays under the Act.

H. J. S. COTTON,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

## NOTIFICATION.

The 2nd December 1890.—With reference to the above notification, the Lieutenant-Governor hereby notifies that on the following days during 1891, which are not declared to be 'public holidays,' the offices under the Government of Bengal, and all Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the offices of Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt Rowannah and Opium Sale Departments of the Board of Revenue, shall be closed:—

## I.—MAHOMEDAN HOLIDAYS.

Eed-ul-zoha, 17th July.

Mohurram, 15th August.

Fatiah-doaz-dahum, 16th October.

## II.—HINDU HOLIDAYS.

Doorga and Lakhi Poojahs, the 8th, 9th, 14th, 15th, 16th and the 19th October.

## III.—OTHER HOLIDAYS.

The day preceding Christmas Eve, the 23rd December.

H. J. S. COTTON,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal."

THE Lieutenant-Governor has appointed the Special Census Officer for Calcutta to be the officer who may, in the town of Calcutta, require

"(a) every military or naval officer in command of any body of men belonging to Her Majesty's military or naval forces, or of any vessel of war,

(b) every person (except a pilot or harbour-master) having charge or control of a vessel,

(c) every person in charge of a lunatic asylum, hospital, work-house, prison, reformatory, or lock-up, or of any public, charitable, religious, or educational institution,

(d) every keeper, secretary, or manager of any serai, hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house, or club, and

(e) every occupant of immoveable property having, at the time of the taking of the census, not less than fifty persons employed under him, or living on or in such property,

to perform such of the duties of a census officer in relation to the persons who, at the time of the taking of the census, are under his command or charge, or inmates of his house, or present on or in such property, as the said Special Census Officer may, by written order, direct.

THE Reserved Forests of the Darjeeling, Terai and Lower Hills (Kurseon and Teesta Sub-divisions of the Darjeeling Forest Division,) as well as those of the district of Julpigori (Julpigori and Buxa Sub-divisions of the Julpigori Forest Sub-division) are closed against hunting, shooting and fishing, from the 15th December, 1890, to the 1st June, 1891, except with the written permission of the Conservator of Forests or the Local Government.

IN supersession of all the old, new rules have been issued by the Local Government for the preservation of copies of books printed in British India, and for the registration of such books. The change was necessary on account of the amending law Act X of 1890 passed in the last session of the Supreme Council.

The Inspector-General of Registration in Calcutta and the Sub-Registrars of Assurances in the mofussil have been appointed officers to receive books, &c., printed and published. They are further authorized to institute prosecutions against the printer for non-delivery or delivery after due date, and against the publisher when he refuses to supply the printer with maps, prints, or other engravings belonging to a book. The proprietor of the copyright or of any portion of the copyright of a book must pay the fee of Rs. 2. The tender must be made by an application in writing praying for registration under Act XX of 1847. The receiving officers are to transmit the books with the certificate of printer, as to the delivery of the book out of the press, to the Bengal Library. They shall remain there for the Bengal Provinces for three years, when they will be made over to the Calcutta Public Library, Metcalfe Hall, to be kept in the portion of the Library devoted to the public, and not issued to subscribers.

THE following Circular Order of the High Court is significant of the pressure of work on the Subordinate Civil Courts, occasioned by the shortness of hands and promotion by results—of returns:—

"The High Court has much reason to believe that the Civil Courts

not infrequently 'strike of' cases relating to the execution of decrees more for the sake of causing the disappearance of a particular case from periodical returns of pending cases than as a proper order putting an end to an application for execution. It has also been found that such cases are not infrequently restored to the files without any special reason, except as an acknowledgment that the former order was merely formal. Such a practice cannot but be regarded as an attempt to misrepresent the state of business before a Court, and will subject any officer to punishment. The Judges are aware that, from pressure of business in the trial of original suits, Subordinate Judicial Officers are in great difficulty in keeping their execution files under proper control, but the High Court must insist upon greater regularity in dealing with cases of execution for which one day in every week should be specially reserved.

Proceedings connected with the execution of a decree should be dealt with under the same procedure as original suits, and cannot be put an end to or revived save under the procedure expressly laid down by law."

We hope the Judges will direct their attention to the expensive and sometimes ruinous procedure in the Original Side of the High Court. Mr. Justice Norris once tried to keep down the cost, but such fitful attempts cannot avail against a huge ancient practice, developed into almost a vested right.

THE forecast made in regard to the annual income of the Howrah Bridge likely to be attained after the abolition of the local tolls and the terminal charges on rice, grain, pulses, seeds and salt, has been fulfilled. The Committee's estimate fixed the probable receipts at Rs. 1,57,597 and the actual receipts in last year have not fallen short of the estimate. On the contrary, there was a moderate excess of about 11 thousand rupees.

From the Bridge report it further appears that there was rather a large increase in the number of collisions of vessels with the bridge in the last year, which is attributed to the exceptionally strong freshets and eddies of the year.

ON the morning of the 22nd November last, Shama Bewa, a female servant, aged between 35 and 40, was found murdered in her room in her master's house at 40, Hartoki Bagan Lane, with her stomach ripped open. There was no clue to the murder. The Police has since traced it to a compositor in the Bengal Secretariat Press, Shib Chunder Mitter by name. There is no direct evidence against him. Whatever evidence there is, is all circumstantial. He is being tried at the Magistracy.

WOMEN are proving formidable competitors to men in all walks of life. They have a Lady Guide Association in London, and their experience of the first twelvemonth is highly encouraging. 290 parties availed themselves of the services of lady Guides for sight-seeing alone. We wonder what sort of guides, philosophers and friends are these. If they are worth anything, their Association will, *en passant*, advance the neglected cause of matrimony in England.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

CHOLERA has made its appearance in the city—at a time when it is least expected. The first cases did not prove fatal, but deaths are now reported. All seasons now seem favorable for this dreaded disease. Unless we have more chilly North wind, the prospect is disheartening, and may scare away visitors.

THREE of the Caboolie fighters of last week were taken to hospital. One of them—Abdul Karim, a Suleiman—died there. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury is that the "deceased died from the effects of injuries received in a general riot between two parties of Caboolis known as the Suleiman and Kharooti Khyel, but there is no evidence by which the person or persons who struck the blow or blows can be identified."

17 Kharootis and 13 Suleimans are being tried in the Police Court. The two clans will be tried separately, for the convenience of evidence by one set against the other. The death at the hospital of a Suleiman aggravates the offence against the Kharootis, for the Crown Prosecutor charges all the 17 Kharootis with the death of Abdul Karim. Syed Ameer Hossein Khan Bahadoor will indeed do a service if by his decision he can end the old feud between the two clans.

MILKMEN have now and again been hauled up for adulterating milk before sale. They always escaped punishment, though. It was contended with success that the mere addition of water did not make the milk noxious and therefore punishable. Recently, that contention has received high judicial sanction. Mr. Justice Handley, of the Madras High Court, has decided that "the mere addition of water to milk cannot be adulteration so as to make milk a noxious drink within the meaning of Rule 31, Chapter 3, Cantonment Rules, made under Act I. of 1866. It is not alleged or proved that the water added was noxious or the mixture noxious. Considering the danger to public health which may arise from the mixture of impure water it would be very desirable that a rule be passed making the addition of water to milk by a milk vendor punishable."

So much for Judge Handley of Fort St. George. But there are Handleys and Handleys, and there are Magistrates as well as Judges. Fort William too boasts—and has now reason to boast of—its Handley. He is only a Magistrate, to be sure, but then as regards the particular article in dispute—milk and water—there is little to choose between "My Lord" and "Your Worship."

Our Mr. Handley—the officiating Chief Presidency Magistrate—has, it must be confessed, risen to the height of the great argument. He has found a way out of the difficulty. He has solved the problem of punishing the plausible rogues, and within the terms of the law. He has convicted a milkman, under the usual circumstances, of cheating under the Indian Penal Code, and fined him Rs. 10. That is a public relief—unless some greater Handley spoils the business.

OWING to the unfortunate paucity of native capacity, the Congress-makers have been constrained to invoke European aid. The first three sittings exhausted all the indigenous notabilities eligible for the presidency. Since then the office has gone a-begging, without a single name of position and calibre being suggested from any part of India. Accordingly, the management went out of the native inhabitants of the Empire to seek the annual chief. And so the Fourth Indian Congress was presided over by a British merchant. The next year the same difficulty continuing, they again imported a "Britisher" for the last or Fifth Congress. Nor is there any sign of the abatement of the dearth. They have fished in all waters, from the Sea of the Coromandel to the sandbanks and shoals of the Indus, without catching a true "native" to speak of—a passable pearl oyster. Type of every Indian undertaking, it is the manifest destiny of the Presidency to be a preserve for the foreigner. There is just a silver lining to the prospect. The Chair at length shows a sneaking leaning to colour. There is just a hope for a native occupation of the seat of honour. From European to Eurasian is a homeward step. Till such time as we can get Indian *khas*, let us console ourselves with constructive Indian. Failing in other quarters, the Congress Committee have secured Mr. Gantz, the President of the Eurasian Association, Madras, for the Congress Chair of this year. But who receives the delegates?

THE threatened doom of Indian industries promises happily to be averted. The Indian Factory Commission having completed their enquiry, have submitted their report. They practically leave the present system of mill labour intact, and thus the sinister object of English manufacturers in pressing for the enquiry and for legislation has been rightly frustrated. The principal points for the decision of the Commission were the proposed limitations of hours of work for women and children. In both these points the Commission would make no change where the shift-system of working prevails, while outside the shift-system also they recommend in the case of women the retention of the present system, leaving Local Governments authority to treat individual operatives on slightly different terms should they desire it. Mr. Sorabjee S. Bengalee dissents from this view and recommends the shift-system to be introduced in Ahmedabad. For children outside the shift-system, half-time working is recommended as the best solution. The recommendations of the Commission are conceived in the interests alike of the operatives and their employers, and reconcile both excellently. The great danger which was apprehended from the Commission lest they should suggest changes which would injuriously affect the wages now earned by women and children, has been avoided, and we congratulate them on their judicious finding. The concluding



remarks made by the Commission will be endorsed by every true lover of the operative. They say :—

"In conclusion, we hope we may be allowed to say that we have been profoundly impressed with the vast and far-reaching benefits which the people of India are deriving from the development and prosperity of the great industries which we have seen on our tour through the country. It would, in our judgment, be a great calamity if by any injudicious recommendations or unnecessary restrictions the prosperity of those industries was endangered."

We hear reports about the way the ensuing Census is being arranged for by the district authorities, which are far from reassuring. We therefore give a warning before it is too late not to appoint men as Superintendents of Charges or even as Supervisors of Circles merely on account of their social position. Respectability is indeed essential, but intellectual qualification a *sine qua non*, and it will be a great mistake to entrust a work of the kind to men not possessing a fair share of both. Considering the importance of the Census inquiry, it would be a mistake to accept Municipal Chairmen as such, eligible for the task. Instead of that, discrimination should be exercised in finding out those who fulfil the two conditions referred to. What a pity that Chairmen should have been appointed Census Superintendents who have actually to spell their way through an ordinary letter in English! It is not a little amusing that, while a Deputy Magistrate at headquarters in charge of the District Census is energetically dashing off half a dozen of letters and circulars each day containing instructions, &c., to each Superintendent of a Census Charge, this poor soul is awfully bewildered by the missives pouring upon him and does not know what to do with them. The public and the press should be wide awake that no such bungling is allowed to mar a work of such great importance.

COMPLAINTS reach us from various quarters of the careless way in which the lists of voters for the approaching municipal elections have been prepared. A uniformity of practice appears to be wholly wanting, the rule being interpreted one way in one place and in a different way in another. How there could be diversity in such a simple matter, is indeed highly strange. But as the fact is even so, we think the Government might step in and lay down an authoritative interpretation for general guidance, once for all. The rule which has proved such a puzzle to municipal luminaries seems to be plain enough. It is this: "All persons who have during the year immediately preceding the election paid an aggregate amount of not less than Re. 1-8 in respect of any rates imposed by the Act, and who have been duly registered as hereinafter provided, shall be qualified to vote." The year immediately preceding the election is variously understood, and an aggregate amount of Re. 1-8 in respect of any rates has been gratuitously made to mean rates for the year immediately preceding the election to the exclusion of rates paid for previous periods. The effect of this perverse interpretation has in some municipalities been to remove hundreds of voters from the list by one stroke of the pen, and there is naturally an outcry. In some towns, the municipal executive with whom is left the work of preparing the registers are even suspected of foul practices in the manipulation of the registers, with a view to unduly affect the results of the elections. Men belonging to an adverse party are summarily got rid of by the exclusion of their names from the voters' lists, and the publication of these excites so little general interest that the omissions often remain undetected till it is too late. We are not disposed to attach implicit reliance on such imputations, but there is no denying the misinterpretation which practically disfranchises a large number of men. In the interest of the numerous class who have been unjustly disqualified in this way, we ask if it be yet too late to mend. The Government is liberal enough by lowering the limit of payment of rates to concede the privilege of voting to the humblest classes, but its generosity is frustrated by the wilful or careless interference of subordinates. This is really nothing short of a scandal which should be wiped away. So far from any signs in this direction, the very Municipal authorities who make such a mess in such a comparatively simple business are going to be confidently entrusted with Census work without reference to their capacity or intelligence.

ON Tuesday afternoon, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Miss Alicia Sydney Bayley, second daughter of Sir Stuart Bayley, was joined in holy wedlock to Mr. William Buckley Gladstone, son of the late Mr. Murray

Gladstone, a cousin of the G. O. M. The gathering at the church was large and respectable. The Hindoo community was represented by the Maharaja and Maharani of Cooch Behar, the Mahomedan by Mrs. Ameer Ali and the Hebrew by Mr. and Mrs. D. E. J. Ezra and Mr. and Mrs. Gubboy. There is another native name among the presenters of the wedding gifts which number about two hundred. It is Mr. and Mrs. Surbadicary in the *Statesman* and Mr. and Mrs. Subyorde Cary in the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News*. If native, as the *Statesman* puts it, the holders must be very progressive Hindus indeed, for their present is a cruet stand. The bridesmaids were the Misses M. Bayley, Halliday, Worgan, Hilton, White and Lambert, and the best man was Mr. Arthur Gladstone. The Revd. Welbore McCarthy conducted the marriage service. We hope this Hibernian priest bore himself better than he is wont to do when rushing into print. He was apparently not allowed full swing. He had little opportunity for proving an ill bore. For, the service over, this ecclesiastic was shelved. At the conclusion, the Revd. A. G. Luckman delivered an address. He, at any rate, was no bore, well or ill, if he could not command the wisdom proverbially attributed to his ancient namesake. For, his speech was short and, in consequence, sweet. From the church, the party retired to Belvedere, where they partook of cake and wine. The same evening, the married couple went up to Barrackpore Park, whence they were to proceed to Darjeeling to seal the marriage bond with the earnest felicities of the honeymoon.

THE *Indian Mirror* need not be alarmed. Mr. Lee, the Chairman, and not the Municipal Commissioners, entertains the Hon'ble Sir Charles Alfred Elliott to a Water Party, on Monday, the 8th December. The Chairman, to be sure, but not as Chairman. In other words, Janāb Lee Saheb Bahadoor or, if you will, Citizen Lee is not only a host—himself, but the host by himself—for the nonce. If our announcement of the entertainment fired up our contemporary in the mistaken interest of Municipal finance, we are sorry for it, as we find Mr. Lee gives the Party independent of the Corporation. For all that, he invites the Commissioners among his other friends, "to meet the Hon'ble Sir Charles Alfred Elliott, K. C. S. I." The city ought to be grateful to Mr. Lee for the opportunity afforded its representative citizens of acquaintance with the incoming ruler.

OUR little insular sister is very unfortunate. We have the best disposition towards Ceylon—our only sister, after all, to speak of—but what can we do? In this age of iron and competition without mercy, brought up in the teachings of European philosophy and under the example of British life, there is no credit for anything but cash. It is impossible thoroughly to be fond of an intimate blood connection who does not overflow with coin. A state may get on without an aristocracy or a church establishment, but plutocracy is a condition *sine qua non* of a well-ordered society. Half measures are mean compromises, unwelcome to a generous soul, and Ceylon has never had any millionaire. Perhaps a small Asiatic island, smaller than Ireland, scarcely deserves such a possession: Half-wallahs are deemed sufficient. And now misfortune upon misfortune, the island has lost its half-millionaire. And to make matters worse for the status of the poor island in the *ton* of capital, its moiety of a million is in the way of being whittled and dispersed, the poor man having left heirs—to any number. He has left a will, it is true, but unfortunately that is a stupid Oriental piece of business which essays to divide the estate and effects with justice. No one is cut with a shilling.

Mr. Charles de Soysa, a native of Ceylon and its wealthiest citizen, died the other day and now his loyal relict has proved his distinction as a millionaire by half and as a philanthropist by—less. The proof was given in the District Court of Colombo. The lands and effects of all kinds of the deceased were sworn to be under forty lacs of Rupees. The probate stamp will amount to Rs. 30,000. The will is dated the 29th September 1890. The heirs are fourteen in number, namely:—Fanny Georgiana Catherine Fernando, Jerome William Charles de Soysa, Margaret Frances Mary de Soysa, Jane Maria Caroline de Soysa, Alfred Joseph Richard de Soysa, Anne Lydia Charlotte de Soysa, Edwin Lionel Frederick de Soysa, Thomas Henry Arthur de Soysa, Crawford Macdonald Margarita de Soysa, Josslyn Emily Julia de Soysa, Selina Louisa Elizabeth de Soysa, James Samuel Walter de Soysa, Lambert Wilfred Alexander de Soysa, and Regiland Earnest Stephen de Soysa.

The control and management of the Prince and Princess of Wales' College at Moratuwa is vested in the eldest surviving son, the executors paying annually Rs. 3,000 for its maintenance. Each daughter on her marriage will receive property of the value of Rupees two lacs, each son on coming of age is to get Rs. 3,000 per annum. After the death of their mother, the property will be equally divided among the sons, with the exception of the entailed estate consisting of some properties of old Mr. Susay de Soysa, the uncle, and of Mr. Jusey de Silva, the father-in-law, of the testator.

THE interest of this week's mail news centres in Mr. Parnell and his desertion by his party. He refuses to give up his leadership at the dictation of his late colleagues, as he believes Ireland and America are with him. The Gladstonian Liberals are indignant at his disclosure of party confidences and put a different construction upon his version of the story. There is a serious breach and communication is stopped with Parnell, and his retirement vehemently insisted upon.

WHILE at Agra, the Viceroy performed several interesting ceremonies. The Maternity Hospital built in connection with the Lady Dufferin Fund was opened for Lady Lansdowne and the Viceroy spoke on the occasion in cordial sympathy with the objects of that Fund. Lord Lansdowne fully appreciated the difficulties which had to be overcome to make the important experiment a success but he expressed confidence as to the result. Not the least of these difficulties was the Indian aversion of the medical profession as a degrading one, but there were signs of the steady disappearance of that prejudice. His Lordship held forth on the congeniality of the profession to women and encouraged them with the bright prospect of usefulness which lay before those who were receiving the training now offered under the auspices of Lady Dufferin's scheme. In conclusion, the Viceroy acknowledged the liberality with which native gentlemen had supported the scheme and expressed a hope that it would remain undiminished during Lady Lansdowne's incumbency as Patroness of the Fund. His Lordship then opened the Agra Water Works and spoke eloquently of the advantages of the measure to the health and the general welfare of the citizens. His Lordship's visit to the Agra College furnished him with another opportunity of marking his great interest in the cause of education. The Viceroy availed himself of the occasion to dwell upon the importance of technical education and expressed his approval of the efforts now being made to improve the discipline and tone of conduct of the students.

At Benares, in replying to an address from the Municipality, his Lordship made a capital speech. The age of the city and its sanctity invested Benares with peculiar importance in his Lordship's eyes. A significant reference of no small importance at this day was made to the policy of Government in regard to the religious faith of the people.

Lord Lansdowne said "The Government of India has, as you remind me, been careful to preserve a strict neutrality in all matters connected with the religious faith of the people of India. I am making no departure from that neutrality when I assure you of my sympathy with your endeavours to cling to and preserve amidst the rapid changes, moral and material, through which India is passing, all that is noblest and best in the Hindu character and in Hindu traditions." The Viceroy commended the efforts which were making for the sanitary improvement of the city to the support of Hindus in other parts of India, and gladly accepted the patronage of the Kasi Gunga Prasad Sabha. His Lordship then laid the foundation stone of a Hospital for women to be named after the late Maharajah Iswari Prasad.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 6, 1890.

### THE RETIRING LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

A few short days more and the Palace at Alipore will know not its present Lord. Another King is in readiness to rule over Israel. On the 17th of this month Sir Steuart Bayley descends from the Provincial Throne. He will lay down the reins of Government before his time, and quickly disappear in the mist of the Ocean by which he originally came, never more to see this land. He has been so

thoroughly good and just a Ruler that the country is really unwilling to part with him so soon. Sir Steuart has passed the best portion of his life in the Province over which he at length came to preside, and the parting—whatever its cause or whatever its compensations—cannot but be painful to both sides. There are blessed changes, but this one is not of them. We sincerely regret these early retirements just as your ruler's accumulated knowledge and ripened experience and the confidence at last inspired among the various sections of the people, promised to be of the greatest service in the solution of the grave problems of administration which are always presenting themselves.

We were confident of Sir Steuart's success from the first. On his appointment we assured our countrymen of an era of just and sympathetic rule. And we are peculiarly gratified at the fulfilment of our forecast. Sir Steuart first impressed us favorably during the short spell of his acting Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. At that time Sir Ashley Eden's popularity was at its height. That Lieutenant-Governor had brought to office the highest reputation and he was deputed to special work before he had been thoroughly tried at the head of the Bengal administration. To take his place in Bengal, for a short time without the advantage and prestige of permanency, was no light responsibility, and would have tried the loftiest ability and the most supple tact. Sir Steuart Bayley passed through the perilous ordeal, not simply unscathed, but with enhanced credit. His utterances and proceedings of that period were characterised by such firmness and wisdom and above all such quiet sympathy as at once to mark him out for the full-time future Ruler of the people. Our prediction has come true, for what man whose opinion is worth anything will deny that Sir Steuart has done full justice to the grave trust that was laid upon him? Even cavillers and fastidious critics must allow that he has been always determined to deal by all interests with equal justice and a single-minded zeal for the public good.

Sir Steuart's demeanour was no small point in his favor. His sober dignity was truly worthy of a Ruler of an Oriental people and yet it was just the thing for a responsible constitutional Governor of a country broken into rival communities and innumerable races, tribes, and factions. Thoroughly accessible to all, by every door, attentive to every representation, polite with a stately courtesy unknown among British men, and hitherto supposed to be foreign to his own shy and almost self-brooding disposition, he has maintained a lofty impartiality between opposing personalities and interests. So far as weak human nature might be expected to do, he has done justice to all parties, favour to none. And this without the betrayal of any vulgar self-consciousness. There was no hankering after popularity—no playing to the gallery. He held his way firmly and withal meekly, inspiring by his strength a healthy awe of his supremacy, while winning the gentler affections by his meekness and gentleness. For the sake of a false popularity, one is often tempted to play class against class, sect against sect, and build his name upon the wreck of the country's true welfare and peace. This is a besetting weakness in Rulers, but nothing of the kind with Sir Steuart Bayley, or his right-hand man, Sir John Edgar. Nevertheless, both are justly popular. But the popularity they have won is of a more solid and lasting than flashy kind, and it will grow as time

goes on and appreciation of sterling merits advances in the community.

Above all, will the retiring Satrap be remembered for his genuine sympathies for the people whose destinies were in his hands—for Europeans as for Natives, for Hindus as much as for Mahomedans. Coming of a stock associated with the romantic traditions of the Old Civil Service, he realised in himself the good points of the Civilian of both the old and the new era. Like Sir Ashley Eden, he had his best feelings for the old decaying or struggling Nobility of the land. The Mahomedans received every proper encouragement from his active sympathy. The Subordinate Judicial as well as Executive Service always felt his friendship. The improvement of the position and prospects of the more deserving officers has been among his dearest objects. Local Self-Government received at his hands no small expansion, and at the present moment his recommendation for the creation of Village-Committees as the unit and base of the system is under the consideration of the Government of India. Municipalities which had not the privilege of electing their Chairmen have now got what they so much prize, and we believe he was favorably disposed to concede the same power to selected District Boards which had earned the confidence of Government by their past success. The system of Honorary Magistrates' Benches has also been placed upon a more satisfactory footing. Sir Steuart's activity has been displayed in so many directions that to enumerate all his successful measures would swell our article to inordinate length. His activity, however, was always tempered with wisdom. He was never betrayed into precipitate legislation. His activity was only employed when it was needed. Let our readers believe when we say that all his Departments have felt the impress of the master's hand. The Tenancy Act has been brought into operation with watchful care and sound discretion. The landholders as a class have especial reason for gratitude to their departing Chief for the leniency with which the Sale Law was carried out under his *régime*. Nor was the subject of irrigation absent from his thoughts. The state of the embankments and the periodicity of floods and scarcity also received his most anxious consideration and he has, we think, left on record his matured views on the subject.

Another trait of Sir Steuart deserves prominent recognition. He has been a most successful peace-maker. In smoothing away friction and reconciling contending officials, his tact and suavity have often been called into requisition, and invariably with the desired effect. But in discharging this delicate function, he has never sacrificed justice. Firmly upholding the right, he has like a father pointed out to the combatants what in the heat of their passion had escaped their observation, and bringing each to see things from a different standpoint restored harmony of relations which was indispensable to the efficient discharge of public business. In making these remarks we have in view the Cazi-like temper and attitude he assumed in the hot quarrels which some time ago broke forth between the Health-officer of the Calcutta Corporation and its higher executive, and latterly the misunderstanding between the newly appointed Excise Commissioner and the Revenue Board which but for his firm intervention might have led to a regular breach.

Taking him all in all, in Sir Steuart Bengal had a Ruler of sound judgment, firm justice, grave dignity and genuine loftiness of aim. He goes, though we

would detain him, if that were possible by mere power of will. But that is not to be and we can only wish him godspeed and lengthened days of useful activity in his own land. It is no small consolation to us in our regret for his loss that the government passes into able hands. His successor comes with an established reputation for administrative capacity as well as Sir Steuart's own characteristics of strength and justice.

The croakers may still cry, What has Sir Steuart done? We answer, He has discharged his trust and fulfilled his promise. He has given good government. He did not contract for dissolving views or fire-works, and he has given none. He is no political pyrotechnist. The literary canon formulated in Pope's words, *Regard the writer's end, holds good in the criticism of affairs as well as of books*. Sir Steuart Bayley early announced his policy. He offered not to set the Hooghly on fire, and the sacred stream is still preserved to the people. He has not startled us by grave changes or great noises. He has not been a Reform Administration. So much the better for the people and his own reputation! We all remember the fate of Sir George Campbell and of Bengal under him. The feeling of disappointment at the absence of positive benefit and tangible results, which is nourished by a noisy section of our politicians, is an unhealthy sign. Is rest nothing tangible? Is justice not a positive good? He has given both. If anybody thinks these things easy, he does not know anything. For the first time, after thirty years, the true governors of the land were governed.

#### THE POLITICS OF THE ST. ANDREW'S DINNER.

THE St. Andrew's Dinner in Calcutta was not only a social but a great political success, and this was due to the Chairman. Mr. Mackay's speech is bound, or at any rate deserves, to tell in the proper quarter. An earnest and scathing and powerful attack on the Income-tax, delivered on such an occasion of festivity by the head of our mercantile society, cannot fail to show the Government what keen irritation has been caused by their recent intemperate reply to the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce for its repeal. The attack was made with no small artistic effect after a preliminary tribute of warm admiration for the Viceroy's statesmanship and high character. Mr. Mackay has earned the country's gratitude by his spirited stand against a most oppressive imposition. We do not know him personally, but he is reported to be a very kind hearted man, held in great respect by the assistants of his firm for his sympathetic treatment of those under him. He never cuts pay for late attendance or absence on leave, and such a man cannot but feel indignant at the pettiness of a device for swelling the State coffers by mulcting from the pay of such small fry. Our merchants, whatever their regrettable attitude on the holiday question, are some of the kindest masters one can wish to serve. The traditions of the generosity of the earlier Merchant-Princes still animate not a few of them who, we understand, pay the income-tax for their establishment themselves and consider it meanness to recover it from the assesseees. And it is only from such a considerate master, one could expect the graphic description of the hard lot of the mercantile clerks, and indeed of clerks in general, that no one can read in his speech without crying shame to a Government that enrich themselves at the expense of such a needy struggling class. As

the people for whom the Chairman at the Scotch national anniversary so feelingly pleaded seldom look or have leisure to look into newspapers, we draw their attention to what we know many of them have not heard of, and extract the whole speech which they cannot read but with the greatest delight and thankfulness.

But humanity for the poor was not the sole or even chief ground on which the President of the Chamber of Commerce founded his argument for the repeal of the tax. He thoroughly exploded Sir David Barbour's notion that, were it not for his pet tax, the non-official community would make little or no contribution to the cost of the administration which ensured them the peace and security under which their business prospered. He showed that far from this being the case, European commerce was the mainstay of the revenue and that revenue was daily expanding with long enough strides to enable Government to strike off a tax without much difficulty which yielded only about 45 lacs. As to the conscientious scruples of officials of the higher classes not to go without contributing their own quota to the cost of the State, Mr. Mackay suggested that if they really thought their salaries were too high, which he for his part disbelieved, and that their conscience would not allow them rest without submitting to a voluntary fleecing, they might more simply effect the object by a 2½ per cent. reduction of their scale of pay.

Mr. Mackay was full of the subject and gradually warmed up and then gave the Government a bit of his mind, by remonstrating against the series of mischievous measures which have been adopted in this country to the prejudice of Indian commerce and manufactures at the instance of Lancashire. The export duties have been taken away by one stroke of the pen to suit the interests of the English manufacturer, and that having made no impression upon Indian industries, the next step is to strangle them by irritating factory legislation. Happily, the latter move is going to be abortive, the Factory Commission whose report is now published being too wideawake to be taken in by the dodge of a spurious English philanthropy. But all the same, these things show how the Government is ever ready to shape its policy at the bidding of Manchester, and the head of our Calcutta mercantile interests did well to speak out plainly and remind our easygoing Governors of "the peril to the English Power itself that is likely to follow in the path of a policy that permits the interests of this country to be prostrated to the political party pressure of England."

The other speeches generally were fully up to the mark. Dr. Crombie, in giving the toast of the "Guests," spoke with great good humour, but the smartest thing of the evening was our Governor Elect's sprightly utterance. Sir Charles Elliott made the best of the occasion and spoke in the pleasantest vein, fully repaying the hospitality of his Scotch hosts by his glowing eulogy of the sterling traits of their character as well as by a passing allusion to Lord Dufferin's epoch-making speech on the Congress, the memory of which will be ever green in the minds of Europeans in this country, and the candid friendship, if not candied, of which our countrymen would do well to lay solemnly to heart.

#### THE PRINCIPLES OF INDUSTRIAL WORK IN INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR.

No subject can more urgently demand, or more amply repay the study of the intelligent inquirer than the great ques-

tion of Industrial Work. From the inexhaustible fountain of labor, springs all that constitutes the wealth of nations. The power, the dignity and the happiness of a people are at the same time the result and the expression of the energy and capacity for labor which characterise the race. From the wheel of the potter, from the yet ruder shed of the brick-moulder to the noblest work of the sculptor; from the rudest scratching of the soil to the highest triumph of scientific agriculture; from the first lesson of the monitor to the master speech of the statesman, all that can enrich and ennoble a nation, is bound together by the golden links of industry. The position of workmen in our country may be regarded in more standpoints than one. The questions involved come home in different ways to the workman, to the employer and to the Government. With the first, the great object of life is the acquisition of wages. To the workman, the word is synonymous with income. It implies the means of providing for his own need and for the wants of those who are dependent on his exertions. The characteristics of wages that are most important in his eyes are—*first*, security; *second*, adequacy; *third*, ease of acquirement. He desires to earn them with as little labor as possible. He desires that they should be as liberal in amount as possible. But his chief anxiety is that they shall always be surely forthcoming. Unfortunately, there are those among the mill-owners in the Indian factories who endeavour not only to teach, but to compel, the workman to regard his labor from a rather different point of view. The theory of competition is now invoked in a mode little contemplated by those who first promulgated it. The condition that is laid down as primary by those who attempt to organise the labourer as the opponent rather than the assistant of his employer is that the less work every man does, the more hands will be necessarily employed. Thus it is seen that the mill-hands in most places leave the factories when they have done a certain quantity of work, although, with but little extra fatigue, they might considerably increase the outcome of the day's work. Thus, there has come on a strike between the Lancashire and the Bombay factories. The assumptions that underlie the interference with the freedom of labor are that a certain quantity of work has to be performed in the year, and that it is competent to the labourer by means of combination to fix the remuneration for this work. The employer naturally regards both work and wages from a very different point of view from that of the workman. Nor is he, in his turn, less subject than the labourer to be misled by a false appreciation of his own interests. Work, to the employer, means the assistance which he requires for producing the staple of his trade. Wages means the pecuniary advances which he makes, to obtain the services of the workman. The real requirements of the employer are,—*first*, certitude as to the steady supply of labor; and next, fair return, both in the quality and in the quantity of work for the wages which he pays. Thus, truly regarded, the interests of the employer and of the workman are identical. But as the workman may be misled into the effort to return as little labor as possible for his wages, so the employer may be misled into the attempt to pay the lowest possible wages in return for work. The temptation is more specious and cogent in the case of the employers; for, his pay-sheet represents a definite outlay which it is not always easy punctually to discharge, and anything which diminishes that outlay presents itself under the guise of an actual saving. This may be, and often is, far from being a real saving; but the fallacy is specious and the mistake extremely natural. Thus the grasping employer endeavours to keep down wages to a minimum and the dependent workman endeavours to force them up to a maximum.

The Government regards labor as the perennial spring of national wealth, the source of national greatness, and the safeguard against national decadence. One of the first objects of the Government must be to encourage the most free and uninterrupted development of the national industrial power in this country. In the contemplated Factory Legislation, consequent upon the representations of the Lancashire, made to check the growth of Industrial work in India, the Government will no doubt err. The impulse of competition will be largely checked and, instead of an increase of a healthy, industrious, happy population, the country will groan under the pressure of a jaded, idle, miserable lot that, with the ineffective character of competitive industry, will pine away never to rise for any thing good and practical. Even bantering has its use, for it is one of the



great laws of the Universe that there should be everywhere and in all things some allowance for waste of words. Meanwhile,

Thank God, say I, for any plan  
To raise poor millmen's level,  
Give them a chance to make them men  
Or how to mar a devil.

In fact, these representations exceed the limits of bantering and they call for, as may be unhappily said in the present instance, legislative interference. There may be shortcomings in some minor points which ought to be settled among the parties themselves; but it is not very fair that loud complaints should be raised stimulating the indignation of Government against the whole fabric of industrial enterprise in India. Payment may be made earlier than now, four days' holiday may be allowed instead of two, children under twelve may be allowed to work in 'double shifts' half day at half pay; but it will be very hard to mend that unhealthy relation that continues to exist between the Lancashire factories and those in India. The great stream of public opinion will flow on, watching them and their concerns; but there are quiet corners where perhaps the current is not felt and hardly an eddy of the rushing tide stirs. If crying injustice is done in the present instance to the Bombay factories, bitterness will be the result. From what the Factory Commission has been able to ascertain, it is evident that there should be no alternative between the factories and the Government but between the mill-owners and the mill hands. There is something like the falsehood of extremes in all sharp alternatives. The principles adverted to regulating industrial enterprise, are in many cases compromised with, and measures taken to promote the interests of a special class in England, clipping at the same time the practical energies of the workmen in India. In the department of agriculture, there is room enough for improvement, should Government lend greater attention to develop it into a full growth.

J.

#### ST. ANDREW'S DINNER. "THE LAND WE LIVE IN."

Proposed by the Chairman Mr. James L. Mackay.

And now, Gentlemen, I come to "the land we live in," and take it altogether, I feel sure that no one present here to-night will be disposed to grudge it a toast. India, like every other country, has its good points, and it has its bad ones. To us poor dwellers in the plains, the better ones are now beginning to manifest themselves. They come in fact as the night punkah-pullers leave us, and retire as they return, but take the good points with the bad, the country, as a whole, has many redeeming features, and seems to have a wonderful attraction for the majority of men who come to it, to judge by the time that most of us remain here. (Laughter.)

And, Gentlemen, it is wonderful how bright and pleasant India sometimes seems, when viewed from a distance, even when we are in that old country for which we have such longings when exiled here. Somehow, the heat discomforts seem to get forgotten as the East winds come sweeping round the corners, and we are not indisposed to wish ourselves back in Calcutta, to revel in the balmy breezes that circle round the Golf Pavilion all through the summer nights. (Applause and laughter.)

I have said, Gentlemen, and I think you have all agreed with me, that India, for the European, has many redeeming features; but a very important one of these, which existed up to some three or four years ago, has, I am sorry to say, now disappeared. The redeeming feature I refer to, which has taken wings to itself, was the entire absence in this country of that irritating and obnoxious pest, a direct tax upon income. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Gentlemen, some little time ago, when money was wanted to fortify our frontier, and the exchequer was found to be low, when Russia was threatening us and the Eastern question was the momentous one of the day, the country was appealed to for help; we were all asked to put our shoulders to the wheel, and to agree to assist the Government by giving up to them  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of our incomes. The appeal was heartily responded to without demur, an Income Tax Bill was passed with almost no opposition, either from the non-official Members of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council or the Press. We were told by Lord Dufferin, in that pleasant way which was peculiarly his own (Laughter); that we had all come up to the scratch like men. We were patted on the back and assured that our conduct would be appreciated, not only by the Government of India, but by Her Majesty the Queen. (Laughter.)

Years slipped away, Gentlemen, the frontier defences were getting towards completion, the financial equilibrium had been restored, and, as is natural in human nature, we began to look for some tangible acknowledgment of our admittedly patriotic action, something beyond the pleasing platitudes applied to us by Lord Dufferin in 1886. (Applause.) To our dismay, however, instead of an

easing off in the rigour of the income tax assessment, we found some months ago, that not only Indian incomes were being more rigorously taxed than before, but that profits made by merchants resident out of India, on goods sent to this country for sale, were also to be compelled to contribute their quota to the Exchequer; and that the person selling the goods in India was to be made responsible for its collection and payment. (Cries of Shame). This last move, Gentlemen, rather opened our eyes and attracted attention to the whole question of the income tax; with the result that the Government were memorialized on the subject by almost all the public bodies in India. The reply to these memorials has been recently received, and although on the one point of the attempt to tax consignors' profits, Government have given way, we are told, in pretty certain terms, that they have no intentions now of abolishing the income tax. The latter part of this reply, Gentlemen, has been received with a great amount of dissatisfaction, and I sincerely hope that the Government of India may yet see their way to reconsider their decision. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, you have all doubtless read the reply which the Government have made to the memorial of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. I will not detain you by going through the whole of that reply, as the document will be fully dealt with by the body to which it is addressed; but there is one point in it to which I would venture to call your attention to-night, and it is that portion where we are told that Government feel perfectly certain that the non-official community would never have permitted the Income Tax Bill to be so quietly put through the Viceroy's Council, had they held the opinions now expressed that the tax was totally unadapted to the circumstances of a country like India. (Cheers.)

I think, Gentlemen, this is scarcely the return we might have expected for the patriotism we displayed in 1886, when Government were at their wits' end to find money for the conquest and pacification of Upper Burma, and for the fortification of the North-West Frontier against the threatened Russian invasion; but it is a lesson to us for the future, which, I sincerely trust, will not be disregarded. We must remember hereafter, Gentlemen, when measures are before the Legislature, to take care that the public view of them is expressed in no uncertain voice, so that we may not lay ourselves open to be twitted, as we have been in this instance, with manufacturing arguments to suit our own new views.

Gentlemen, I have said that I hope the Government of India may yet be induced to alter their decision and to abolish the income tax altogether, and I believe this will be brought about by their being compelled in common justice and fairness to greatly extend the present exemption minimum. In England incomes of £150 a year and under are wholly exempt from payment of income tax, while incomes of from £151 to £400 a year are exempted to the extent of £120, but in India the exemption limit is only Rs. 500, or, say, £35 per annum. (Hear, hear.)

Now, Gentlemen, I take it as an axiom that a direct tax upon income should only be levied when the income is sufficiently large to admit of a considerable portion of it being spent on veritable luxuries. At home it is considered that a man with an income of £150 a year can afford no luxuries, and that, therefore, his income should not be directly taxed; but in India it is apparently considered that any one with an income of over Rs. 42 per month, or £35 per annum, is sufficiently affluent to afford both to buy luxuries and to pay income tax. (Applause and cries of Shame!)

Gentlemen, was there ever a more cruel sarcasm? Think of the thousands of poor Europeans and Eurasians existing rather than living in our large cities in India struggling and striving to keep together the bodies and souls of themselves and their families on Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 a month; yet treated as if their scanty and precarious means were affluence sufficient to enable them to pay a direct tax on their incomes! Gentlemen, the heroine of Tom Hood's "Song of the Shirt" might, with equal decency, have been called upon to pay income tax to add to her other miseries of poverty, hunger and dirt. Were the exemption limit in India raised to what it is in England, all incomes of less than Rs. 180 per month, or Rs. 2,160 a year, would be exempt from taxation; but this limit for India would, in my opinion, be in no respect analogous to the limit in England, so far as Europeans are concerned. (Hear, hear.) It must be remembered that the expenses of living in this country for Europeans are far in excess of what they are in England, and that the contingencies are very much greater. The pay of Europeans, consequently, must be higher here than in England, and must include a margin to meet contingencies. In calculating, therefore, what income in India would be the equivalent of £150 a year at home, all the liabilities to which a man's income in India are subject, which do not exist in England, ought to be taken into consideration, and if this be done, I think you will mostly agree with me when I say that, to put us on a par with England, the exemption limit in India, for Europeans at any rate, ought to be raised to not less than Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 per month, or the equivalent of £300 or £400 a year. (Cheers.) As regards the exemption limit for Natives of this country, it may be argued that their expenses being so much lighter than Europeans', the exemption limit for them might be lower, and this I am not prepared to dispute, but it would never do to have one rule for the European and another for the

Native, and the proper course would be to make the exemption limit alike for all, as it is now. (Applause.)

The present exemption limit even for Natives, however, is far too low, especially for those resident or employed in the Presidency towns, where expenses are necessarily very heavy. I venture to think, Gentlemen, the average Native clerk employed in a mercantile or Government office in Calcutta, and drawing from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per month, burdened as he probably is with the maintenance of a number of relatives, in addition to a large family of his own, has seldom one rupee to rub against another, far less to spend on luxuries. Ground down by poverty, hard worked all day, with a long journey to make at night before he reaches his home at 7 or 8 o'clock, and then faced by the necessity of having to start again early next morning, his weary round going on day after day, week after week, and year after year,—who can wonder if the unfortunate man comes to regard the income tax collector as little better than a Turkish oppressor, when he makes him regularly disgorge a share of his miserable monthly pittance? A direct tax upon income ought not to be levied from men such as these; the limit of exemption ought to be raised to exclude the poor. (Applause.)

And then, Gentlemen, comes the point: If the exemption limit is raised to a proper level, there will be so little left to collect, that it will not be worth the cost of collection. One of the objects of a direct tax upon incomes should be to reach the drones in the hive, the men who, while enjoying large inheritances, go through this life without doing a hand's turn to benefit either themselves or their neighbours; but in India the greater part, in fact virtually the whole, of the revenue from income tax is obtained, not from the idle rich, but from the industrious poor; because, apart from the wealthy Natives who derive their incomes from land, and who are consequently exempt from payment of income tax, there are practically no rich people in India; and the tax is, therefore, altogether unsuited to the conditions of the country. (Cheers.) From the latest returns on this subject, published by Government, it will be seen that of the 294,000 non-officials who paid income tax in 1886, only 30,000 had incomes of over Rs. 2,000, or £140 per annum. It consequently comes to this; if the exemption minimum is raised to the point to which I believe Government will be forced to raise it, so as to exclude the veritable poor and needy, there will be practically no one left to tax, and the tax, as a whole, will have to be abolished. (Loud cheering.)

Gentlemen, in our fight with the Government of India on this subject, we stand at an unfortunate disadvantage, because it would be to the personal interest of every member of the Government, from His Excellency the Viceroy downwards, to have the tax abolished; and this being the case we have to encounter that stern determination to shun the very appearance of evil, which strongly characterizes the Government of this country and the Civil Service of India, and makes them stand out in a pre-eminent light before the whole civilized world. I am disposed to think that we are chiefly indebted to what I venture to call the mistaken conscientious scruples of a high financial authority, for whom we all entertain the greatest respect, for the resolution to endeavour to retain the income tax as a permanent institution. (Applause.) That high authority has, I believe, got the impression that well-to-do non-officials and officials in this country would contribute a scandalously inadequate share of taxation were they freed from income tax. This may or may not be true as regards officials, but it seems to me that the procedure for reducing their salaries by means of an income tax is after all a cumbrous and clumsy one. (Laughter.) If the salaries of officials in this country are considered too high, which I by no means think they are, the difficulty in their cases could be got over by simply reducing them 2½ per cent., but as regards business-men, it is a fallacy to suppose that their contributions to the revenue, if the income tax were abolished, would be confined to the duty on the salt they eat, on the liquor they drink, and on the kerosine oil they burn. Every business transaction they put through is liable to heavy indirect taxation, in the shape of stamp duties, while they and their operations are the backbone of the telegraphs, the Post Office and the railways. (Cheers.) Were there no mercantile community in India, there would be no revenue, trade is the mainstay of the country, and to harass and discourage traders is to sicken or kill the bird which lays the golden eggs. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, we used to hear a good deal of the cry in former years at home, that India ought to be administered for the Indians; but it seems to me that some of our friends on the other side are turning round a little now, and are more inclined to shout that India ought to be administered, not for the Indians, but for the inhabitants of Lancashire. This change in view has, to my mind, brought about the great interest that has recently been taken by the good people at home in the question of Indian Factory Legislation. It is perfectly true that a deputation from Oldham which recently waited on Lord Cross, and strongly urged upon him the necessity for making more stringent rules for the working of factories in India, were careful to assure His Lordship that their object was absolutely unselfish, and that they were moved solely by a desire to benefit their brother-workers in India; but I am, I am sorry

to say, sceptical enough to entertain some very grave doubts as to the sincerity of the motives advanced by that deputation. It seems to me that there are many fields in England, possibly in Lancashire itself, in which the plough of philanthropy might be better plied with advantage than in India, and that India might well be left to take care of herself till such time, at any rate, as England has made some further strides up the hill of perfection. (Applause.) No doubt the proposed Factory Law Amendment Bill will be carefully watched in its progress through the Legislative Council by those who are interested in the subject, as well as by the commercial representatives on the Council; but we must take care, guided by the interpretation put upon our action in 1886 in regard to the Income Tax Bill, that we do not fail to let our views be thoroughly well known, so that there may be no mistake made as to what they really are.

I am a little inclined to think, Gentlemen, that the Government of India are more or less at one with the opinion held by the public here, on the subject of this cry for fresh factory legislation, which is coming from the other side; and that we shall find them combating any attempt that may be made to strangle Indian manufactures, by means of regulations not needed in this country. Probably we shall have some rules proposed for the better protection of the young against possible oppression by parents desirous of benefiting by the results of their children's labour before the children are physically fit to work, and to wholesome rules of this nature, always provided they are simple and consistent with the conditions of life in this country, no reasonable objection can be taken. But Government will require all the support that public opinion here can give them to resist being driven further than is necessary by the pressure which will be brought to bear from the other side, under the weight of the possibility of losing the Lancashire Vote. (Loud cheers.)

Gentlemen, the time has come when a decided stand ought to be made by all who have the true welfare of this country at heart, against the gradual and increasing disposition which is being displayed to subordinate the interests of India to those of England. Some few years ago we had the import duties, which no one felt oppressive, removed by a stroke of the pen to benefit the English manufacturer; and a year or two later we had the income tax imposed to take the place of those duties. The abolition of import duties having failed to suppress indigenous industries, the next step taken is calculated to hamper manufacturing in India, by forcing Government to introduce fresh factory legislation. (Cheers of Shame!)

Gentlemen, I am no groaning pessimist, but I venture to predict that no inconsiderable peril to the British Power in India will follow in the path of a policy that permits the interests of this country to be thus so palpably prostrated to the political party pressure of England. I trust, for the sake of the "Land we now live in," as well as for the sake of the land in which we hope to spend our declining days, that a lesson will be taken before it is too late, not only from the history of the downfall of that dynasty which ruled India in by-gone years, but also from what led to the severance from Great Britain of that mighty land and people across the Western Ocean. The time has come, Gentlemen, when the Government of India, as regards their fiscal policy and internal administration, ought to have the same free hand as is enjoyed by the Colonies of the South. (Loud cheers.)

To turn, Gentlemen, from such prosaic subjects as income tax and uncalled for factory legislation, subjects which are sometimes calculated to make us wish this were not "the land we lived in," I would like to say a word about the country before I have done with it, which may incline your hearts to give a cordial reception to my toast. As I have already said this evening, India is a country which, when once it gets hold of a man, seldom seems to let him go under the best part of his lifetime. Few men manage to shake themselves clear of India under a quarter of a century, and it therefore behoves everyone who comes to the country to try and make the best of it, and this, I think on the whole, we somehow manage to do. And what is the consequence? After a certain time of life, when the pleasures of hope have waned, and realization has not proved all that we expected, we find we have what no one can ever rob us of, namely, a large store of the pleasures of memory. (Laughter.)

When we come to look back upon our Indian lives, we find that they have been exceedingly pleasant ones. Our friends have been kind and true, our enemies, if we have had any, have always been generous, and I venture to say, Gentlemen, there are few amongst us who, if they had their lives to live over again, would not elect for "the Land we live in." Gentlemen, I ask you to fill your glasses and to drink a bumper to His Excellency our Viceroy Lord Lansdowne and "the Land we live in."

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT'S REPLY TO THE TOAST "OUR GUESTS."

The Hon. Sir Charles Elliott, who was received with loud long continued cheers, said:—Mr. Chairman,—Dr. Crombie has done me the honour to couple my name with this toast, and I rise therefore to perform the pleasant duty of expressing, on behalf of your

guests of to-night, their thanks for the hospitality you have shown them and for the kind and patronising things which Dr. Crombie has said in his speech concerning them. His remarks recalled to me the feelings with which, when I was an undergraduate at the University, I heard a college don say of non-university people in a compassionate and sympathising tone: "They also are God's creatures." (Laughter.) Up to that time the idea had hardly been grasped by me that men not at the University could be God's creatures at all, and this remark threw a flood of new light into my mind. Perhaps Dr. Crombie may have passed through a similar experience, and this may explain his present attitude towards the forlorn and feeble folk who have been born on the wrong side of the border, and has led him to recognise in us the claims of a common humanity; and for this charming condescension the guests of to-night feel deeply grateful. (Laughter.) I wish for their sakes that the Chairman could have provided them with a more eloquent representative, one more able to cope with and emulate the fervid Scotch spirit and the gift of oratory which so many of the speeches of to-night have displayed. I fear that any claim that I might make to be a descendant of the remaining "little Jock Elliott," and that my ancestors on the border harried the land and folk of the forbears of the gentlemen I see around me, would hardly increase my claim to their sympathy, and might lead to retaliatory measures which would scarcely conduce to the harmony of the evening. (Laughter.) But at least I can claim this as the representative of your guests, that, however halting I may be in expression, I am second to no one as regards the feeling of gratitude for the large and liberal hospitality of which we have been partakers; and in the term hospitality I include, not merely the excellent, and sometimes curious, Scotch dainties with which the skill and ingenuity of the Land o' Cakes has loaded the table, but also the spirit of friendliness and *camaraderie* with which you have allowed us, Southern and strangers as most of us are, to penetrate into the mysteries of your sacred day, and to worship with you at the shrine of Scotland's Saint (Applause.) The best return I can make for this hospitality is by saying that it leaves us, like Oliver Twist, wishing for more: not more in the present tense (for I am sure that any guest whose inner man is not satisfied can only have himself to blame), but more in the future tense—more happy returns of such an occasion when friendly sentiments can be exchanged and home recollections revived (Applause.) These St. Andrew's dinners have often been events of great political importance. The last occasion on which I was present here as a guest was two years ago, when the retiring Viceroy, Lord Dufferin, delivered a speech of the greatest weight, summing up the political experience acquired during his tenure of office, and imparting to us his views on the great Congress question, showing within what limits the aspirations of the educated section of the people of this country could be granted with safety and profit to this empire, and beyond what limits they ought not to be allowed to go. (Applause.)

Last year, I understand, no St. Andrew's dinner was held, but what the good Saint thought of this abstinence from usual observances in his honour, I as a mere Southern do not presume to enquire. (Laughter.) This year, though no such epoch-making

speech as Lord Dufferin's has been delivered, a great deal has been said which every one interested in the welfare of India will do well to lay to heart. And even apart from this, it is no slight gain that so many sections of the English community of Calcutta have met together in furtherance of the spirit of mutual understanding, amity, and expansion of heart. To a mind like my own, that is accustomed to brood with foreboding and anxiety on the vast weight of Empire that lies on our shoulders, on the greatness of the task and the fewness of the labourers, and especially on the isolation of our District Officers, who are the eyes and hands of Government, and who often are placed in solitary parts, as I have been placed myself, one white man to half a million of Natives of India—to such a mind it is a refreshment to look round on this sea of white faces who represent all that is energetic and all that is reforming and life-giving in the principles on which the administration of India by England is based, and to reflect on that great store-house of energy and mental growth, and noble self-devotion, our dear Mother Island, from which, if we should fail, thousands more are ready to stream forth to take our place. (Applause.)

With regard to myself, I can only thank Dr. Crombie and you, Gentlemen, who have applauded his sentiments, for the kind expressions he has used about me. We have Biblical authority for the warning that "he who girdeth on his armour must not boast himself like him who putteth it off," and there can hardly be any time in his life when a man is oppressed by a keener sense of his shortcomings than when he is about to enter on so great an office as that which has been conferred on me (Hear, hear, and applause.) I am deeply impressed by the difficulties of the post, and also with the truth of what Dr. Crombie has said as to the qualities which are wanted in order that one should bear oneself worthily as holder of such a post. Whether I possess them or not time will show; but at least I am grateful to you all for your confidence that I do possess them. Believe me, there can be no greater stimulus to a public man to do well than the belief of his countrymen in him that he will do well, and I can assure you that the recollections of what has been said to-day will remain in my mind, and will be a stimulus and encouragement to me during my term of office. (Loud applause.)

#### THE CHAIRMAN'S HEALTH.

And now, Gentlemen, I have only a few words to add in performance of another and very congenial duty, which is to propose the health of our Chairman. (Cheers.) At so late an hour of the night I will not venture to detain you long, and indeed it is not necessary that I should say much on the subject of a gentleman so well-known and so much respected in Calcutta as Mr. Mackay. On his public life as President of the Chamber of Commerce, and as a leading member of the commercial community of this town, this would not be the place to dwell. Of his merits as a Scotchman you are much better judges than I, though I profess myself a devout believer in them. But as the Chairman of a great social meeting like this, I may be permitted to say that he has shone with unequalled lustre, and that the geniality and urbanity with which he has presided on this occasion will long be remembered as the chief cause of the complete success of this most pleasant function. (Loud Cheers.)

## CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

### LOAN NOTIFICATION.

1. The Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, given under Sections 404 and 406 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 10,00,000 on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888.
2. The Debentures will have a currency of thirty years from the 1st April 1891, and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st April and 1st October of each year.
3. The form of the Debenture-bonds will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.
4. No Debenture Bonds will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for complete sums of Rs. 100.
5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above loan up to the amount of Rs. 8,40,200 will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M., of Tuesday, the 16th December 1890; the balance of Rs. 1,59,800 will be reserved for holders of debentures of the 6 per cent. loan of 1870 falling due on 1st December next, upon the terms that have been agreed upon.
6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification, and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1890-91."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government promissory notes, currency notes or cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted, the deposit, when made in currency notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from the 16th December 1890, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed; but no debenture will issue for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits on tenders which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up, and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made, must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas: a tender in which the rate is not so specified, will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments:—

One-third on Friday, 16th January 1891.

Do. on Monday, 16th February 1891.

Do. on Monday, 16th March 1891.

Parties whose tenders are accepted will have

the option of paying all or any of the instalments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 31st March 1891.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, Tenders will be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2 30 P. M., on Tuesday, the 16th December 1890, at the Municipal Office.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
Calcutta, 29th November 1890.

### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURES.

I hereby tender for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Municipal five per cent. Debenture Loan for 1890-91, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rupees \_\_\_\_\_ annas for every Hundred Rupees allotted to me.

I enclose Government promissory notes, currency notes or a cheque for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed

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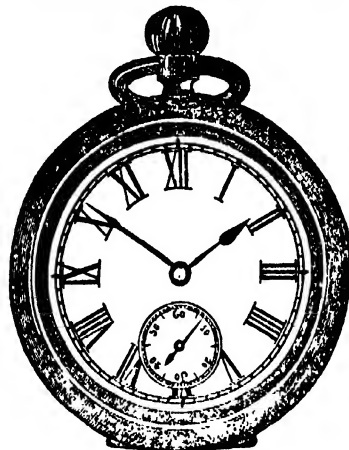
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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1890.

} No. 452

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### PUTTING UP THE BANNS.

Two brothers in a Northern village,  
Had wealthy grown on flocks and tillage,  
For both were prudent men and thrifty,  
And on the shady side of fifty,  
So like they were to one another,  
Brother might well have passed for brother.

Alike in form and face and tone  
They differed but in this alone,  
Thomas for years had had a wife,  
While John lived still a single life.

Tom's wife was gentle, loving, kind,  
Suited exactly to his mind,  
So pleasantly his days ran on,  
He often pitied lonely John.

"How is it Jack"—he said one day,  
As they were walking by the way,—  
"That thou saw long thasen has carried,  
And never thowt o' getting married?"

"How is it," John replied, "Loord saäve me.  
I doänt know any one 'ud haave me,"  
"Not have thee, Jack! there's Martha Brown,  
Tha knows as lives a'top o'toon.  
A boocin', booxom dame as any,  
And knows to toorn and saave a penny,  
She's joost thoine age, I've 'eer'd it said,  
And her goodman has noo bean dead  
Foor year, an' martinmas coom roond,  
Shea'd haave tha, gladly, I'll be boond."

"Dos't think shea will?" his brother cried,  
"Think! naw I'se sewer on't," Tom replied.  
"Whoy then," says John, "I weant delay,  
I'll goa put oop the banns to-daay."

This purpose settled in his mind,  
Away he went the clerk to find,  
Who wrote the intended marriage down,  
Between John Stubs and Martha Brown:  
And further, be it briefly said,  
In church the banns were duly read.

On Monday, Martha said her prayers,  
And drest herself and came downstairs,  
Her breakfast ate of eggs and pork,  
Then set about her daily work.  
When, in the midst of household labour,  
She saw drop in her next door neighbour,  
Who said:—"Why Martha is it thrue  
They tell about John Stoobs and thoo?"

From hoose to hoose the news is carried,  
That you're boath goan to be married."

"Naw, naw, tha silly thing, be easy!  
I think the folks are growin' crazy,  
Or else thoo's got tha noddle broken,  
Whoy John and I have hardly spoken."

"Well, but the bauns I'eer wur read."  
"Banns read! read wheer?" poor Martha said.  
The gossip answered with some scorn,  
"Read? Whoy in choorch but yeaster moorn,  
And that thoo knows I do na' doot it,  
Oanly tha' are so sloy about it."

Thereat a second neighbour came,  
And soon a third, and each the same  
Strange question asked and tidings brought,  
Till Martha, quite confounded thought  
The thing was getting past a joke,  
And rather angrily she spoke:—  
"You've all come heare, I plaanely seea,  
To troy and manke a fool o' meea,  
But noo I've summat else to do  
Than leasten to such stoops as you,  
Saw you may e'en joost step awaay,  
And keep your jests till All Fool's Day."

Her neighbours gone, she thought it o'er,  
But only grew perplexed the more;  
So put her cloak and bonnet on,  
And went to have a word with John.

"Why John, what's this? I 'eer it saaid,  
That ycasterdaay the banns were read  
In choorch, betwixt tha' sen an' mea,  
I want to know the rights o' theea."

"And saw the banns were read," said John.  
"Wur read!" said Martha taking on,  
"Was ever woman woorse deroided?  
"Whaw put them oop?"—says John—"Whny I did."  
"Thoo did! I gaave tha naw permission!"

John found he'd made a slight omission,—  
"Coom Martha, doant taake on," he said,  
"For thaw the banns in choorch wur read,  
It's not saw bad but weea can stop it,  
I'll goa an' tell the clark to dhrop it."

"Well, naw," said Martha, changing tone,  
"Noo that the thing saw fur has goane,  
And all the folks haave 'eered it, John,  
I think it may joost e'en goa on!"

W. T. M.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Viceroy returned to Government House on Tuesday. A cordial welcome awaited His Excellency on the grand staircase.

THE Levée comes off on Tuesday, the 16th December, at 9-30 P. M. The particulars will be found in the advertisement elsewhere.

The Levée was announced as early as September 1890, while the Viceroy was at Simla and had not started on his tour. But that was too early. There has been a change since then in the last day for sending in the cards. The fresh notification was issued on Tuesday, the day of his Excellency's arrival in Calcutta, and appeared in the morning papers of the next day. This late appearance of the notification, we are afraid, may interfere with the attendance at the Levée. It left too short a time for distant gentlemen to send in their cards. Before the present notification appeared, there were enquiries as to the last day, but we were in no better position than the enquirers. That shews the necessity of earlier announcement and wider publicity. It was different last year. The notification appeared two weeks, and there was no cause for annoyance.

THE Council of Regency of Rampur has laid a horse and camel dak between Rampur and Moradabad.

SPECULATIONS, especially in the Mahomedan community, as to the next native members of the Bengal Legislative Council have been set at rest. Both Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh and Prince Ferroksh Shah have been re-elected. Sir Henry Harrison and Mr. Allen too have been granted another term. The only new member is Mr. A. H. Wallis, of Messrs. Manton & Co. The Council meets to-day. It will be the last when Sir Stuart Bayley presides.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the post of Deputy Secretary in the Home Department. It will be filled by Mr. J. P. Hewett, the Under Secretary, who for some time acted as Private Secretary to Lord Dufferin.

MR. Henvey lays down his office with the close of the year. Mr. Robert Crosthwaite, C.S.I., succeeds as Agent to the Governor-General for Central India.

THE Chief Justice nominated and the Governor-General has accepted the Hon'ble Prince Ferroksh Shah as Sheriff in succession to Mr. H. B. H. Turner. He will make a grand Sheriff in his native costume. The Prince knows how to dress and looks well even in the European costume. But in Oriental Durbar robes he is truly princelike.

Our friend is a lucky man. His services in the Bengal Council have been so appreciated that Government have asked him to remain and have reappointed him to it. We can only wish him success all round.

DR. Koch still keeps his lymph for the treatment of tuberculosis a secret. It is a brownish transparent liquid and is injected subcutaneously between the shoulder blades and the lumbar region. A healthy man does not feel it, but a suffering patient complains of a severe general reaction—of feverishness, pain in the limbs, cough, fatigue and vomiting. These commence four hours after the administration and continue for fifteen hours, when they begin to abate and totally disappear in favorable cases. If his cure stands trial, a new and fruitful channel will be opened for improvement in practical medicine.

THE elevation of Mr. Knox, the Legal Remembrancer, to the Allahabad High Court Bench has caused dissatisfaction in the N. W. P. The *Pioneer* is informed that the Local Government pressed the appointment though powerfully opposed at the India office. According to the same paper, it has been a surprise to the entire Civil Service and the Bar. Our contemporary, however, is prepared to be reconciled to it on the supposition that Government mean to abolish the office of Legal Remembrancer.

THE last act of Colonel Prideaux as Political Resident at Jeypore, was to announce a donation of Rs. £20,000 to the Imperial Institute in

London, out of the Jeypore Treasury. The gracious acceptance of the offer by the Prince of Wales is no ordinary satisfaction to the Durbar and the Maharaja. The offer was at once a tribute to Imperial Royalty and a memorial to the retiring Resident.

WE read:—

"'Lover Stationery' is one of the newest ideas in note paper in America. The watermark is a blending of two hearts pierced by an arrow. On the lower corner of the last page appears a little mark which is intended to denote the kissing spot. It is covered with an aromatic gum which is said to impart to the lips an agreeable odour and taste."

And no sign of a church or altar or priest? not even a mark of a registrar's office?

ACCORDING to German analysts, the apple contains more phosphorus than any other fruit or vegetable—known, we believe, in Germany. Now phosphorus is calculated to renew the essential nervous matter, lethon of the brain and spinal cord. Its acids also serve a very useful purpose. They eliminate from the body noxious matters, which, if retained, would make the brain heavy and dull, or bring about jaundice or skin eruptions and other allied troubles. They have a distinct action on a sluggish liver and are valuable to men of sedentary habits.

THE judgment of the Madras High Court (published in our issue of Nov. 29) on the validity of infant marriage, is an unexpected blow to the agitation for raising the age of consent. Already, the ardour of the *Pioneer* has cooled down. It writes:—

"We have more than once expressed the opinion that the reform of the Indian marriage laws is both possible and desirable. But we have never disguised the fact that the subject is one surrounded by many difficulties; that if it is to be approached at all, great caution is necessary; and that whatever is done, it will not be possible to change the essential character of the Hindu marriage as a religious ceremony. Since Mr. Malabari went to England, however, the professional reformer has got hold of the question, and, as usual, he treats it as if there were no difficulty at all: as if marriage being spelt one way both in India and in England, the law regarding it should in all respects be the same. Take, for instance, Cardinal Manning's article in the *New Review*. There is much in it to which no objection need be taken, but there is evidence also that the Cardinal has missed the feature of Hindu marriage which is most characteristic and makes reform most difficult. 'What,' asks the Cardinal, 'as to the subsequent marriage, which on the average takes place at the age of seven, and of thousands at an earlier age? Neither in these can there be voluntary and intelligent consent. Therefore, there can be no marriage, because, by the law of nature, marriage is a voluntary and perpetual contract of which the contracting parties are the true ministers.' The law of nature is a thing which well-meaning people have, at various times and in various countries, interpreted in very diverse ways; but whatever the interpretation we adopt, it will not help us to solve the marriage problem in India. Marriage is *not* here a voluntary contract, but a religious ceremony of which the ministers are not the husband and wife, but the priest and the parents. In the Madras High Court the other day, the Justices clearly affirmed that the consent of the wife was not a point which has to be considered. It is not merely that this is law, but that it expresses the sentiments of the people. If we can make such changes—and we believe we can—as will prevent some of the evils which accompany the present system, well and good; but we shall only increase the resistance to any change whatever, if the idea gets abroad that we wish the Hindu to revolutionise the whole character of the marriage ceremony and radically alter his notions regarding it."

THE Secretary of State for India has addressed the following despatch to the Governor-General of India on the subject of Indian litigants in England:—

"From time to time Natives of India, mostly from the Punjab, who have been unsuccessful litigants in the Indian Courts, have come to this country in the hope of obtaining from Her Majesty a reversal of decrees or orders, and in ignorance of the fact that no appeal lies in this country against the decisions of Indian Courts, except an appeal in due form to the Privy Council.

2. Much inconvenience (and at times some public scandal) is caused by these men, whose means usually become speedily exhausted, leaving them in a condition of pauperism. It has hitherto been the rule of this Office (to which, however, there have been exceptions) to decline to send these persons back to India at the public expense; and they not unfrequently find their way either into prison as vagrants or into the workhouse as destitute mendicants—a state of things which is the more regrettable as many of them are, in fact, respectable men, who, through ignorance, have incurred great expense and personal hardship in coming here *bonâ fide* in search of what they consider to be justice.

3. It appears to me necessary that whatever steps are practicable should be taken to put a stop to this state of things; and I suggest, for the consideration of your Excellency in Council, whether it would not be well that (especially in the Punjab and Northern Provinces) a noti-

fication in the vernacular languages should be posted up in every Court and Police station, and otherwise made public, informing suitors that appeals from the decisions of the Courts do not lie in England except the ordinary appeals to the Privy Council, and that no petitioners, other than appellants to the Privy Council prosecuting their appeals according to the prescribed rules, will obtain any hearing in England from Her Majesty. A warning might be added that petitioners coming to this country merely waste their money and expose themselves to great inconvenience and hardships, with the risk of being unable ever to return to their native country.

4. I have resolved that, in future, whenever I may find it necessary that any men of this class should be repatriated by this office, expenses incurred on their behalf shall be debited to the Province to which they may belong."

THE *Tribune* of the 6th December publishes, on the authority of a correspondent, the re-entry at Batala into Hinduism of one Kunj Lal, a convert to Christianity. "Many members of the Biradari and others," we are told, "dined with Kunj Lal to shew that they had no objection to his being again made a Hindu." But does that complete the reversion?

MISS FLORENCE ST. JOHN, of the Gaiety Theatre, sued a sporting paper for the remark that to advertise herself she pretended the loss of her jewels. She was awarded by the Judge £300 damages.

THE largest pin factory is the Newhall Works, Birmingham, turning out an average of 10,000,000 a day. In Great Britain, about 1500 tons of iron and brass wire are annually manufactured into pins.

A GERMAN chemist is said to have prepared a preserving fluid, which, injected into a dead hare, rendered it fresh meat after six weeks. This fluid was put into the body of the late Emperor William I. This ought to be injected before burial into all bodies where there is suspicion of foul play.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT has risen and stands adjourned till the 22nd January.

THE split in the Irish camp widens. The majority have appointed Mr. Justin MacCarthy Chairman of the party, but the minority still cling to Mr. Parnell. The Parnellites number 31 while those who wish Mr. Parnell to go out are 54 strong. Messrs. Dillon, Healy, W. O'Brien, Arthur and Thomas O'Connor, Sheehy, Sexton and Abraham have been appointed a Consulting Committee of the anti-Parnellites. The Irish Bishops have condemned Mr. Parnell. He, however, still rules the Irish heart. He arrived at Dublin on the 10th. An enthusiastic welcome awaited him at Kingstown, while Mr. Healy, who arrived simultaneously, was hooted. In the forenoon, the ex-Irish leader entered, in the capacity of a Director, the office of the *United Ireland* newspaper, with a Sheriff's officer, to obtain possession of it. In going up the staircase they were opposed. A sharp scuffle with sticks and stools ensued. At length, however, Mr. Parnell succeeded in ejecting the editor and seizing the offices and plant, and thus receiving the submission of the staff. In the afternoon, he addressed a crowded meeting at the Rotunda and attributed the hostile movement against him to hypocrisy, ignorance and one-sided testimony. In reply, the anti-Parnellites issued a manifesto justifying their deposition of Mr. Parnell in the interest of Ireland. They justly complain that their chief had not redeemed his pledge of clearing his character. They, then, in the small hours past midnight, surprised and forced themselves into the premises of the *United Ireland*, took possession of the office, papers, &c., in the name of Mr. William O'Brien, and left a strong guard to protect the place. That was no easy matter. The stronghold of Celtic culture and patriotism—the *rendezvous* of injured Irishism—was an object dear to both parties. Neither Mr. Parnell and his followers nor the anti-Parnellites were prepared to surrender the dear name of *United Ireland* or the hallowed local habitation of the organ of the nation, without a struggle. Accordingly, the next day, the office was again invested by a fresh Parnellite host. Mr. Parnell himself led the attack, routed the sentry, broke open the door with a crowbar, and

took possession once more. Mr. Parnell claims to be a Director of the paper, but Mr. Dillon from America denies his right.

GOVERNMENT having no work for Sir John Pope Hennessy, he is preparing to enter Parliament. He is a candidate for North Kilkenny and sides with the anti-Parnellites. Mr. Parnell has set up a candidate named Scully to oppose him. The Roman Catholic Clergy of Kilkenny are favoring Sir John. He is a man of great ability, energy, and persistence, and may prove as inconvenient a customer to the powers that be as the late Chisholm Anstey. His wide experience ought to prove valuable to the House. We hope he will be returned. He is a friend of the native races in Greater Britain and of justice generally.

ALEXANDER MILLER succeeds Sir Andrew Scoble as Law Member.

BARON HUDDLESTONE and Charles Marvin are dead. The former left a wish to be cremated.

SRIMAN SWAMI, the Apostle of kine preservation, died at Pushkar of fever. A native of the South, he, like another Sankar, worked his way up to the North, conquering and subduing men to his movement. He was a remarkable man—of great ability as well as courage—of a strong will and untiring perseverance. What his particular views were we do not know, but that they were distinctly personal we came to think on his first long day with us. He had taken up a cry highly popular with Hindus, Jains, Parsees, and Buddhists, and generally plausible. But it was an impracticable, certainly an unreasonable one. In fact Sriman's, though he was too much in earnest to see it, was a mischievous business. His death is a relief. We only hope he has left no *chelas* fit to set an insensate law against us for saying the truth. If he has, they will not want lawyers. We could recommend one who will be glad to eat us up, editor and paper, types, printing press, ink roller, and all.

UNDER pressure of his people, Mr. Gutz has declined the honor of the Chair of the Congress, after having accepted the offer. This was a fresh disappointment to the Committee. They had, after no small trouble, secured the President of the Eurasian Association of the South, and they were in a fix. They had rummaged all the quarters and exhausted all their powers of discovery. No new European or Asiatic ally being visible, the Committee fell back on their own bottom, and have drawn a President out of their foundation *material*. Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta, of Bombay, will preside. Two Parsee Presidents within six years is, no doubt, a confession of general poverty and barrenness. But there is neither room for experiments nor time for angling. The Hour is at hand and the Man should be ready—and we must be sure of our man. We can always depend upon the Mehtas. The gentleman of that ilk on whom the choice has fallen, will not fail at the last moment, or at the trial, or thereafter. Mr. P. Mehta is one of our ablest men.

In the same way, on Mr. Manomohan Ghose has devolved the duty of formally receiving the Delegates. He is an excellent man, only too apt even in society to have his head full of briefs. For once, we hope, he will not leave his mind at court.

IN connection with a town magisterial case appealed against the judgment of an Honorary Presidency Magistrate, the High Court has drawn the attention of the Chief Magistrate to the insufficiency of record in cases tried by the Presidency Magistrates. Where imprisonment is awarded, the law requires that the magistrate shall record a brief statement of the reasons for conviction. The High Court points out that, in the absence of the reasons, it is not possible for the Judges to deal with a case as a court of appeal under section 421 of the Criminal Procedure Code, so as to ascertain whether or not there are *prima facie* sufficient grounds for interference either with the conviction or the sentence. The Magistrates are reminded, that the High Court is, by their omission, "deprived of the power of acting summarily," with the further result of waste of public time and unnecessary expense to parties concerned.

That order of the High Court throws additional burden on the Chief Magistrate. He must supervise more carefully and oftener the



doings of all the Police Courts, and exercise greater discretion in the selection of presiding Honorary Magistrates.

There is no end of attorneys, barristers, pleaders and retired deputy magistrates in the list of Honorary Magistrates, who usually preside. Honorary justice is of a piece with the proverbial Justices' Justice. But surely the record of these legal and ex-deputy-magisterial "worships" might be expected to be more in accordance with the law.

*The Goths completed what the Priest began.*

With the Cazi—the Mahomedan Judge—the Hindu has no festivals—no need for leave. So says a well-known Bengali proverb. The Shams-ul-Olema Mohesh Chunder gave his *futwa* that the Hindus did not require more than four days for the pooja of their Goddess Doorga. The Government of aliens accepted the advice and ordered the stoppage of public business accordingly, allowing, as a grace for the present, holiday in their offices, excepting some specially named, during the remaining days of the autumnal vacation. The only India Offices in Calcutta thus excepted were those of Issue of the Paper Currency Department and of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. That proved a signal for rude raids not only against the Doorga Pooja holidays but also against the other Poojas of the Hindoos. Improving upon the order of the Governor-General in Council, the Deputy Director, Indian Marine, thought himself justified in ignoring altogether the Hindu holidays. The entire staff of the establishment at the Government Kidderpore Dockyard had to attend on the 13th October, the Mahalya. Excepting Sundays, from the 18th to 29th October—the Gazetted Doorga Pooja vacation—for not a single day was the office closed. For the three days only, the 20th, 21st and 22nd October, the number of Hindu clerks were, out of the 48 total, limited to 2, 4 and 2, respectively. We don't know whether Mr. Campbell is a *koul*. If he had scant courtesy for the auspicious though warlike daughter of the Hills, his stiff Northern soul was moved to some measure of respect for the grim Amazon whose worship follows hers. The first day of the Kali Pooja was wholly ignored; but on the 2nd day, the 12th November, a partial holiday was granted. During the following Juggodhatri Pooja, on the 20th and 21st November, there was no holiday. In justice to Mr. Campbell, it is must be said, that he did not pursue the poor people who would not attend with Calvinistic fire and sword. During the above days, a very insignificant number of assistants who could not possibly be present at the office during the holidays, were not threatened with fine, but allowed to be absent on sick leave. We may as well mention that during these 15 days, out of the total 8,237 attendances of artificers, the Hindu attendances numbered 6,746.

In the Accountant-General's Office, Mr. Kiernander issued his own orders superseding the Government Notification. His office was not excepted from the general notification. Yet during the Doorga Poojas he kept open two of the Departments, allowing the Hindu assistants to absent themselves only during the four grandest days. More assistants had to attend most of the departments during the Kali Pooja. The whole of the Treasury Accounts Department was not allowed a holiday to celebrate the Juggodhatri Pooja, such only of the assistants who had no arrears on hand being permitted to keep away from their desks. Yet, he is a most loyal and obedient servant of Government. He would not allow half holiday on the occasion of the last lunar eclipse, as in other Government offices, because there was no Government order either for a whole or a half holiday.

The Chief Commissariat Officer, Calcutta, allowed only four days holidays during the Doorga Poojas. He would not close his office during the Gazetted days of the Lukhi, the Kali and the Juggodhatri Poojas. He threatened an assistant who wanted leave on account of the Pooja at his house with fine.

Even at Simla, where the din of the Pooja is unheard, they respect the Doorga Pooja holidays. The permanent offices are, we believe, granted four days, and to make up the remaining eight, some of the offices are allowed a holiday every Saturday from the middle of August.

VENEZUELA appears early to have established a Leper retreat on an island. Applications came in due course from the isolated community there for permission to marry. There was no disposition to grant it, from obvious inexpediency of multiplying the victims of disease by breeding under state patronage. In fact, there were both physiological and economical objections. At last, after some years' discussion the

authorities were induced to relent, and permitted the poor exiles the chance of lightening the burden of their aggravated loneliness. This was done only on the assumption that interleper unions must be barren. The permission was granted and many marriages took place. A year passed, and another, and yet another, but though marriages multiplied, there were no visible fruits in the expansion of population. The barren doctors sang their triumph over their old fogey brethren who had raised the alarm of the multiplication of a diseased breed of humans. The good authorities were glad to have been able to do such good without incurring additional responsibilities. Their satisfaction has not, however, been enduring. After all, the lepers have begun to carry out the command of Nature and Revelation, *to increase and multiply*. At least there have, within the last fourteen years, been two births. Luckily, both issues are thoroughly satisfactory. They were not only sound at birth but have not developed any trace of the hereditary disease as yet. It were manifestly unfair and indeed cruel to confine them—fine strapping lads now—to the miserable island of their birth. Efforts have long been making for their emancipation. Every humane man will be glad to learn that one of them, a boy of fourteen, has, on the recommendation of a medical board, been allowed to pass into the mainland and take his place in society.

THE most interesting present to old Moltke on his 90th birthday, was probably what came from the Lilliputian State of Bremen. The senate of that free town voted him a too bottles of prime Rhenish of their own renowned cellar. Over and above the sentiments shared by them with all Germans, these senators have a local reason for gratitude to the Iron Count. Indeed, the Saviour of the Country is the Saviour of Wine. He has certainly saved the *fat* of the noble drink—its nationality and caste. In punishing the ambition of Napoleon III. and dissipating for ever French pretensions, Moltke has not only preserved the full Rhenish integrity of the wine, but also established the absolute Germanity of the Rhine itself. That is what they meant when, in sending their present, the Senate wrote to the Count saying that they desired to do honour to the man who has helped more than any other, to change the river Rhine, on the banks of which this wine grew, from Germany's frontier into Germany's own river.

THE fifth or the last Criminal Session of the year was opened by Mr. Justice Pigot on Monday. The cases in the calendar numbered seventeen—seven of theft, three of forgery and using forged documents, one of murder, one of attempted murder, two of house breaking, two of rape and the Jain defamation case. Regarding the last, the presiding Judge, addressing the counsel on both sides, said that it was strictly a religious case and ought to be kept out of a criminal court, and quoted the opinion of Sir Charles Turner from a Madras Law Report, thus:—"I am bound to concur in the regret expressed by the Magistrate that a difference in a matter of religious practice should have induced the complainant to appeal to the criminal court and compel the exercise of jurisdiction in a matter in which, however clearly the complainant might establish that an offence had been committed, the criminal court can give no effectual relief. It cannot pronounce an opinion on the doctrine which is disputed, nor can it compel the restoration to the complainant of his caste privileges." He reminded the parties they had already spent a large sum of money in the Police Court and would advise them not to throw more good money after bad, and he might have added lawyers. The criminal law was not intended for such cases as theirs. He expressed no opinion on the merits of the case, but advised them, as did the Magistrate in the Police Court, to settle their differences and avoid further cause of dissension. Mr. Woodroffe, on behalf of the prosecution, concurred in the observations of his Lordship, but said that his client having set the law in motion, he could not withdraw without an apology and withdrawal of the charges complained of. Here was a pretty corner for a complainant to find himself in! The Judge only repeated his opinion that the matter ought to be settled. He might just as well have counselled moderation to the rising winds or the raging billows. To shew how they had accepted the Judge's advice, subsequently both parties applied for a Special Jury. This application was refused, but even this rational order was weighed down by a rider leaving the parties the liberty to renew the application at a later stage, when the pleadings had been settled. Surely, this is provoking. Is there no law to summarily put an end to this sort of frivolous prose?

cution? The timidity of British judiciary is as remarkable as the superstitions of English Jurisprudence.

Yesterday, Mr. Justice Pigot passed the following sentences :—

Dumree, for attempt at rape, four years' rigorous imprisonment; Sheikh Rajab Ali, for theft, seven years' transportation; Mirza Golam Ali, for theft, eight years' transportation; Sheikh Nawab, for house-breaking and theft, six years' rigorous imprisonment; Bhagaloo, for theft, seven years' transportation; Methoo, for theft, eight years' transportation; Hossein Ali, for attempt at rape, four years' rigorous imprisonment; Sheikh Hossein, for theft, eight years' transportation; Abdus Sabhan, for housebreaking and theft, seven years' transportation; Abdul Rahman Khan, for theft, eight years' transportation; Sew Bux Misser, for theft, seven years' transportation; Rajcumar Bannia, for dishonestly using as genuine a forged document, five years' rigorous imprisonment; and Ram Chunder Mundle, for theft, seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

And this under the boasted Code of Perfection! This is Justice tempered by Christian mercy and the humanity of the Nineteenth Century!

MR. LEE is a splendid host, and he proved so at his Water-Party on Monday. We wish we could give as good an account of all his guests. Many of them sorely disappointed him. He fixed his number according to the capacity of his launch, so as to give the attendance all the agreeableness of sufficing society—society up to the brim, if you will—without the disagreeableness of a crowd. And he rigidly maintained it, even at the risk of offence. We have heard of one instance at least of his refusing an application from fear of incommoding his guests. We wish this delicate consideration were more common among hosts. What a torture was it to Mr. Lee to find after all his guests in danger of shivering on board for want of sufficient animal heat and feeling a sense of desolation and solitude! Many who had accepted did not turn up. Heaps of commissariat were in consequence wasted, and but for the host's personal resources and the experienced help of men like Mr. Turnbull, the enjoyment might have been marred. He saw that every one was agreeably occupied. He was all attention not only to the chief guest, the Lieutenant-Governor elect, but to one and all. Unstinted in good cheer and word, he sent away every body highly satisfied with the journey.

Sir Charles Elliott and several of the party went down to see the Water Works at Pulta. These had of course undergone the usual "eye-wash," and the most loyal operators were in attendance for any emergency. Everything was found shipshape. Mr. Price, the officer in charge, and Mr. Kimber, the Engineer to the Corporation, took them round the tanks, answering questions and explaining the working. Some of the old Commissioners looked out for Mr. Dickson, the Assistant Engineer of the Works—one of the few practical engineers in the service of the Corporation conversant with Water-Works—but he was not to be found.

By its last resolution, the Senate of the Calcutta University allowed the proprietor of the Ripon College three months' time to put his house in order. Under the circumstances, the Governor-General in Council properly postponed his orders on the recommendation of the Syndicate for partial disaffiliation until he had had the last word from the Senate. In the meantime, Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee introduced certain reforms in his College and offered to do more as the Syndicate might suggest. To-day the Senate met at request of the Syndicate to consider the Government letter and Baboo Surendrenath's guarantee, and with profuse expressions of admiration for its energy, zeal and promptitude in endeavouring to remove abuses in the Calcutta Colleges, referred the question of guarantee to the Syndicate for disposal. Unless the Syndicate drop the matter now, it must come back to the Senate for final orders of the Viceroy, though the Senate was unwilling to retain its veto on the action of the Syndicate.

Another important matter was disposed of at this sitting of the Senate. Mr. Justice Norris' long threatened proposals about the Tagore Law Lectureship were rejected. He wanted

"Each candidate shall forward with his application one hundred copies of a brief synopsis of his proposed lectures, and if he so pleases, the same number of copies of his introductory lecture.

The copies of the introductory lecture and the brief synopsis so sent shall be referred to a Committee of the Faculty of Law consisting of five members to be chosen by the Faculty, who shall consider the same and report thereon to the Faculty, who shall recommend a candidate to the Senate for election."

THE memorial meeting in honor of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor was representative and crowded. The Maharaja of Durbhanga, the premier nobleman of Bengal, presided. Proposed by Maharaja Jotindra Mohun Tagore, of Pathuriaghatta, and seconded by Sir Comer Petham, Chief Justice, the meeting first recorded "its appreciation of the eminent services which Sir Steuart Bayley has rendered to these Provinces during his long and distinguished career." It then, at the instance of Maharaja Narendra Krishna, of the Shovabazar Raj family, and Sir Alexander Wilson, late President of the Chamber of Commerce, Resolved a Farewell Address to be presented by a deputation from a Committee of gentlemen named. The Committee number over 150 persons, representing various interests and professions and all stations of life, and include the gentler sex. The address is well-conceived and neatly put, showing information and grasp, and stating the case with truth and moderation. It was suited to the occasion and the man.

The next Resolution was that "steps be taken to form a Committee to invite subscriptions and take such means as may be deemed fit for raising a permanent Memorial in honor of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor." It was moved by the Maharaja of Doomraon and seconded by Raja Doorga Churn Law. We need not enquire whether the Committee to invite subscriptions have been formed or not, or if formed by whom, but we find the subscriptions announced already amount to Rs. 34,000. The meeting, it seems, was unwilling to waste any money on evanescent entertainment, for the resolution provides for none. The only Committee formed at the meeting was the one of 150 from which a deputation was to present the Farewell Address, the last two persons named being members and Secretaries. Yet we find the two members and secretaries announcing large subscriptions on behalf of "The Memorial Committee." It were well they advertised their authority as well.

The Deputation waited on Sir Steuart Bayley yesterday, at Belvedere. It was headed by the Maharaja of Doomraon. At his request, Maharaja Jotindra Mohun Tagore read the address. It was in these terms :—

"To The Hon'ble SIR STEUART COLVIN BAYLEY, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.  
At the close of your long and distinguished service in India we desire to convey to you some expression of the respect and esteem felt for you in these Provinces in which you have so long laboured and of which you have been for the last three years the Governor.

It is impossible to exaggerate the magnitude and difficulty of the task which the administration of so large an area, filled with so enormous a population of various races and religions with diverse feelings and interests, imposes on the head of the Government—a task of daily increasing difficulty. To this great task you have sedulously devoted your great ability, energy and experience.

You have endeavored to obtain the best results from the existing machinery of administration by close supervision and gradual improvement. It would be out of place to attempt in this Address a review of your Administration. But we may record our warm approval of your efforts to improve the working of the Civil Courts, to maintain peace and order, to develop a popular system of Education by the encouragement of private and indigenous institutions, to improve the Excise system, and to direct and assist the bodies to which the work of Local Self-Government has been entrusted.

Your well devised extension of the system of independent Benches of Magistrates, the improvement of the system of recruitment for the Statutory and Subordinate Executive Services, and your laudable efforts for affording facilities for the payment of Land Revenue and for diminishing the rigour of the Sunset law, have met with general appreciation.

Your signal services to Behar with which you have been so long and closely connected, and your unwearied and successful efforts to avert famine and to promote the mental and material improvement of that Province, will ever live in the grateful memory of its inhabitants.

Your unceasing efforts to settle disputes among noble families, the extensive tours which you have made, at no small personal inconvenience, each year to satisfy yourself as to the condition of the various districts, and the promptness of your measures of relief in times of scarcity are proofs of your care and love for the country and its people.

Your services have been long, able and varied in many departments, and we all desire to convey to you our cordial recognition of them.

While we sincerely regret your retirement from your high office and from Indian public life we feel sure that you will still have the interests of this country at heart and will forward them by all means in your power.

In conclusion we desire to assure you that you will carry away with you our best wishes for the future happiness and prosperity of yourself and your family."

We regret we were not present at the presentation of the address. We envy those who were privileged to hear the reply. There is nothing in it new to us or our readers. We ourselves anticipated it by our article, the reply expressing in unjournalistic diction the points we made. Sir Steuart Bayley is no orator. He was never known to open his lips during all the long years of his service in Behar. But Europeans are wonderfully improvable and, forced to the forefront on all occasions since his accession to the Government of Bengal, he surprised all who knew him by his capacity for speaking. His predecessor and *Guru*,

Sir Ashley Eden, miserably failed. He nervously dreaded any occasion for speaking and could not decently deliver a few sentences. Sir Stuart has proved one of the best speakers among all the Lieutenant-Governors. In answer to the address, he pronounced a superb harangue. He said:—

"Maharajahs and gentlemen,—Seldom have I had a more difficult task, or one which more completely overpowers me with a sense of my own helplessness than the endeavour, which your kindness imposes on me, of giving expression to my gratitude for the great, the magnificent honor you have done me in coming here this evening to offer me your farewell address. When I look around me, and see the various classes of whom your deputation is composed, representing diverse nationalities and various religions, heads of old historical houses, leaders of thought and opinion in various professions and walks of life, I might for a moment be tempted to give way to an undue feeling of elation, but the feeling is succeeded by one of a very different nature—how little I have really done to deserve such kindness, and how vast the reward in proportion to the services rendered. I can only say again that, considering, my own shortcomings, considering, too, the frequent occasions on which my action has run counter to the views and interests of one or other of the classes and communities here represented, I am overwhelmed at the kindness which has induced many of you to come from long distances, and all of you to contribute your time, your trouble, and your money, to unite in offering me this farewell honor. I cannot find words to say how deeply I feel your kindness, nor how sensible I am of the great honour done to me. It is not necessary that I should reply to the various points in your address, nor make my reply in detail an *apologia pro vita mea*; but on one or two of those points I have a few words to say. You are good enough to credit me with 'having endeavoured to obtain the best results for the existing machinery of administration by close supervision and gradual improvement.' That I have succeeded in this aim, I am far from supposing, but you are right in assuming that this has been my endeavour. (Applause.) In a speech which I had occasion to make at Patna more than three years ago, I indicated that the only policy I set before me was to go on steadily doing the day's work as it came, remedying defects where I could, looking for no striking results, and giving way to no far-reaching ambition, but reforming little by little to meet actual necessities in a practical way, and in order to do this, I claim that to make the best use of the existing machinery is the only sound and wise policy. (Applause.) It is a bad workman, we are told, who complains of his tools. But I would go much further and say that a man who does not recognise that in the existing machinery he has a superb instrument at his disposal, is very wanting in discernment. I cannot too warmly express my admiration for both the great branches of the service on whom the administration of this country devolves. Whether executive or judicial, whether covenanted or uncovenanted, whether Europeans or Natives of India, these officers with daily increasing difficulties of hostile criticism, of isolation, of undue preference, have done and are doing noble work; and for efficiency, honesty and impartiality, can challenge comparison with any similar body. But I should be wanting in gratitude if I ended here. For such success as I have achieved, I am indebted more than I can say to the ripe experience, the untiring industry and the wise counsels of my Secretaries. (Applause.) I am not ashamed of being told that I am dependent on my Secretaries. (Applause.) It is to advise and assist me that they are there, and to no one am I more indebted than to my old and dear friend Sir John W. Edgar, my Chief Secretary. (Loud applause.) I cannot say how much I owe to his advice, support and assistance; and parting with him is one of the bitterest elements in the cup of my separation from India. I am glad to think that he remains to give the same loyal assistance and support to my successor, for which I am so much indebted. To my 'existing machinery' then, I am glad to tender my sincere gratitude (applause), and if in endeavouring to obtain good results from them without startling changes, my administration has been colourless, I am not ashamed to take it as a compliment. (Applause.) I am much gratified at the reference your address makes to my service in Behar. I am profoundly touched at the number of my old friends who have come down from that province to bid me farewell. I cannot but take a very special interest in the Province in which most of my most useful service, and many of my happiest days have been passed (applause), and where I have for years been on terms of the most intimate acquaintance with so many of the notables. You have alluded to the difficulty of governing an enormous population, of such various races, and religions, with diverse feelings and interests. I do not think you can exaggerate the difficulty, but I do not desire now to dwell upon it. I have, however, something to say from another point of view on the clash of conflicting interests and conflicting sentiments which this diversity of race and religion brings into prominence, so far as religion is concerned. You have many of you read what in a recent speech at Agra His Excellency the Viceroy said of the eager desire expressed by Her Majesty the Queen, that every effort should be made to put an end to the antagonism and hostility which have recently in many places culminated in serious affrays. I have endeavoured, whenever an opportunity has offered, to impress upon the leaders of both religions their responsibility for so exercising their undoubted influence over their less instructed brethren as to lead them to the way of peace. It has also been my special anxiety to contribute, so far as lay in my power, to the cooling down of any waves of race antagonism that might still linger as a residuum of the great disturbance of those waters that took place some years ago (Applause.) It is, therefore, a source of special gratification to me to find on this occasion the leaders of divergent religions and of both races brought into harmonious co-operation. It shows how willing, even for an object of no great significance, they are to combine in action, and thus to set an example which will, I trust, be universally followed. (Applause.) Before I sit down, I should like to acknowledge the great assistance I have received from my non-official friends, whether as individuals or in co-operation, in

informing me as to public opinion and giving me their advice. No ruler can afford to disregard it, and to me it has been most useful. And now, gentlemen, the hardest part of my task remains. I have spent 35 years in India, and find it very hard to say farewell. I have everything to be grateful for, and no expression of my gratitude can be adequate for the very great compliment you are paying me in your presence here to-day. I am thankful that my connection with India will not be altogether severed (applause), for if she is a step-mother to me, at least she has been a very indulgent one, and though called the "land of regrets," she has never caused me such regret as I feel in leaving her. To you all, gentlemen, collectively and individually, I bid a most reluctant farewell. (Loud applause.)"

That is the finest reply of the kind we can call to mind. Without art, without effort, without intention, the plain Indian Civil Servant attains all the effect of the best literary ingenuity. The austere simplicity of the reply is grand. Independent of ornament or the graces of rhetoric as Sir Stuart's speeches are, it is nevertheless animated with the eloquence of truth and feeling. The personal strain is permeated by a tenderness that is simply touching. It is almost difficult for a sound heart to even read the speech in the closet with dry eyes. On the public side it is equally remarkable. In spite of the speaker's disavowal, it is necessarily an *apologia pro vita sua*, and the vindication of his administrative career is thorough. The humility which marks it, is characteristic. Accordingly, in submitting his own claims, our Governor does not forget the loyal assistance derived from others, notably his Secretaries, chief of whom is Sir John Edgar, who virtually shared the government with Sir Stuart. The permanent interest of this notable speech is in the political wisdom—the outcome of the lifelong experience of an able and thoughtful public servant—with which it is weighted. Rulers, whether in India or out of it, would do well to lay Sir Stuart's profound remarks to heart. In India, they are of inestimable value.

ON Thursday, there was a Garden Party at Belvedere. It was Sir Stuart Bayley's last public entertainment. It was the best attended party since Sir Richard Temple received the Prince of Wales in the same grounds. At the end, almost a mile of carriage procession as it were drove out of the Palace. From Lord Lansdowne downwards, all Calcutta was there to have, in the uncertainty of another opportunity, a parting shake of hands with the host. Sir Stuart Bayley always makes a good host for a ruler, receiving each guest as he drops in and bowing him out and shaking him off at the end. This time he stood on the steps with Sir Charles Elliot and introduced his guests, one by one, to his successor. This was a compliment much appreciated by both European and native. It speaks well for both the outgoing and the incoming ruler.

THE Calcutta Press was the victim of a hoax on the occasion. The morning papers had announced that the National Mahomedan Association would that afternoon present their farewell address to the Lieutenant-Governor, and they sent their reporters on this—December fool's errand. Everybody but, our precious morning press knew that the Mahomedan day is Monday—the Mahomedan Literary Society's address being fixed at noon, and the Mahomedan Nationalists' at 4 O'clock.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 13, 1890.

### THE INCOME TAX IN BENGAL IN 1889-90.

MR. K. G. Gupta's Income-tax report shows a considerable expansion of the revenue in last year. At one bound there was an increase of over two lacs and fifty-five thousand over the receipts of 1888-89. This must be exceedingly cheering to the Government, the Board of Revenue and the Department, but how differently must the result bear upon the people! At what cost of harassment and suffering to these is it dearly bought! Indeed, the whole of the report must read differently according to the point of view of the reader—having one meaning for rulers and a contrary one for the subject population. The marked increase in the revenue, while it brings joy to the Government, is fraught with sorrow to the governed. And similarly with other facts in Mr. Gupta's otherwise exceedingly interesting report. Great credit, for instance, is claimed for efficient

administration that every pice of the total demand was collected in six districts. These districts and their fiscal officers are no doubt contemplated with the best feelings by the Revenue Board, but we really shudder to think of the state of things in the devoted tract where the tax-gatherer carried himself with such rigid severity. Of course, it may be pleaded on the otherside that the assessment in these districts was so fair and equitable that the collection was a task of little difficulty, and hence the realizations left no arrears. But we are precluded from accepting this pleasant view. One of the six districts referred to is Burdwan, and the spirit in which the assessment was carried on there may be conceived from one single fact. It is wellknown that, after years of expensive litigation and patient endurance of all sorts of worry and harassment in her contest with the Court of Wards, the Dowager Maharani of Burdwan was induced to purchase peace by compromising the adoption suit on receipt from the Court of 13 lacs of rupees. And will it be believed that this sum was considered by the then Collector of Burdwan, Mr. Maguire, as the Maharanee's income for the year, and a preposterous assessment of Rs. 33,854 was fixed upon it. Such a flagrant error could not indeed be allowed, and the assessment was cancelled, but it is significant of the tenor of mind they usually bring to the work of Incometax assessment.

The report expresses the Board's gratification at the gradual decline in the number of warrants issued for the realization of the tax. But this decline, any more than a decline in the number of objections, is no ground for the inference that there is any real improvement in the character of the assessment. There are less objections, because objections are not properly enquired into, and the necessity of coercive measures is diminished owing to the submissive character of the people who pay unjust demands from their experience of the hopelessness of escaping them. For the rest, a notice is as much an object of terror to the common and ignorant people as a warrant, and the Department, with its staff of vigorous Deputy Collectors, has succeeded in inspiring such a general awe among the people that the issue of notices is enough to ensure the collection.

The worst part of the matter is the assessment under the law of the struggling and really poor classes with incomes of Rs. 500 and upwards to 1,000. The report states that 69 per cent. of the entire number of assessees belong to these classes, while the amount they pay is 21 per cent., or about one-fifth of the whole. In view of the undoubted hardship caused not only to these classes but, under color of the law, to those whose incomes are below the limit of Rs. 500, the Government might well sacrifice an inconsiderable portion of its revenue, and thereby afford relief to the most numerous portion of the assessees. To ask the Government to do this, is certainly not asking them to do much. Their revenue under all the principal as well as minor heads is continually expanding, and if they chose, they might easily confer the much-needed boon upon large numbers of people who barely live from hand to mouth. A stronger reason why the limit of assessment should be raised, is the fact that this is the only practical and effective remedy for the oppression and rapacity now committed with impunity by the assessing agency amongst the humbler classes of the payees. Their assessments are exceedingly unjust. People with hardly any income may be shown to be on their books, and to be once there

is to be there till Doom's Day. The higher appellate authorities interfere but little, for proof whereof one need not go farther than the Board's own report.

#### OFFICIAL OPINION ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

GREAT credit is due to Mr. Toynbee for his thorough grasp of the subject of Local Self-Government. His report on the District Boards, like his Municipal Administration report, takes precedence of the other Divisional reports. In the Government resolution, it is again singled out for especial commendation. And judging from some extracts which appear in the resolution, he should appear fully to deserve the marked distinction that Sir Steuart Bayley has paid him. The following passage will show with what close scrutiny he observes the proceedings of the Boards in his division, and how ready he is to encourage with greater powers those which are able to display good business capacity. Here is what the Commissioner of Burdwan writes:—

"On the whole, I am of opinion that both the District and Local Boards have done good work during the year. Now that complete sets of rules have been framed, and the routine work has begun to settle down into a groove, I think that the next step to be taken is to gradually withdraw the appointment of official Chairman. I would not at first allow the members of District Boards to elect their own Chairmen, but they might nominate them, and the District Magistrates in forwarding the nomination might report fully on the business and other qualifications of the nominees. The experiment might for the present be tried in Hooghly and Burdwan. If successful, it should be afterwards extended to other districts in this division. In making this recommendation, I do so on the assumption that the principles of local self-government have been finally accepted as the policy of the future, and that every possible step to that end is to be taken which is consistent with caution and a due regard for the interests of the general public."

The other Commissioners are more or less satisfied with the work done. Mr. Smith, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, observes that the Boards have on the whole worked smoothly and successfully, although he calls the attendance of the members at Jessore bad. The Commissioner of Rajshahye records similar satisfaction, only pointing out that, with the exception of Pubna, they depend a good deal upon the official Chairmen. From Dacca the report is sufficiently favourable. The Commissioner of Chittagong, while mentioning the Tipperah Board in especial for great interest evinced by the members, points out some blemishes in the conduct of this as well as of the other Boards. In Chittagong, the members made common cause with a clerk detected in malpractices in connection with contracts. The accounts are carelessly kept and members are sometimes slow in rendering accounts of money, however properly spent. The Patna report is satisfactory in all respects, except in regard to the Local Boards which, as a rule, are reported as unable to do justice to the matters made over to them and to the funds allotted, some of them leaving large sums unexpended under some heads, especially Sanitation. The Patna Sudder Local Board and the Durbhanga Local Board are, however, excepted from this censure. The Commissioner of Bhagulpore, while generally satisfied, complains of friction with the District Engineer, a tendency to leave too much business to standing Committees and a disposition to increase the expenditure on establishments. The Commissioner of Orissa says the administration has been generally satisfactory, although there is room for a great deal of improvement.

Sir Steuart Bayley concludes his resolution with the following expression of his general satisfaction:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor's opinion of the working of District Boards of Bengal was fully stated in last year's Resolution, and the events of the past year merely confirm the views then expressed. Their dilatoriness in dealing with accounts and bills is remarked on by several officers, and another blemish noticeable is the occasional tendency of certain Boards towards factious criticism of, and opposition to, professional authority. The Commissioner of Burdwan writes:—



"The Inspector of Local Works is always willing to help and advise the District Boards, and his action in this respect is, I think, appreciated by them all except Burdwan, which seems to resent all interference as an unnecessary and covert attack upon their independence." The Fureedpore District Board is said to have given way to a spirit of ungenerous criticism against the Engineer, an excellent officer, who ought to have been encouraged rather than thwarted. In the Puneah Board there was extreme friction at one time between the members and their District Engineer, and the interposition of Government was necessary before healthy relations could be restored. Such cases must be characterised as blots. If the members of a District Board cannot always agree with their responsible executive advisers, they should at least be willing to credit them with a single-minded desire to advance the condition of the district. But generally speaking Sir Steuart Bayley can say that the record of the year has been a very favourable one. Good work has again been done and all departments show a satisfactory expansion of administration."

We have been at pains to deal with the subject at such length in the hope that these local bodies will take timely warning from the criticisms passed by the officers of the administration. It will not do to confound wrong-headed resistance of official counsel with independence, and we hope future reports will show some further improvement in their conduct. The District Boards are to be congratulated on their expanding revenue from the Road-Cess, which, as revaluations of districts under the Agricultural Department proceed, will continually increase, so that, unlike municipalities crippled with stationary resources, they will be always in a position to do full justice to the varied responsibility which rests upon them. They must show more active interest in out-door inspection and not rely too much on the already over-worked Chairman. Our advice to them is, they should not neglect sanitation in a mistaken zeal for education. We cannot bring our remarks to a close without acknowledging the liberality and sound discretion which have prompted Mr. Toynbee in suggesting the trial of non-official Chairmen in selected Districts. The fulness of his reports might be more generally imitated in other Divisions.

#### DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE District Boards, under trained official Chairmen, are naturally somewhat more successful than Municipalities. Nevertheless, they are not free from faults, and if one cared to look at their work critically, the verdict can scarcely be favorable. The absence of harmony between the District Boards and their Engineers is described as a blot on their conduct. At Burdwan, the least interference of this officer is resented by the Board as an unnecessary and covert attack upon its independence. The Fureedpore Board is said to have given way to a spirit of ungenerous criticism against the Engineer, and at Puneah there was such extreme friction as to call for the intervention of the Government. Similar friction not unoften appears in the Calcutta Municipality, and there would seem to be some general cause at work at the bottom; probably both parties are to blame.

There seems also to be a tendency to leave the work too much to the executive, that is, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the meetings of the Boards are growing fewer and fewer. Making allowances for the great distances from which members of District Boards have to attend at the head-quarters, we must still say that if local self-government is to succeed as a means of calling forth business habits in the people, the members should show more public spirit by their attendance. Very ingenious explanations are sometimes given for the small number of the meetings. In Hooghly, it is said that, on the introduction of local self-government, the members had to meet oftener to consider many important questions of principle and that matters having since settled into a groove, there were now, under something like a law of com-

pensation, fewer meetings, and these were all that was necessary. In Mymensing, it is explained that "the attention of the Chairman and the other members was devoted more to the execution of the heavy amount of real work done during the year than to taking part in the discussions in the meetings." Neither of these specious explanations is acceptable to Sir Steuart Bayley, and he calls the attention of the Boards to Mr. Toynbee's warning which is conceived in great practical wisdom:—

"It is difficult to believe that all the business of the various departments now under the control of the District and Local Boards can be transacted in less than 12 meetings during the year. Much of the routine work is no doubt done by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman by the express or implied consent of the Boards; much, too, depends on the individuality of these two officers. But, all things considered, one meeting every month ought to be the minimum number consistently with an intelligent interest in their work on the part of the members. There is, I fear, considerable general truth in the remark made by the Chairman of the Raneeungee Local Board to the effect that, unless matters come before the Board in which the members are directly and personally interested, it is hopeless to expect them to attend regularly. A self-denying public spirit is one of the elements requisite to make local self-government a success in this country."

Nor have the Boards displayed any better administrative capacity in dealing with the Pounds than the Municipalities. The Government look to the receipts from this source as capable of considerable improvement, and regard the management of Pounds as a test of the efficiency of the executive administration.

In our notice of the report on Public Instruction, we have already shown how the Boards have been far from successful in the administration of the primary and middle schools. There is room for improvement in the management of ferries, which is only pronounced by the Government to have been on the whole, "not unsatisfactory." The expenditure incurred by the Boards on hospitals and dispensaries, however, is satisfactory, on a comparison with the previous year, although it is to be regretted they have not paid sufficient attention to sanitation. It appears that allotments of money for the supply of drinking water were sanctioned by several District Boards, but nothing was actually spent in the districts of Jessore, Burdwan, the 24-Pergunnahs and Khulna. The Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs offers the following general observations:—

"The question of water-supply is involved in difficulty. The want of good water is felt all over the country, and applications for the excavation or re-excavation of tanks are made to the District Board from time to time, but the Board find it difficult to comply with such applications. The selection of a few solitary villages for such improvement would appear invidious and might excite discontent in parts of the district which were not selected. Moreover, if a tank were cleared or re-excavated, it would seldom be possible to secure its preservation or to guard it effectively from all external impurities. A provision of Rs. 2,000 was made in the budget for the last three years, but the amount was not expended, as no scheme of water-supply could be devised which would admit of being carried out with such a small grant."

On the above remarks of Mr. Forbes, the Government observe as follows:—

"The explanation given in other districts is of a similar character. The total expenditure incurred under this head in the whole of Bengal was only Rs. 8,756 on account of sanitary arrangements at fairs, and in some places in the excavation of wells and tanks. The result is no doubt of a very unsatisfactory character; but as was pointed out in last year's Resolution, without the appointment of local agencies specially entrusted with matters relating to village sanitation and empowered to raise the necessary funds, very little improvement can be expected in this direction. A special report in which this question has been fully discussed has been submitted to the Government of India, and the whole question is now under the consideration of that Government."

The needful agency can only be supplied by the constitution of Union-Committees which Sir Steuart Bayley has always regarded as necessary to complete the Local Self-Government scheme.

The Boards have also spent considerable sums of money in famine relief and the construction of original public works, but the repairs of village roads have not been conducted on a uniform system. The construction of feeder railways and of tramways has received the attention of the Boards.

## MOORSHEDABAD.

*Moorshedabad, November 1890.*

It is a pity that the difference between the rival sects or the Mahomedans, which originated on the occasion of the last Moharum, instead of being amicably settled, is going to become more and more wide, and if its progress is not checked who can say that it will not beget serious evils? The fanaticism of one party has advanced so far as to blunt the conscience to attempt the most brutal and inhuman crimes. It is not long ago that a distinguished ministerial resident officer of this city of high position received an anonymous letter bearing the Khagra Post office seal, in which he was threatened to communicate to a member of the Nizamut family the possible commission of dacoity and murder in the latter's house on an appointed day. This created great alarm both in the family and in the city, and steps were immediately taken to guard against such attempts. The letter was made over to the Police for enquiry and detection of the writer. It seems extremely desirable in the interest of public peace to post a strong body of mounted police in addition to what already exists.

The termination of the second period of local Self-Government has been published by beat of drums, and the nomination of the next candidates and the canvassing for votes are in full swing. The second general election took place on the 5th November 1887 and Babu Bangshidhar Roy, Deputy Collector, Nizamut Department, was elected chairman, but shortly after, owing to want of time on his part to discharge this honorary duty, he was compelled to resign, and, at a meeting of eleven Commissioners, Kumar Runjit Sing, of the Nashipur Raj, was elected in his place. The young gentleman is an undergraduate of the Calcutta University and has given satisfaction as Chairman. The income of the Municipality was greatly increased, though no oppressive tax was imposed, and the expenditure considerably reduced, thus bringing a handsome balance to meet emergencies. A bylaw for the removal of the thatched huts from the main road was framed and passed by Government. This was necessary as a safeguard against the annual conflagrations that devastated the city. He took steps to check taking illegal gratification by the officers of the municipality by prosecuting some of its principal servants. He rendered eminent services during the last two inundations which have received acknowledgments from Government. With ample leisure at his disposal he directed most of his time to the work of his honorary post. He brought energy and impartiality to the discharge of the duties.

The cold season has set in and public health is good.

TRAILOKYA NATH SANYAL.

## REPORT OF THE INDIAN FACTORY COMMISSION.

We reproduce here some of the recommendations :—

**Interval of rest for Children.**—The present law, which places the limit of nine hours' work for children, requires an hour's interval for rest. Our unanimous and well-considered opinion is that, if children are worked as half-timers in the manner above recommended, no fixed interval of rest for them should be required by law. Our reasons for this opinion may be stated as follows :—

(1) To give an interval of rest to children while the machinery is moving, and while the other operatives are at work, would be so great an inconvenience to mill-owners, that they would certainly try to dispense with children, or the law would be evaded. We have already said that all efforts should be directed to finding employment for children and making it convenient for mills to employ them.

(2) Our inquiry has proved beyond all doubt that it is the practice for Indian operatives of all classes to go out of the factory at odd times for smoking, drinking water, and other purposes, and to stay away from 5 to 15 minutes. This casual taking of intervals of rest is facilitated in India by having more hands than are employed in Europe; and a reference to the answers furnished to question 29 will show that the nearest workman, or "Joriwalah" as he is called, is always ready to carry on the absentee's duties. Given these opportunities of relaxation, and given the nature of the work children are employed on in Indian factories, we think that an interval of rest within the six hours of work is unnecessary.

**Objections raised to half-time work for children.**—In the evidence taken before the Commission of 1884, many witnesses gave it as their opinion that if children were employed as half-timers, there would be some danger of the same child working in the forenoon in one factory and in the afternoon in another. In our opinion this danger has been exaggerated. If a half-time law for children was passed, and the guardian as well as the employer was made responsible for seeing that it was not broken, we are confident that for every hundred cases in which the law is now evaded, there would not be more than one case of a child found working in two factories on the same day. In this connection we should remember the opinion expressed by the Commission of 1884 :

"We may, however, conscientiously say that we fear many children are worked full-time." We also notice that much stress has been laid on the fact that there being no compulsory education in this country, children employed as half-timers would run wild and get into bad company. To this argument we reply that there is little doubt that when the scheme of half-time work is adopted, Local Governments will, with the help of mill-owners, devise some means for educating the children and keeping them under control in schools. Supposing that no steps were taken in this direction, which is most improbable, we would say, let the children do what millions of unemployed children do in this country, what the half-timers of Ahmedabad do apparently without any injury--amuse themselves as they please. We think that public opinion would be in favour of this alternative, and would be opposed to the employment of children of tender years, on any factitious grounds, in factories for 12 and 13 hours a day, as they are liable to be now. We would here like to say that if our recommendations are approved, the convenience of mill-owners in regard to the introduction of changes in the organization of their labour in factories must be consulted, and the law brought into force after sufficient time has been allowed for re-organization.

**Holidays for adult male operatives.**—To the second part of the 4th question—"And is any provision required prescribing an allowance of holidays for adult male operatives?"—we would answer that, subject to the exceptions recommended in para. 18 of our report, provision should be made in the Act for securing to male adult operatives the same holidays as have been recommended above for women and children. Our reasons for making this recommendation are :—

(1) that, if there is one point on which Indian operatives are practically unanimous, it is in demanding that this concession shall be granted to them;

(2) that it is a fact that a weekly holiday is now given in a large proportion of the factories in India, while the remaining factories give at least two holidays in the month;

(3) that the Factory Commission of 1875 made a modified recommendation to this effect, and two members of the Commission of 1884 wrote a separate note advocating the weekly holiday, and showing that if there was unanimity or nearly so on any one point in that enquiry, it was that one day's rest in seven should be allowed to all mill-hands, male and female;

(4) that the Committee of medical experts appointed by the Government of Bombay to enquire into the health and condition of the mill operatives in the City of Bombay, reported "that further, in the interest of the general health of the operatives, it should be compulsory to allow certain periods of rest in the day and a certain fixed number of holidays (say four) per month."

(5) In conclusion, we may say that the mill-owners of Bombay have offered through the Mill-owners' Association to accept the rule that there shall be a weekly holiday (*vide* copy of a letter given by Mr. Lokanday in the Appendix.)

The day of rest should be Sunday.—If one day of rest in seven is granted, the operatives in all the Provinces visited by us desire that it shall be one fixed day in the week, that all the factories shall be closed on the same day, and that the law shall fix Sunday as the day of rest. We observe that in the Bill before the Legislative Council, no mention is made of Sunday, and we suppose that a reference to a Sunday holiday was omitted in consideration of the fact that the intentions of the British Government might be mistaken in appointing the Christian Sabbath as the day of rest. After a careful enquiry on this point from all the operatives we have examined, we have come to the conclusion that they ask that Sunday should be the day fixed for the holiday, because it is the most convenient day for meeting their friends who are employed in other mercantile establishments and Government offices, where a Sunday holiday has always been the rule. As a fact, the holidays now given to them are given on Sundays. Speaking for ourselves as members of the principal religious communities of this country, we give it as our opinion that there is no possibility of the motives of the Government being misunderstood if it should choose to select Sunday as the lawful day of rest. There is no question here of preference on religious grounds. Ever since the British Government has been established in India, the people of this country have been accustomed to consider Sunday as the most convenient day of rest. No other day could now be selected which would not cause the greatest inconvenience to all concerned.

**Indian festival holidays.**—In regard to the Indian festivals, which are kept as holidays in factories, we recommend that the occupier of a factory should, if he desires it, be allowed by law to work his factory on the Sunday following a festival holiday. We do not think, however, that when two festival holidays are given in one week, the two following Sundays should be working days. There are, we believe, only two or three festivals in the year on which more than one day's holiday is given. In advocating, therefore, that the holidays in one week should only affect the Sunday following, we are not likely to cause any serious loss to the owners of factories.

**Sunday a complete day of rest.**—During our enquiries we have found that in a large number of factories, especially those connected

with the cotton industry, it is usual to require the operatives to attend the mill on holidays for the purpose of cleaning the machinery. The mill-hands are ordinarily employed on these occasions from early morning until 10 or 11 A.M., and this without any remuneration. This the operatives consider a hardship. There is no doubt that, although the work is light, the mere fact of having to attend at the factory takes away from them the enjoyment of the day of rest, and prevents the operative from spending his holiday in taking change of air and visiting his friends and relatives. If it is granted that one day of rest in seven is necessary, it should, in our opinion, be a complete holiday. To make it a complete holiday, legislation is necessary, as proprietors are not likely to act on general recommendations on this subject.

It is not for us to suggest when the cleaning of machinery, which is now done on Sundays, should be undertaken; but we may mention that in those factories which now give a complete day of rest on Sundays, the machinery is stopped on Saturday afternoons for cleaning. In Bombay, where the mills will be chiefly affected by any legislation on the point, it is the practice to clean the machinery only twice a month. Supposing that it takes two or even three hours to clean machinery, the loss of time and work that would be entailed would be four to six hours in a month. It may be possible to make up this time during the month; but if it is not possible to do this, it does not seem to us a loss so serious as to prejudice the passing of a measure which is of such great importance to the comfort and well-being of the mill-hands. An exception will have to be made in regard to the employment of artificers, who are on Sundays engaged in overhauling the machinery and undertaking repairs.

A general working day for adult males not required.—In regard to the question—"Do the male operatives desire that a general working day shall be fixed by law?"—we would reply that, taking the evidence obtained by us as a whole, the operatives desire that the present working day,—daylight to dusk—should be continued. Some intelligent mill-hands have, no doubt, expressed a wish to have fixed hours; but others—and these are the poorer operatives—object very decidedly to any alteration in the present arrangement which is likely to reduce their wages.

General working day not demanded nor advisable.—To the enquiry—"If this change is not desired by the operatives themselves, do the conditions under which they work demand that it should be adopted?"—we give it as our opinion that there is nothing in the conditions under which Indian operatives work which calls for any legislative restrictions as to the hours an adult male may choose to work. Nor can we conceive any conditions which can ever call for State interference in this matter. The operatives of India are at present too ignorant to appreciate the full significance of this step which threatens to deprive them of what has always been considered the inalienable right of every man to do what he may please with his time, and which has hitherto left him to be the best judge of what is necessary for his health and requirements. If the Indian operative is too ignorant to appreciate the great issues involved in this question, his English fellow-workman is not. The mill-hands who work in similar textile manufactures in England have declared in a very emphatic manner that they will have no interference in the hours they choose to work, and rather than submit to any restrictions on this subject will sever their connection with the other labour unions which are now advocating the eight hours' movement. Taking all these reasons into consideration, the Government would not, in our opinion, be justified in legislating in this matter.

General suggestions made for the benefit of operatives.—It would be a matter for deep regret if, with such exceptional opportunities for learning the wishes and requirements of operatives, we concluded our labours without referring to those points which, although they cannot be considered subjects for legislation, are nevertheless of sufficient importance to the mill-hands, and therefore deserving the attention of Government and the sympathetic consideration of the employers of factory labour:

(1) Reference has been made in paragraph 24 of this report to the great inconvenience experienced by the operatives of Bombay in finding out the time at which they ought to start for their work. It is obviously impossible that the Bombay Municipality, in the interest of the public, can allow 50 or 60 factories to keep blowing their whistles at odd times between 4 and 6 A.M. On the other hand, to deprive the operatives of all chance of warning as to the time is a great hardship to 40 or 50,000 of the rate-

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payers of the Municipality. We would suggest that the Municipality should allow that kind of whistle which causes the least annoyance to be used once in the morning for each manufacturing centre in Bombay. The Mill-owners' Association might fix on the mill which would be the most convenient one for using this whistle for the whole neighbourhood. If a proper calendar showing the hours of daylight was used, and this warning whistle sounded half an hour or three-quarters of an hour, or even one hour, before the beginning of work, it would meet the necessities of the mill-hands and give them what they greatly want now—the exact time at which the mill will begin work. The Municipality might, with such an arrangement, allow even a second whistle to be sounded five minutes before the mills commence work, but this does not appear so essential as the first warning.

(2) In their petition to Government, the mill-hands of Bombay have asked that they should be paid their monthly wages on the 15th of the month following that for which it is due. In our opinion, this is a moderate and just request. It still allows the employers to keep 15 days' pay in hand, while it saves the operative the ruinous interest he now has to pay to the money-lenders and grain merchants. While the mill-owners save 5 or 6 per cent. per annum on this money, the operatives lose from 15 to 100 per cent. on the wages they have actually earned. It only requires the mill-owners to observe the general rule on the subject to have this grievance removed.

(3) In the petition above referred to the mill-hands ask that operatives injured, either temporarily or permanently, by the machinery should be provided for. In regard to this subject we find that in most of the large factories it is the practice to allow the injured man either the whole or half his pay during the time he is under treatment. In some factories the philanthropic owners have started a provident fund into which they credit all fines realized from the workmen and all salaries unpaid from any cause. From this fund operatives disabled by injury or disease are supported in comfortable circumstances. We commend this subject to the favourable consideration of employers.

(4) If our suggestion that children should be employed as half-timers is adopted, it will be found most important to provide some means of instruction during two or three of the spare hours that the children are off work. It is not for us to discuss here the advantages of elementary education, and general control and supervision of the rising generation of operatives. These are too obvious to require any advocacy from us: what we would say is, that Local Governments and Municipalities should meet mill-owners half-way and do, as is done in regard to children under other circumstances—contribute half the cost of teaching factory children. Supposing, for instance, that a mill employing 100 children spends R. 16 a month for two teachers, the Municipality or Government should double this subscription and provide two more teachers. Looking at it from a pecuniary point of view, the expenditure is so trifling that we cannot doubt that schools would be started without delay in connection with all mills employing a large number of children. It was not to be expected that a school started under the present circumstances could be a success. For it is impossible that a tired and jaded child can work his brain to any useful purpose after his body has been thoroughly worn out with physical exertion.

(5) The operatives are unanimous in thinking that something ought to be done to provide them with medical advice and medicines at the factory. When a man is employed from dawn till dusk, he has no time to go to the charitable dispensary for medical aid. This is a matter of considerable importance in a tropical country, where people of all classes are liable to suffer from what at first are slight ailments due to climatic causes, but which, if they are not brought under early treatment and cured, pass on to fatal forms of disease. Happily, we find in most of the mills about Calcutta and in some in Bombay, Ahmedabad, and Cawnpore, that mill-owners have already provided for medical advice and treatment for their operatives. We desire to bring this object to the consideration of those employers of factory labour who have not yet adopted a dispensary system. The cost is trifling, whereas the benefit to the health of the operatives, and therefore to their power of work, is very great. In this connection we ought to mention that we have been supplied by Dr. B. S. Shroff with a pamphlet advocating a scheme for the provident and medical relief of mill-hands in Bombay. We commend this subject to the notice of mill-owners and to those interested in the welfare of the operatives.

In conclusion, we hope we may be allowed to say that we have been profoundly impressed with the vast and far-reaching benefits which the people of India are deriving from the development and prosperity of the great industries which we have seen on our tour through the country. It would, in our judgment, be a great calamity if by any injudicious recommendations or unnecessary restrictions the prosperity of those industries was endangered.

A. S. LETHBRIDGE, *President.*  
PIYARI MOHAN MUKHARJI,  
SORABJEE S. BENGALLIE,  
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*Members.*

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MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE

NOTIFICATION.

Calcutta, the 9th December, 1890.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General will hold a Levée at Government House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 16th December, 1890, at 9-30 p.m.

All Civil and Military Officers, and the Native Officers of the Native Regiments of the Garrison are invited to attend.

Gentlemen purposing to attend the Levée are requested to send their cards to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting not later than Thursday, the 11th December, 1890, after which "No Cards" will be received, and to bring with them to the Levée two cards, with their names legibly written on them—one to be given on entering the Government House, and the other to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting at the time of presentation.

Gentlemen who have not already been presented at the Court of St. James or at Government House will be good enough to add the names of Gentlemen who will present them.

Gentlemen wearing uniform will appear in full dress.

Gentlemen not wearing uniform will appear in evening dress.

The carriages of Gentlemen (except such as have the Private Entrée) attending the Levée will enter by the North-East Gate, set down under the Grand Staircase, and pass out by the North-West Gate.

By Command,

**WILLIAM BERESFORD, Lt.-Colonel,**  
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

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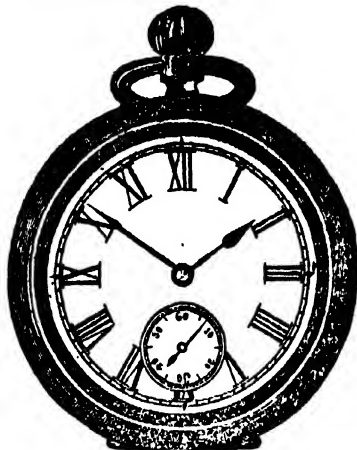
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AT THE

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Held at Allahabad.

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The steamer "THIKAK" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 23rd instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 20th instant.

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Calcutta, the 13th December, 1890.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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AND

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1890.

No. 453

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A SONG OF AUTUMN.

ALL through the golden weather  
Until the autumn fell,  
Our lives went by together  
So wildly and so well.

But autumn's wind uncloses  
The heart of all your flowers ;  
I think as with the roses,  
So hath it been with ours.

Like some divided river  
Your ways and mine will be,  
To drift apart for ever,  
For ever till the sea.

And yet for one word spoken,  
One whisper of regret,  
The dream had not then broken,  
And love were with us yet.

RENNELL RODD.

### WHAT HE SAID.

OH, yes, I'll tell you the story—  
The very words that were said,  
You see the supper was cooking,  
And I was slicing some bread,  
And Richard came into the pantry ;  
His face was exceedingly red.

He opened his half-shut fingers,  
And gave me the glimpse of a ring ;  
And then—oh, yes, I remember,  
The kettle began to sing,  
And Fanny came in with her baby—  
The cunningest bit of a thing.

And the biscuits were out in a minute—  
Well, what came next ? Let me see—  
Oh ! Fanny was there with the baby,  
And we all sat down to tea,  
And grandma looked over her glasses  
So queer at Richard and me.

But it wasn't till after milking  
That he said what he had to say,  
How was it ? Oh, Fanny had taken  
The baby and gone away—  
The funniest rogue of a fellow—  
He had a new tooth that day.

We were standing under the plum tree,  
And Richard said something low,  
But I was tired and flustered,  
And trembled, I almost know ;  
For old Red is the hardest of milkers,  
And Brindle's so horribly slow.

And that—let me see—where was I ?  
Oh, the stars grew thick overhead,  
And we two stood under the plum tree,  
Till the chickens flew up to bed.  
Well, he loved me, and we're to be married  
And that is—about what he said.

### A CONJUGAL PASSAGE—AT ARMS.

A CERTAIN man, to dissipate  
The heat and other cares,  
Essayed to draw some cider kept  
Beneath his cellar stairs.

Before he started down his wife  
To him a pitcher handed ;  
But tripping up he tumbled down,  
And at the bottom landed.

"My dear, the pitcher did you break ?"  
Came downstairs sharp and shrill ;  
Then crushing down his wrath, he cried—  
"No—it, but I will."

Then pitcher which, indeed, escaped  
Uninjured by the fall,  
He hurled with all his strength and smashed  
Against the cellar wall.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

ON a recent occasion, Cardinal Manning gave expression to the following sentiment :—

"Men become what their rulers make them. Penal Codes make loyal men disloyal. The greater the power, the greater should be the humanity and the tolerance shown to those whom ages had brought low."

A noble truth nobly expressed, to be taken all the same *cum grano salis*.

THE Fabian Society is agitating for a legislative curtailment of the enormous interest oftentimes charged by the Marwaris. We are afraid it will take more than Fabian time to bring the idea within the four corners of an Act.

THE *British Medical Journal* recommends "India as a Winter Resort" to Englishmen suffering from bronchitis or asthma, giving prefer-

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

ence to the climate of Bombay. Let our Anglo-Indian friends look out for more friends and connections than ever to be billeted on them.

SIR Edwin Arnold, from his retreat in Japan, has sent forth "The Light of the World," which will be published simultaneously in London and New York in January.

MR. H. Holmwood has been confirmed as Inspector-General of Registration.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN left a will by which he bequeathed £1,000 to each of the cities of Boston and Philadelphia, for the benefit of young married artificers, to be advanced to them in 5 per cent loans. The interest was to accumulate for 100 years, when £100,000 out of the fund was to be applied for municipal improvements. The completion of the century finds the Boston fund at 400,000 dols. and that of the Philadelphia at 150,000 dols. only. The heirs have now applied for the breaking of the will and division of the money. There are some fifty of these vultures.

THERE are only three forms of carriages with three kinds of fare on the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway—the Upper, Intermediate and Lower. It too long resisted the progress on the other Railways, and one by one it is adopting the conveniences offered elsewhere. For one thing, from the first January next, it introduces a second class for passengers.

THE proprietor and editor of *Tut-t-Hind*, Meerut, is in trouble. He was prosecuted for defaming Karam Elahi and Abdul Gunni, merchants, in the *Punch*, a supplement of the said journal. The Joint-Magistrate found him guilty and sentenced him to six months' simple imprisonment and Rs. 500 fine. The Judge has admitted an appeal and bailed out the editor.

THE two Italians sent out by the Secretary of State to develop the wine industry in Cashmere, have arrived. One will superintend the cultivating operations and the other the manufacture of wine.

THE new American tariff has proved disastrous to the mother-of-pearl industry of Austria. Nearly 6,000 persons in Vienna and its suburbs engaged in the production of small mother-of-pearl buttons are out of employment.

IN Bombay, one Ballia Bhulia threw out of a window twenty feet high his infant son, as he conceived that the child was in conspiracy with a mill manager to ruin him. The child fractured its skull and was removed to hospital.

AT the Worcestershire Assizes, Symmonds, a youth of twenty, pleaded guilty to committing a felonious assault upon a girl of his age, and was sentenced by Mr. Justice Cane to six years' penal servitude. Symmonds had no idea of the gravity of the offence when he admitted it or of the punishment involved, and he spoke accordingly to the Visiting Justices at the goal. They took pity on him and communicated with the Judge, who once more allowed him to plead to the charge. This time, Symmonds pleaded not guilty, the jury too found him not guilty, and the Judge acquitted him. In India, persons are not unoften punished on confession extorted, and instances are not wanting when men have been hanged whom the High Court found not guilty of murder.

ACT IX of 1860—to make provision for the speedy determination of certain disputes between workmen engaged in railway and other public works and their employers—has been extended to the district of Mandla in the Chota Nagpur Division.

THE Siberian Railway, which has been sanctioned, will be 1,967½ miles long. The cost, including rolling stock, has been estimated at £9,000 per mile, or a total of £18,300,000.

THE Bengal Government has notified that

"Every Census officer may ask of all persons within the limits of the local area for which he is appointed such questions as may be neces-

sary to enable him to fill, in respect of each of such persons, the particulars required by the following form of schedule; but no census officer shall insist upon recording the name of any woman if there is any objection to giving it, or ask to see any female who is not voluntarily produced before him, or ask for any information not required for the purposes of the census, such as the amount of any person's income or the name of any woman's husband."

The form of schedule provides for

1. Serial number and name.
2. Religion.
3. Sect of religion.
4. Caste of Hindus and Jains. Tribe or race of others.
5. Sub-division of caste, &c.
6. Male or female.
7. Age.
8. Married, unmarried or widowed.
9. Parent tongue.
10. Birth, district, province or country.
11. Occupation or means of subsistence.
12. Learning, literate or illiterate.
13. Language known by literate.
14. If any person be insane, deaf-mute from birth, totally blind or a leper.

IN Rome it is the correct thing to comport like the natives. Such is the European teaching. Our Indian Prince in Europe, (assuming the correctness of the following account in the English papers) has only proved his docility and paid the sincerest homage to those among whom he is sojourning:—

"Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, or Ross, of Stamford Street, London, is taking proceedings at Edinburgh against His Highness Sir Bhagvat Singhji, the Thakore Sahib of Gondol, at present residing in Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh, for payment of £50 per annum as alimony for her child, and £2,000 as damages for alleged seduction. In 1887, the pursuer was housemaid at a house in Chester Square, London, which was rented by the Thakore. He left for India in August, 1887. Shortly afterwards she married George Ross, to whom she had been engaged for several months. In February, 1888, she gave birth to a male child. The Thakore, who is at present studying medicine in Edinburgh University, denies her charges. He says, he is an Indian by birth, and his domicile and home are in India; the pursuer is English by birth, and has no right or title to bring such an action. Lord Stormonth Darling sent the case to the Roll for discussion of the questions of law."

His Highness received great *kudos* for patriotism in leaving his country for his country's good. And no doubt it was a humane, if somewhat quixotic, idea for a ruler in these days to go and reside abroad to study medicine for the ultimate benefit of his people. He has now made the crowning sacrifice—of character—in his zeal for knowledge and desire for practical familiarity with gynecology and obstetrics.

As for the litigious defence set up by him, that must be the prompting of some impudent pettifogger among the natives. We do not suppose he carries in his travelling establishment a *Katiawar mookteer*.

We write the word "natives" in that connection advisedly. It is something to be in the same boat with the supercilious Saxon—even as a stowaway. It is a great temptation to the "——natives" to make the most of the opportunity to call the British by the same despised name, with or without the—dash. Now that we have experimentally shown that the Europeans may be and indeed are, natives, we hope our friends like J. Ghosal and other Esquires will consent to be natives, and our brothers like the *Indian Mirror* will be spared the everlasting torture of correcting the English language and altering "native" and "natives" wherever they occur to "Indian" and "Indians" and noting the change in every instance.

IN common with our morning contemporaries, we committed, last week, the mistake of announcing the rejection by the Senate of Mr. Justice Norris' proposals about the selection of Tagore Law Professor. The new rules were passed, and the initial selection is vested in five of the Law Faculty, the candidates furnishing a synopsis of their proposed lectures. The new rules are:—

1. In the month of May in each year, the Faculty of Law shall select not more than three subjects, upon one of which the Professor for the following year shall be required to deliver a course of at least twelve lectures.
2. Immediately after the subject or subjects shall have been thus selected, advertisements shall be published in such newspapers as the Syndicate may think proper, stating the subject or subjects so selected, and inviting applications from candidates for the Professorship.
3. Candidates shall send in their applications to the Registrar on or before the 1st May following, and each candidate shall forward with

his application one hundred copies of a brief synopsis of his proposed lectures, and if he so pleases, the same number of copies of his introductory lecture.

4. The copies of the introductory lecture and the brief synopsis so sent shall be referred to a Committee of the Faculty of Law consisting of five members to be chosen by the Faculty, who shall consider the same and report thereon to the Faculty, who shall recommend a candidate to the Senate for election.

5. The election of the Professor shall take place in the month of August.

6. The Professor shall commence to deliver his lectures in the month of November next following his election, and shall complete the delivery thereof in the following January. His salary shall be paid in twelve equal monthly instalments: the first instalment to be paid on the first day of the month following that in which the first lecture is delivered.

7. The Professor shall send to the Registrar a complete manuscript copy of his lectures within five months from the commencement of the delivery thereof.

Why not fix a fee for candidature? It does not matter, if the Act of Incorporation allows it or not. The hundred copies of a brief synopsis involve an outlay, and the Tagore business is a distinct business though managed by the University.

How the Salt Law is all grasping and how cruelly it is worked, will appear from the two following judgments of the Bombay High Court (Birdwood and Parsons, J. J.):—

"Mr. Justice Birdwood, in delivering the judgment of the Court in the case of Deoki, woman, said:—The Magistrate does not find that the salt was originally contraband. On the contrary, he distinctly says that there is no proof that the accused separated from earth the three tolas of salt found in her house, and there is nothing to show that her own story is not true. She says that her child poured some water into the pot in which she kept her salt, thus melting it, and that, not wishing to lose the salt, she put the brine on the fire, and evaporated the water, thus producing dry salt. The heating of the brine was certainly 'process' by which the salt was 'separated from brine,' and fell, therefore, within the definition of 'manufacture' contained in Section 3 (g) of the Bombay Salt Act, 1890. But in the circumstances of the case, a fine of Rs. 10, with 8 days' rigorous imprisonment, in default of payment, was excessive and wholly disproportioned to the character of the offence. (See also our judgment in Criminal Reference No. 132 of 1890 of this day's date). We reduce the fine to one anna, and award one hour's imprisonment in default of payment of the fine. Any sum levied from the accused in excess of eight annas to be refunded."

"Mr. Justice Birdwood, in delivering the judgment of the Court in the case of Malamamma, woman, said:—The accused bought some dirty salt in the bazar, and in order to clear it, dissolved it in water, which she boiled after removing all particles of dirt from it. She thus obtained some clear dry salt. The process by which the salt was separated from the brine falls within the definition of 'manufacture' contained in Section 3 (g) of the Bombay Salt Act, 1890, and as the accused had obtained no license to manufacture salt under Section 11, her act is punishable under Section 47. But, in the circumstances of the case, the fine of Rs. 15, with ten days' imprisonment in default, appears to us to be excessive and wholly disproportioned to the character of the offence, especially as the Act has only come into force recently, and contains a new definition of the word 'manufacture,' which will apparently convert into crimes some perfectly innocent practices connected with the use of salt for domestic purposes. We reduce the fine to eight annas, and award one day's simple imprisonment in default of payment of the fine. Any sum levied from the accused in excess of eight annas to be refunded."

A BABOO Pandit is welcome in the *Indian Mirror* to announce—

"I purpose to prove, on the authority of the Vedas, that our Aryan forefathers knew the arts of telegraph and electricity. It will not be out of place here to state that *fans* or balloons for aerial navigation were not unknown to our Aryan Rishis in the Vedic age, the full particulars of which I intend to write in another letter."

Meanwhile, to prove his point as to telegraphy, he, with the help of our contemporary's Devils, offers some gibberish by way of a *mantra* of the Rig Veda. Of this unutterable arrangement of Roman typography, our modern Sankar—such is the name of Baboo Pandit—supplies a translation out of all proportion to the quantity of the so-called *mantram* quoted. Pandit Tarka Churamani had better take care of his laurels. Here at last, in the same field with him, is an *ex post facto* discoverer bolder than he.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills* are beyond all doubt the most valuable and most convenient medicines that travellers can take across the seas to distant climes, for change of climate and the new conditions and surroundings of life to which they will be exposed will assuredly give rise to great disturbances of the system and to such especial morbid states of the blood and constitution generally as will render the use of these effectual remedies highly necessary, for they will find in them a ready and safe means of relief in most of the diseases which afflict the human race, and with them at hand they may be said to have a physician always at their call.

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Irish squabble is developing into a Donnybrook Fair business. If tar and feathers have not yet been brought into requisition, eyes are being stopped with lime paste. Mr. Parnell still fights for the leadership of his party, but he is distinctly losing his head. Perhaps he understands his people, and is constrained to reduce himself to their level. On his way from Dublin to Cork, on the 12th, he harangued at the railway stations. It was not the march of a conquering hero. At Mallow station, a hostile crowd attacked his carriage with sticks. A grand reception, however, awaited him at Cork. The same welcome he found at Kilkenny. There was besides a torch-light procession in his honor. Notwithstanding these evidences of popularity, Mr. Parnell is ill at ease. Addressing an elective meeting in the Kilkenny district, he gave vent to his spleen by calling the seceders the gutter sparrows and miserable scum whom he had rescued from obscurity. This enraged the anti-Parnellites the more. Several uproarious meetings were held at Tipperary and Newry and a resolution passed condemning Mr. Parnell. Mr. Michael Davitt and Dr. Tanner surprised Mr. Parnell at a meeting at Rathdownly. They held a rival meeting. Mr. Parnell was uncomfortable and left and was hooted. They kept him pursuing. Whenever he went, they were there to oppose him. There was a regular fight at Ballynakil and Castlecomer. Mr. Davitt on his side led the attacks. He was badly bruised at the latter place. Mr. Parnell suffered too. Mud mixed with lime was thrown into his eyes and he returned to Kilkenny suffering intense pain, where he kept bed for a day or two and then addressed a meeting with his eyes bandaged. His popularity is on the wane. The freedom of the city of Edinburgh presented him on a former occasion has been annulled.

NOTWITHSTANDING the shortness of notice, the rush at the Levée on Tuesday night was great. From 9-30 to 11, there was a continuous stream of men to bow to the representative of Her Majesty.

The engineering for the drawing of the affluent by the public entrée, through the great House up and down, into the Throne Room, past the Presence, and conveying it out, till it is discharged on the great flight of stairs in front, has of late years much improved. There was a departure this time in the compulsory detention on the stairs which had a distinctly, if mildly, penal aspect. It is not the same as enforced stay in a furnished and brilliantly lighted up room. Every care should be taken to prevent dead-lock. The ceremony is simple, and yet it is a trial to both sides, specially to the Personage who, standing up from the Viceregal Throne, receives the homage of privileged subjects to the Sovereign. As every one is interested in going through his duty as quickly as possible, and as no one is detained in the Presence Chamber, there is no reason why a continuous flow cannot be maintained. It is no doubt difficult to manage a great mob of gentlemen, combining the restlessness and hurry of the European with the sluggishness of the Asiatic, but knowledge and skill move vast armies in the field, and the men on board a man of war do not knock against and cripple one another. As yet, we are at the beginning of conscious Imperial Rule. With the completion of the railways and other communications, and the development of education and commerce, the Levée of England's Viceroy in the East will be more and more crowded. At present, it is rather of a private party confined, for the most part, to the personal *entourage*. It is a meeting of Europeans mostly. The numbers this year were as follows: Private Entrée, 31 natives and 82 Europeans; Public Entrée, 379 natives and 884 Europeans; New Presentations 49 natives and 159 Europeans, or a total of 459 natives and 1125 Europeans.

It will be different when it becomes a national affair. Then the European element will dwindle to numerical insignificance. Indeed, when the people come to know their lord, then even the great Palace, built by the large soul of Wellesley against the peddling views of his masters of the East India Company, who condemned it as a grotesque extravagance, will not suffice for the Viceroy, unless at least a vast separate place is raised for the reception of his Durbaris.

Being a native paper, we are not privileged to pry into or speak of the Drawing Room. That is a matter specially reserved for the European press—even as news.



THE Hon'ble Sir Charles Alfred Elliott, K.C.S.I., assumed the Lieutenant-Governor of the Bengal Division of the Presidency of Fort William, on Wednesday, the 17th December 1890, under the usual salute. The Bengal Secretariat was closed on the occasion. The Gazette Extraordinary announcing the assumption, therefore, we believe, is dated the next day.

His first appointments are :—

Mr. Percy Comyn Lyon to be Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Captain John William Currie to be an Aid-de-Camp on the personal staff of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Captain Alfred Granville Burne Turner to be an Extra Aide-de-Camp on the personal staff of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

SIR Steuart Bayley, having made over charge to Sir Charles Elliott, left Calcutta the same evening for England *via* Bombay, by the ordinary mail train. A large number of officials and non-officials—European and Native—headed by Sir Charles Elliott, crowded the Howrah railway station to bid him good bye.

MR. A. Mackenzie, C.S.I., took charge of the office of the Chief Commissioner of Burma from Sir C. H. T. Crosthwaite, on the forenoon of the 10th instant. Sir Charles Haukes Tadd Crosthwaite, K.C.S.I., in his turn, being appointed an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, in place of Sir Charles Elliott, took upon himself the execution of his office, on the 18th instant, under the usual salute.

MR. John Nugent, of the Bombay Civil Service, has been appointed an Additional Member of the Governor-General's Council for making Laws and Regulations. The services of Mr. R. J. Crosthwaite, C.S.I., Judicial Commissioner of the Central Provinces, and Additional Member of the Governor-General's Council, have been placed at the disposal of the Foreign Department.

THE Lushai Revival is over, and the Lesser Supplement of our Little War may be said to be at an end. The original war was provoked by the incursions of the Lushais into the Chingri Valley. Of the offending tribes, Raja Lienpunga was understood to be the most formidable leader, and the chastisement of that Chief and others and the security of the frontier in future were the principal objects of the British expedition that last year penetrated the dense jungle in that quarter. A simultaneous movement was made from two sides. While General Tregear led his force up north from the Chittagong Hills, Mr. Daly with his Assam Police went up the Dallessari river from Cachar. The cautious and adequate arrangements and management of Government crushed the spirit of savage mischievousness in the bud, inasmuch that our warriors found no enemy to fight. The Assam party, which had anticipated the grander military expedition, was particularly lucky in easily obtaining the submission of several of the lesser chiefs and recovering most of the captives. But the great Lienpunga made his escape by running far away. Thus the war was over and the columns and most of the men returned. Unluckily, our Government had established two fortified outposts in the heart of the Hills, and left the seeds of future complications in the insufficient garrisons left therein. It was not in human nature, far less in savage nature, to resist the temptation. So poor Captain Browne was amused with trumpery appearances of peace and security, while the clans—Lienpunga returned to animate them—made a swoop upon both isolated garrisons at once on the 9th September last, the political being the first victim. Hence the necessity of another military entry into Lushailand and another beating of the bush. Accordingly, preparations have been making towards the march of regular troops about the end of this month. Meanwhile, the business has been quietly forestalled and cheaply finished, let us hope, between the pluck of Mr. Cole and the diplomacy of Mr. McCabe, Captain Browne's successor in political charge, who were ordered by the Assam Government to try their hands at it. Lieutenant Cole went from Fort Ajal, with 100 of the Cachar Military Police, accompanied by a military surgeon, straight for Lienpunga's present settlement. This was reached and occupied the same evening without resistance, notwithstanding the strong stockades built for the purpose along the march. Thence

decoy hillmen were sent out to wheedle or bully Lienpunga and others in. For, it was feared that a severe military demonstration might fill the Chiefs with despair, driving them to the refuge of the far off backwoods, only to return after the pursuer was withdrawn. The "detectives" not returning, Lieutenant Cole, after a full day and night's stay, marched forward. Ultimatums had been sent not only to Lienpunga but to lesser chiefs like Raja Thompony (a brother of Raja Sukpila) and Thanrma. Meanwhile, the whole neighbourhood was stirred, thickets searched, and arms and ammunition discovered, and the effect of this occupation and activity was that one fine evening Lienpunga and all his ministers came in like good boys, and were all secured. This was on the 9th instant. Next morning, the column marched back, receiving on the way Thompony's surrender, and reaching Fort Ajal by evening. Thanrma is understood to have gone far away into the heart of the Burma forests.

The captured chiefs will shortly be put on their trial.

THE last municipal loan of ten lacs was highly successful. The original holders of the expiring loan had agreed to transfer about 1½ lacs to this loan at Rs. 4 premium. The balance was taken up at 5-14 and 6.

THE only important matter discussed at the last (Thursday) meeting of the Commissioners, was the application of the gentleman holding the position of Assessor to the Corporation to open a market. Mr. Lee, with the instinct of a Government servant and in the interest of good government, was strongly opposed to superior officers of the Corporation entering into trade. The Commissioners found that the matter had too far advanced to refuse the license. Sanctions had already been given for building the market and the applicant encouraged to lay out a large sum. Under the circumstances, it were, speaking moderately, unfair to refuse the final permission. And yet what reasonable man will deny the justice of the contention raised by the new Chairman and supported by his great predecessor? We hope the present case will not be allowed to form a precedent, without at least a specific and thorough discussion. Baboo Norender Nath Sen gave a very good reason for withdrawing his opposition to the granting of the license when he said that practically the applicant is not joining his post of Assessor to the Corporation. This was known to many of the native Commissioners and, doubtless, accounts for the extraordinarily one-sided character of the voting. But it was worth telling in the public interest. This information relieved some consciences and still farther swelled the votes for the permission.

THE Jain defamation trial commenced on Thursday. Mr. Justice Pigot refused the application for a special jury. There are 12 accused. But it was decided to try them separately, at least to try one first. The offence being compoundable, the result of one trial would shew the course to be followed in the remaining eleven. Baboo Chutturput Singh, being the chief, was elected by the prosecution, and is now being tried. He has escaped exhibition in the "zoo" apparatus which is a terror to so many honest souls and weak brethren, being allowed to sit by his counsel. The two leading legal families, the Woodroffes and the Evanses, counsel the prosecution, while Mr. Phillips alone is the defender of the Faith—in Baboo Chutturput.

If Baboo Chutturput is denied the assistance of counsel of his comrades, there is a saving of cost.

SRIMAN SWAMI is dead!—Long live Sriman Swami! This rare bird of a Brahman, who purposes to invade England to wean John Bull from his national Roast Beef, has, after an ornithologic predecessor of antiquity, risen from his ashes. He has simply cheated us out of our true opinion. The Allahabad Native weekly, the *Indian Union*, contradicts the report of his death. Like a much greater one, Sriman has lived to read the obituary notices on himself. Our contemporary writes :—

"We are very glad to be able to contradict the report about the worthy Sriman Swami's death at Pushkur. He had been very seriously ill, but is now much better, and we hope he will soon get well. We wish him a long life."

We don't. Long or short, we hope the new lease will be worthy of his powers and his sacrifices.

THE Nizam as the Fountain of Honour has made a unique creation. There never was at any time, in India or in Persia, or anywhere else, a Zoroastrian *mansabdar*. Notwithstanding the liberality of our Government of late years, there is no Parsee Nawab in British India, though there are Khan Bahadars. In Native India, His Highness of Hyderabad has just made one—Nawab Framroz Jung.

More fortunate in exile than in the home of their origin, if the Parsees were happy in the hospitable protection of the Hindus, they are happiest under the free sway of the British. These have shown every readiness to encourage and honour the Parsees. The Honours Chapter of the history of British India proves the British partiality towards the Parsees. It was on them that our present rulers tried their prentice hand as elevators and ennoblers. Long before the Mutinies, while the empire was still held by the East India Company, the experiment was made of grafting an English title of honour on an Indian name. A Parsee architect of his fortune, Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy was knighted. The choice was so good and the trial so successful that Government were farther encouraged and a step taken in the direction of founding a hereditary nobility. The same unexceptionable Guebre was then created a baronet, and legislative help was given him to entail property for the maintenance of the title. This was long, long ago. Since then the country passed into the hands of the Crown, and from time to time decisive measures have been taken, such as the institution of new Orders, to impress the people with the monarchical and imperial idea by showering titles and distinctions, and twice every year are some such announced. Still Bombay and Parsees maintain their pre-eminence. Titles are, no doubt, plentiful as blackberries, but these are all, either Oriental titles or newly instituted Orders, more or less exalted. Creations of any old English Order are rare birds, and they are all confined to Bombay and the Parsees. We have no British Peers among our countrymen. The utmost stretch of nobility allowed us is Baronetcy, and it is remarkable that all the two Baronets of India are citizens of the city of Bombay and that they belong to the sect of Fireworshippers.

But the Parsees have had no Nawabs, any more than Rajas. It was reserved for the liberal Mussulman Ruler of the Deccan to give them one of the former. The Zoroastrian community throughout the world should be grateful to His Highness for this recognition of their race. The incident is not a little significant. The whirligig of Time brings on its own revenges and compensations. Driven from home by Islam, the Parsee at the end of centuries finds to-day in Mussulman India not only a protector and a cherisher, but also a Fountain of Honour.

THE first recipient of the Montyon Virtue Prizes of the French Academy, this year, is Abbé Beraud, of Blanzay, Saône-et-Loire. His portion is 2,500*fr.* He founded two orphanages, and rescued victims in a pit explosion. 84 years old, he is strong enough to walk 30 miles a day, is a capital swimmer and is the bricklayer and carpenter of his orphanages.

THERE was an organization at Warsaw to starve children to death. It did its dismal work for a time undetected. No less than 200 infants were thus despatched. Lately, Madame Skibitska, her married daughter, Madame Wanowska, the latter's sister-in-law, and another woman with a coffin-maker and a grave-digger were tried for these murders. To ward off suspicion, a number of children were packed in one coffin and buried as one adult. The chief culprit has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment and her accomplices to smaller terms. There pends an appeal by Government, the sentences being considered inadequate. But what a commentary is here on the Draconian British Indian Code and our sanguinary magistracy and insatiate administration! We forbear to point out the bearing of this revelation on the question of comparative morality or on the offence of the speakers and writers who are always exalting their people at the expense of our own.

FROM the sublime to the ridiculous, the Honourable Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar leaves the Bengal Legislative Chamber, and Baboo Raj Kumar Sarvadhikari takes his place—thanks to a *Ma Bab* and *Gharib Parwar* Government!

WE are glad that the Nawab Bahadar of Moorshedabad has been brought down to Calcutta for treatment. Here he will at least be less in danger from quacks and mountebanks. He can speak, but is unable to move himself. This power will come by and by, we are sure.

NAWAB Abdool Luteef Bahadar is ailing. No sooner he returned from his grand tour, than he caught fever, and is confined to his room.

It is a great pity that just at this nick of time two of the chiefs of the Congress should be laid up. Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, soon after his return from Europe, felt seedy and, in a few days, fell into a rheumatic fever of a rather obstinate kind, which still confines him. It is an unfortunate accident to his numerous *clientele*, and it may prove an embarrassment to the management of the Congress. On public no less than on private grounds, we pray that he may soon recover. Baboo Surendranath Banerjee too has been for some time suffering from bronchitis and fever. He is in a fair way of recovery, but it is feared he will not be able to take any part in the Congress. Nothing can be more disappointing to him, or to the thousands who would gladly listen to the stream of eloquence from his lips.

THE Thompson Memorial Committee had a balance of about Rs. 9,000 in their hands, which was to be appropriated to the purposes to be named by Sir Rivers. So they wrote to him, long since. A month before he died, he informed the Committee that he would let them know his mind shortly. He, however, did not live to communicate his intentions. The Committee, believing that Lady Thompson must be aware of them, or at any rate would be best able to expend the sum according to his wishes, have remitted it to her with liberty to expend it in any way she pleases. With this ultimate liberality, the corporate swan of the Committee, we take it—its occupation gone—expires.

A TERRIBLE disaster is reported from Bombay. A large house, some 55 feet long by 20 deep, consisting of a ground floor and four upper stories, let out into 22 tenements and occupied by about a hundred persons, collapsed suddenly, burying the inmates. Thirty dead bodies were recovered and twenty-seven persons rescued sent to hospital. Five hundred labourers were at work, removing the debris. Whole families are found to have been killed, in some cases only one or two members escaping. The house was a total wreck. It was built only three and half years ago. An examination shewed that there was hardly a sound piece of timber in it. The public indignation is great against the municipality for not strictly controlling the construction of buildings. Lord Harris had been to the hospital to visit the injured.

THE Elphinistonsians of Bombay have paid a deserving tribute to the retiring Principal Wordsworth, B. A., C. I. E. There was a special convocation of the local University for conferring on him the honorary Degree of LL. D. The Governor presided as Chancellor, Mr. Justice Birdwood as Vice-Chancellor presented the Professor to the Chancellor. The degree conferred, the undergraduates who had mustered strong, occupying the galleries on either side of the Chancellor's seat, threw handfuls of rose leaves on their object of veneration and lustily cheered him. Both the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor spoke of the intellectual and social merits of the Doctor. The close of these proceedings was followed by a torch light procession of graduates and undergraduates to the Professor's residence.

CARDINAL Manning has fulminated his bull against child marriage in India. He denies that it is a religious tradition or in any way sanctioned by the Hindoo religion. At best "it is only a social tradition—contrary to the law of nature, which is universal and supreme." Indian widowhood too comes under his bann. "That," cries the Cardinal, "too is contrary to the law of nature which gives to every woman in widowhood the liberty to marry again. Such a privation of natural liberty is contrary to all justice and to our whole Imperial law." The Cardinal contents himself by denouncing the institutions and recommending their abolition by legislative enactments, under the right by which, Sir Bartle Frere says, the British hold India—"the Divine right of good government" and in vindication of the law of nature and human liberty.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 20, 1890.

### ANARCHY IN INDORE.

AFFAIRS for some time seem to be drifting from bad to worse in Indore. The administration is represented to be as rotten as possible. Ministers have been changed, one after another, without any improvement. The highest reputations have been wrecked at the Holkar's court. Now that a new Premier has been appointed, we should, under ordinary circumstances, pause to give him a trial. But the experiment has been often tried, to no purpose. In fact, this frequency of change, not only in the head Executive but in all departments and offices, is abnormal. It is not simply a bad sign, but a formidable disease in itself. We have no hope that Mr. Bedarkar will prove any better than his predecessors, great or small. The public, and doubtless the Government of India, want some visible guarantees other than names and change of officers. Any one of the many ministers, of greater or less pretensions, that Maharaja Shivaji Rao has, within the few years of his reign, employed, ought to have given a better administration than Indore has ever had since the death of Maharaja Tukaji Rao. Any one would assuredly have given a better administration, if left to himself. But the simple truth is, no one has been permitted: every one has been checked and countervailed, harassed and bullied in the straight path of duty according to his lights, until the disgusted and humiliated Dewan has taken shelter in the shell of inaction, intent only on preserving the remaining shreds of personal respect till he could best make his escape from the bondage of a responsibility which he has not the power to discharge. The interference of the Chief paralyses the civil service from Minister downwards, and threatens to bring the machinery of state to a deadlock. But for the British Government, the collapse would by this have come—or some other alarming *dénouement*.

It may be deemed unfair to indulge in this strain of generality without descending to illustrative facts. But the usual rule may be dispensed with in a matter of public notoriety. The court can almost take notice of it without formal proof. The papers of Bombay and of Central India have, for a long time, overflowed with accounts of Holkari Freaks, Horrors at Indore, and so forth. Complaints too have gone up to the Supreme Government, and the records of the Central India Agency are understood to be full of the grievances of injured servants and of a suffering people. The activity of the champions of the Maharaja in the press is itself an indication that the air is thick with outcries against the Raj. In fact, much indignation has been caused by the inexplicable certificate which His Highness has obtained from the Political Agent in the last Administration Report. To take a typical case of Holkari administration, the well-known trial of Martand Shankar Kapse. It is openly alleged that the confession was extorted. That is not a very great reproach to a native state, perhaps, seeing how rife extortion by the Police is in British India. But here among us at least the judiciary is pure. Not so in Native India. In Indore at any rate, the highest dignitaries of the bench do not escape suspicion. In this case, the defendant has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment and to a fine of Rs. 12,500. That pecuniary mulct—twelve thou-

sand and five hundred rupees—may well in a native state give a handle to suspicion. Such vindictive judicial taxation has not been unknown in British territory—it has been laid in advanced Bengal itself, even in the High Court—but it clearly belongs to barbaric criminal administration. It is given out, however, that, as a reward for his bravery in the sentence, the Chief Justice received a bonus of 200 gold mohurs. Here is an original hint to rulers in the art of raising the wind!

But if the Chief Justice has been rewarded, what of Judge Gutkar who, at the sessions trial, did not please the majesty of Indore? On abject submission, he has been let off with a transfer to another district. Let us give the other particulars in the words of a well informed correspondent of the Mhow paper, the *Eastern Herald*:—

"Another official concerned in this case, has fled to the Deccan for fear of being tortured. Daji Malhar Kale has been beaten severely and is now in prison. His very life is in jeopardy. But something more extraordinary yet remains to be narrated. The late Dewan was called upon to award punishment to the accused, but his tender heart throbbed within him and he refused to give effect to the arbitrary desires of his master; whereupon he (His Highness' tutor at one time) received abusive epithets and quietly went home. The former Naib-Dewan, the late Shamrao, gave the ex-Dewan a hint that on the next day he would some way or other be disgraced. Believing this to be perfectly possible, from the antecedents of his master and pupil, the late Dewan sent the members of his family away first and himself fled from Indore precipitately with post haste, so much so that for fear of being recalled, he forgot his turban in the train and at Callian he felt so much terrified and confused that he was actually taken out from the compartment. What a sad sequel to Dewan Raghunathrao's escape! When the news of Kirtane's departure was made known to His Highness, he sent for Shamrao and in a tone of infuriated rage, for which he is remarkable and which since his installation he shows at its brutal height, spoke to him 'You Devil, it was you who gave hint to that old drone (Dewan) to quit Indore, is it not? Your fate is in my hands. What I wanted to do in respect of him, will be done in his stead to you!' Shamrao felt the force of the words of the Oracle of Hawa Bangla and received severe and cruel beating, so much so, that his head had swollen from its effects and feeling sickly from the effects of the chastisement, he went home and with a view to avoid the next day's disgrace which was to await him he secretly (like Bhau Sahib Kibay) took the cup of poison and thus saved himself from the dire ignominy which was in store for him. When the news was communicated to the Indian Nero, he issued orders for paying Rs. 7,000 to the deceased's relatives for the performance of his obsequies. So much for his generosity in being the cause of taking the poor man's life and gagging the mouths of his surviving relatives.

After saying so much for the Kapse tragedy, I come to something else. All Vakils have been enjoined not to take up cases in which the Maharaja is a party and the brother of one Shiva Prasad (a Vakil who had taken the brief for Kapse, the accused, and was junior to Mr. P. M. Mehta, Barrister, in the case) has been dismissed from the military department where he was A. D. C. to the Commanding Officer. The relatives of Kapse have been seized and thrown in prison on some pretext or other. Two other persons named Kelker and Bhanu are imprisoned also.

I have done with one case. I have only given a few persons' names as I do not know those of others. I now turn your reader's attention to another case known as *Manktaram* wherein the prisoner has been lashed, and dragged from one place to another and placed in a wooden cage, in such a cruel way that he could not move an inch side-wise, and starved. Four other persons, viz., Chundilal, Baldeo, Birdichand and Magniram, are undergoing a like illegal and inhuman confinement."

### COMMERCE AND CUSTOMS.

THE last Customs report shows steady progress as compared with the last year. The trade of this Province, taking exports and imports together, increased by nearly a crore of rupees or from 78 crores to 79 crores. The net customs duty collected in the year is also of a reassuring character. Since the year 1882-83, when the import duties were almost wholly sacrificed, there have been great fluctuations in the revenue, but the increase in 1888-89 was maintained in the year under review. This has been secured by the imposition of the duty on mineral oil, the importation of which in continually expanding volume, is a most interesting phenomenon. The petroleum duty has alone recouped the whole of the

loss caused by the remission of the import duties and the reduction of salt duty, and thus proved the wisdom of the Government in the selection of this article as suitable for taxation.

Although, however, there was an increase in the value of the trade on the whole, there was a fall in the value of imports to the extent of nearly one crore, principally in piece-goods imported from the United Kingdom. This falling-off naturally led to a decline in the trade of the Suez Canal. There was also a decline in the import of other merchandise, namely, machinery, silk, umbrellas, horses, liquors, drugs, fruits and unrefined sugar. On the other hand, there was an advance in the import of metals, oils, refined sugar, spices, railway materials, woollen manufactures and matches. As the largest decrease occurred in the import of cotton manufactures, the largest increase was in that of oils. The importations of mineral oil in the year were the highest yet reached. The whole of this increase is due to larger receipts from the United States, the imports from the United Kingdom as well as from Russia having both fallen off. Russian competition with American oil, while it is so successful in Europe, is not so in Calcutta. In the Home markets, Russian oil is steadily making its way, so much so as to compel the Americans to introduce cheaper means of transport by tank waggons and tank steamers, but there has been no attempt as yet made to send the oil here either from America or Russia. Further, a prejudice against Russian oil was created by the first consignments, and a prejudice, as rightly observed by the Customs Collector, Mr. Scobell Armstrong, takes long to remove. There is a tendency to cheap nastiness in regard to some of the articles of import, about which the following remarks of the Collector will be read with interest :—

"Brandy has declined by 13¼ per cent., which, considering the nature of much of the liquor imported under this name, is not surprising. A considerable portion of it has very little resemblance to brandy, except perhaps in colour. It is the commonest German spirit got up to look like brandy and comes chiefly from Hamburg and Antwerp, and the average declared value is from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3 per imperial gallon. The best brandies come in bottle through the United Kingdom.

"Gin has again declined, and the taste for it seems to be steadily falling off.

"The imports of whisky show a very slight advance in quantity with a considerable decline in value, and there was no accumulation of stocks in bond. The quantity of the established marks and brands continues the same, for it would not pay to tamper with them, and so risk the loss of the trade; but with the commonest sorts of whisky, as of brandy, the tendency in quality is downwards. A quantity of it is inferior German spirit made from anything but malt, I believe principally rice, and coloured and flavoured to represent whisky. Nearly the whole of the whisky imported come from or through the United Kingdom, but there have been some importations of high class whisky from Australia.

"Rum, which was formerly an item of importance, has fallen away to insignificant figures, being only 910 gallons in the past year, against 9,047 gallons in 1888-89. China formerly sent the largest quantity of this spirit to Calcutta, but last year none at all was received from that country. The cheap common spirit from Germany has apparently killed this trade."

It is the keenness of competition which leads to these cheaper manufactures. As in some kinds of liquor, so in lucifer matches, the English match is being superseded by the manufactures of Sweden and Norway. The development of the import of this article, however, is as remarkable as that of mineral oil, and the Collector has thought fit to notice it separately. From a statement given by him, it appears that the value of the import of matches has increased in the last five years from 4 to 7 lacs. The bulk of the importations is manufactured in Sweden and Norway and are sold wholesale at about Rs. 35 per case of 50 gross, the retail price being two boxes for one pice. The more substantial

English manufacture of Bryant and May cannot compete at this extremely low price, and is steadily being displaced in the Calcutta market.

In regard to salt, the selfish action of the English Syndicate has recoiled upon themselves. There is a heavy falling off in Liverpool salt with a corresponding increase from Arabia, Aden and Germany. These are now powerful competitors, and if their cheaper manufacture may not oust Liverpool permanently from the market, they will always be a check upon the operations of the English salt-suppliers. Their method is thus described by Mr. Scobell Armstrong :—

"The plan adopted is to crush good clean kurkutch, *i. e.*, sun-evaporated salt, by sufficiently simple machinery, and send it into the market, as a very similar and almost, if not quite, as good looking a salt, to compete with Liverpool. One machine for this with two pans was by permission set up in the Sulkea Golahs and worked last year with such success that leave has been asked for the setting up of three more, one of them with four pans. This salt after crushing has been sold here at Rs. 80 per 100 maunds with a very handsome profit. It is not, I should say, absolutely as white and nice to look at as the English salt, though very nearly so, and it has the disadvantage from the nature of its grain of giving less bulk for the same weight, which is against it with the retail shopkeeper who sells mostly by the hand-ful, a disadvantage which may be partially but not entirely obviated by a change in the method of crushing. If, however, Liverpool salt were to continue to range as it has done from Rs. 90 to over Rs. 100 per 100 maunds, I have little doubt that the advantage in price would much more than counterbalance these objections, and that this slightly, if at all, inferior and much cheaper salt, would end by pushing Liverpool salt out of the market, for crushed salt could be sold at a profit for a much lower price than Rs. 80 per 100 maunds."

In woollen goods, there is some increase, but there are decreases in the finer kinds of woollen piece-goods, such as broad-cloth, alpaca, flannel and tweed, probably due to very large importations of shawls, which are in a great measure put to similar uses.

The report is replete with interest. Mr. Scobell Armstrong discusses the future of the salt trade with great ability, and though he does not take a desponding view of Liverpool salt, he gives the English Syndicate a warning which they cannot neglect.

#### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NAGS.

In view of the increased mortality in 1889 from snake-bite, the Secretary of State has directed the annual reports on the subject, which had been discontinued in favor of triennial reports, to be resumed. The Government of India have just issued a resolution in which the subject is discussed with great care. It would seem that the discontinuance of the old practice of annual reports has had an unfortunate effect. The mortality caused by venomous animals has been great. There has been a great increase in the number of deaths, both of human beings and cattle, while the number of wild beasts destroyed has also been less than the normal rate. Taking the statistics from 1879 to 1889, the yearly average number of human beings killed by wild animals is found to be 2,720, and the rewards given during the above period for the destruction of tigers, leopards, bears, wolves and hyenas amounted to upwards of 14 lacs and a half. In spite of this large destruction of the more dangerous animals, the mortality in 1889 showed no abatement, being 2,724 of human beings and above 52 thousand cattle. This mortality, large as it appears by itself, is, however, small in comparison with the population, being no more than one person out of every 72,882 of the population.

The mortality from snake-bite is far greater. The average annual mortality during the last eleven years is 20,000, and the recorded statistics show a tendency to increase. The Government have always been alive to the subject, and various plans for reducing the



mortality have had trial, with, however, no satisfactory result. The sum spent in rewards during the above period is Rs. 2,37,000, but the Government record with regret that in some parts of the country the grant of rewards for dead snakes has only resulted in people taking to the practice of breeding them. In view of the meagreness of the benefit hitherto derived from the system of rewards, the Governor-General in Council is not disposed to retain it on its present general footing. His Excellency thinks that the money now so spent might be more advantageously employed in the reduction of mortality from diseases like fever, which are no whit less destructive than snake-bite. Measures towards this object will naturally take the shape of sanitary improvements of the surroundings of habitations, and these measures, while they will improve the healthiness of villages, will also destroy the breeding grounds of the reptile. This is an original view of the question, and it will be understood more clearly from the following extract from the Resolution :—

"Moreover, so long as the people persist in walking in the dark with bare feet near their houses, where the same undergrowth, debris, and filth, which are the hot-beds of disease, provide cover in which venomous snakes can live and breed, deaths from snake-bite must continue to be numerous, for it is in such places that snakes are most dangerous, and not in the jungles where, though they exist in immense numbers, they can keep out of the way of human beings. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the most effective way of reducing mortality from snake-bite is to destroy the cover afforded for snakes in or near villages, and it is the wish of His Excellency in Council that the utmost pressure that can be legitimately placed on Municipal Committees and Heads of villages should be brought to bear to induce them to clear such places, and to keep them clear."

While the Government of India would discontinue or at any rate curtail the system of rewards for the destruction of snakes, they would on the other hand extend the system in regard to the more dangerous animals. Their views on this point are set forth in the resolution as follows :—

"The Government of India have, in consultation with Local Governments and Administrations, recently had under examination the question whether it might not be possible to organize some better means for the destruction of wild animals and snakes, and have considered whether the establishment of a Government organization for the purpose of destroying wild beasts would be likely to be advantageous. An experiment of this kind was attempted in Madras some years ago, but it was found to involve great expenditure, and the results achieved would certainly not justify the plan being tried elsewhere. Moreover, the larger carnivora are not gregarious, nor are they very numerous, and the adoption of any such system would inevitably end in causing the existing agency for destroying them to disappear. The Governor-General in Council has for these reasons determined to maintain the system now generally in force of granting rewards for the destruction of wild animals. His Excellency in Council, however, desires that particular attention should be paid to the following points, viz :—

- (1) all possible facilities, consistent with due precautions against fraud, should be afforded to those who kill wild animals for obtaining the authorized rewards ;
- (2) shooting parties, which engage to submit to the required precautions against injury to the forests, should be encouraged for the destruction of tigers and other dangerous carnivora in reserved forests ; and
- (3) licenses under the Arms Act should be granted freely to agriculturists located in the neighbourhood of forests and jungles for the protection of themselves and their cattle against wild beasts.

His Excellency in Council also thinks that more liberality might be shown in the offer of rewards for the slaughter of man-eating tigers. The destruction of one tiger which has taken to man-eating is of much more importance than that of a number of ordinary tigers, and the difficulty and expense involved in killing such animals are ordinarily very great. Native shikaris are often, owing to the inferior quality of their weapons, unable to hunt such animals, which again can often only be dislodged from the positions they take up by beaters who require to be liberally paid. It appears to the Governor-General in Council that the offer of rewards sufficiently liberal to cover their expenses would often induce military officers and others who have leisure at certain times of the year to organize parties with the object of disposing of advertised man-eaters, provided that they were assured of assistance from the local authorities, and His Excellency in Council would therefore advocate the offer in the case of man-eaters of large rewards together with the proffer of assistance in the way of elephants and other arrangements on the part of the district and forest officials. It appears to the Government of India that if prompt action were taken by measures such as these to secure the destruction of man-eating tigers before they have had time to do much damage, the mortality from wild animals, more than one-third of which is caused by tigers, might be reduced in some sensible degree. These observations apply also to the

somewhat rare cases in which leopards take to man-eating. Wolves at times become very destructive in particular localities, and in such cases it would be profitable to entertain native hunters on liberal terms for the express purpose of exterminating packs that have made themselves dangerous. Under the present system of granting rewards the Government of India have reason to apprehend that rewards are not unfrequently given, especially in the case of cubs, for jackals which are represented to be wolves."

## MAHOMET ON THE STAGE.

MR. HALL CAINE CRITICISED.

I have perused and reperused with singular interest everything that has appeared in connection with this subject, and I have particularly watched the unconscious impulse, the freedom of talk, the quick resentful hastiness with which Mr. Caine deals his blows and emphasises them without reflecting that in a controversy of this type one truth cannot be defended without injuring another. A religious belief that exists in potential strength among a large section of mankind, cannot be identified with the usefulness of dramatic art, however attractive it may be to the fashionable taste of fashionable men. While the former invokes in a thousand languages man's deepest convictions, his surest hopes, the most sacred yearnings of his heart, that which can find generations of men in brotherhood, comfort the fatherless and the widow, uphold the martyr at the stake and the hero in his long battle, the latter has a secret grudge against morality, makes the prudery of virtue the great hinderance to the attainment of the ideal, corrupts and spoils itself by an overmastering passion for show and in all the homeliness of honesty, the primness of purity, veils the secret fire of religion and lets morality often expire unawares. Thus Mahomet on the Stage cannot be justified as the "idea of the poet" "plus the material, recognizable, knowable, more or less honorable personality of Mr. A. B., or Mr. B. C., who walks the streets and eats bread-and-butter." In history, biography or painting, the individual is not carried away beyond the ken of his imagination, like Linnæus at the sight of the golden field of genista : the tribute of thought is limited to restricted phenomena and the sensibility is less heightened. In the stage, the actor, far from following the accepted model, gives away to such words, gaits, and gesticulations as impress the audience immediately not mediately. They either add to or subtract from the quality of the hero. The history of dramatic literature will abundantly prove this, and if Mr. Caine still wants to claim for the dramatic art, "an equality with its sister arts in range and choice of subject," he himself shows a "shallow and senseless prejudice" (to use his now words) in maintaining an opinion that grows in the air. Mahomet on the stage cannot but be a mockery, strongly irritating the religious feeling of the Moslems, just as "a mockery of Jesus," as the *Times* letter says, "on the stage at Teheran or Constantinople will excite pious indignation in Christian countries." The play may be decent or it may concern the most serious matter in the world, admitting that it is an English play in an English soil, but the excitement that it creates, the enthusiasm that it makes in an English audience, are paid for in the morbidity and anguish that fill the hearts of 50 millions of Her Majesty's Mahomedan subjects in India. Apart from other grounds, this is the prime consideration which should govern the case, and, if he is can did, convince Mr. Caine himself of the absolute necessity of the prohibition of the play of Mahomet on the stage in England. There is more harm in widening the breach than any particular good in satisfying a tiny knot of English friends. A Tübingen professor reviewing the progress of knowledge in the various branches, expressed a fear that, with the increasing specialization and multifarious subdivision of men's studies, the temple of science, like the Tower of Babel, would never be completed, because of the inability of the workmen to understand one another's language. This was an ill grounded apprehension. Nor is it less so in the case of Mr. Caine who, primed with the pride of the author clenches, his play as a valuable heritage, so that to disturb him in the enjoyment were

cruel. If he chose some other intellectual equivalent, there would be no stultification of sentiment or of reason. The public will hardly recognise in his play the note of advance, and the explanation of the enthusiasm with which it is regarded in England, when the author in his defence, in the *Overland Mail* of 10th October, draws a parallel between Mahomet and Jesus and shows that "the spectacle of Jesus made to walk the stage of the peasants at Oberammergau has not only not excited the pious indignation of Christian countries but has done something towards deepening the religious sentiment of Europe. And yet the attitude of Christians towards Jesus is entirely above that of the Moslems towards Mahomet." True, but Christ and the Christians do not bear the same significations as Mahomet and the Christians. The extinction of race feeling is a harder problem than any that Mr. Caine has had yet to solve. He must have solid sense to understand that, before he airs himself in his own platitudes. He is apparently a reader of history, and history repeats itself with absolute truth. It is useless to spend further arguments for the prohibition of the play which, as it is, hurts the religious interest of the Mussulmans.

J.

Our contributor is undoubtedly a writer of power and information with a faculty for sententious terseness. All the more pity that he does not more exhaust his topic. He scarcely cares to make his aphoristic deliverances thoroughly comprehended of the poor "general reader." He is a frequent and useful contributor to the local press. He would be more valuable if he wrote less, but more fully. He will forgive us, we hope, if we also expect him to show more of the candour he himself enjoins on Mr. Hall Caine. Thus, he is content to dismiss one of that gentleman's clear argumentative illustrations with the rather mysterious truism that Christ and the Christians do not bear the same significance as Mahomet and the Christians. A true remark as well as an appropriate argument, but it wants beating out and down—to the comprehension of the legion that run and read or read and run. A Carlyle or an Emerson may pass—not without difficulty and many rebuffs and disappointments at the outset—as an author. But newspapers will look askance at, and pass over, such an exponent of thought—until he has won a commanding name.—ED. R. & R.

## Public Paper.

No. 5800.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

### FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Pensions and Gratuities.—Rules and General Matters.

RESOLUTION.

The 12th December, 1890.

Read—

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No. 190 (Financial), dated 28th August, 1890.

**RESOLUTION.**—In this Despatch the Secretary of State deals with the recommendations made in the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on East India (Civil Servants). His Excellency the Governor-General in Council directs the publication of the decisions arrived at on such of the questions raised as can be disposed of without further reference.

2. In regard to the rate of exchange for payment of pensions, the Secretary of State has decided that all pensions granted in rupees, which are payable at the Home Treasury to residents in the United Kingdom, or which are payable to residents in any other country in which the standard of currency is gold, shall be paid, with effect from the 1st of April, 1890, at the rate of exchange annually fixed for the adjustment of transactions between the British and Indian Governments, subject to the condition that the rate of one shilling and nine pence the rupee is fixed as the minimum rate at which the conversion into sterling shall be effected.

3. In regard to the recommendation of the Committee that some period of furlough should in all cases count as service for pension, the Secretary of State has proposed, and the Government of India has agreed, that one year's leave with allowances in 15 years' service and two years in 25 years' service shall be allowed to count as service for pension, provided that such leave is taken out of India.

4. The recommendation of the Committee that service should qualify for pension from the age of 20, instead of 22, has been accepted.

5. A list of amendments to the Civil Service Regulations is appended to this Resolution, showing the additions and corrections made in accordance with the foregoing decisions.

6. A further Resolution will issue subsequently dealing with the remaining questions regarding the leave and pension rules when they are finally decided.

### SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT'S REPLY TO HIS TOAST AT THE SERVICE DINNER TO SIR STEUART BAYLEY PROPOSED BY SIR STEUART BAYLEY.

Sir Charles Elliott rose to acknowledge this toast. He said that he could not claim an acquaintance with his illustrious colleague of so long a date as that which the Chairman could boast. His personal knowledge of Sir Steuart Bayley dated no further back than the year 1877, when the latter was Secretary to the Government of India in the Famine Department, while he was Famine Commissioner for the then province of Mysore. In the course of arranging his papers lately, prior to leaving Simla, he had stumbled on a portly bundle of letters which Sir Steuart had addressed to him while acting in that capacity. He was filled with admiration at the pains which the guest of the evening had taken to explain difficulties, to indicate the policy to be adopted, to guide by wise counsels. Some years later, he had again come in official contact with Sir Steuart Bayley, when succeeding him in the Chief Commissionership of Assam. Once more he recognized the same measure of ready help, the same loyal support in assuring a continuity of policy. Now, for the third time he had to acknowledge on the part of his predecessor in office an earnest desire to lighten the administrative burden by a painstaking exposition of difficulties and experiences. When he (the speaker) very unexpectedly received Lord Lansdowne's commands to undertake the high functions on which he was about to enter he was filled with perplexity. The Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal was said, and probably with some truth, to be second only to the Czarism of Russia in the demands it made on the governing power of him who was called on to fill it. As all lovers of Dante would do, he turned to that glorious poet for inspiration. Opening the third canto of the *Inferno*, he came on the well known line:

All hope ye leave behind who enter here.

This was sufficiently discouraging, though Bengal was not precisely an *Inferno*. But a few lines further on came the poet's appeal to Virgil for aid. The true import of Virgil's reply had escaped the critics. Instead of brooding over the awful inscription that frowned on them from the gates of hell, he showed how the powers of evil might be disarmed.

Here thou must all distrust behind thee leave,

Here be all fear extinguished.

That was the key to the difficult problem—perfect trust in the instruments at one's hand. He was proud to affirm that in the good men and true whom he saw around him he had helpmeets who would stand by him in difficulty and aid him by advice and loyal co-operation.

### SIR STEUART BAYLEY'S REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE BEHAR PLANTERS.

Colonel Hudson and Gentlemen,—I am very grateful to you for the kind feeling which has prompted you to undertake this long journey for the sake of offering me a farewell address on my departure, and thus to give me an opportunity of bidding good-bye to some of the oldest and staunchest personal friends I have in this country. You allude to the part which I took in connection with the establishment of your Association, and you express your belief that the object which that Association sought to attain in the direction of putting the indigo industry in Behar on a sound footing has, to a very great extent, been effected. I am unwilling to detain you long, but I am glad to have an opportunity of stating publicly my satisfaction at the good work the Association has done; and it, in doing this, I go back to its earliest days, it is that I may justify my satisfaction by showing the contrast between *then* and *now*, and to vindicate the wisdom of the action taken by Sir Ashley Eden (for though he was good enough to ask my advice in the matter, the decision was his) in introducing a system of reform by means of the planters themselves rather than by the action of a Commission. It happened that on my return to India, 14 years ago, after a year's furlough, it devolved upon me, as Commissioner of Patna, in continuance of some correspondence between Sir Richard Temple and my *locum tenens*, to examine the records and report on the criminal cases connected with indigo which had taken place in my division during the past nine months. I found they amounted to over 150, and some of them were very serious. In reporting on them I noticed with some severity the main evils of the system, its unremunerativeness, the forcible exchange of lands, the illegal retention of grants after expiry of a

lease, the impressment of, and insufficient payment for ploughs, carts, and labour. After noticing cases in which the courts had, in my opinion, dealt insufficiently with these cases, I added that even in quiet times indigo cases were numerous; and though I quite concurred with Sir Richard Temple that there were no such widespread manifestations of discontent as to render a Commission expedient, yet, the existence of a certain amount of discontent, manifest enough to local officers, and requiring very close watching and strong officers to deal with, was certain. After some further correspondence, Sir Ashley Eden promised to postpone action on the part of Government and to give the action of the Association a trial, and instructed me to answer them in his own words that "I really do desire to seek nothing but a thorough rooting out of the evils which are involved in the present system of managing many of the factories, and that this object being attained, I have every wish to see the cultivation of indigo in Behar maintained and protected." He went on to formulate certain reforms which he desired, and after some further correspondence, in which I took part as Secretary to Government, as to the limits within which these reforms were possible, the Association drew up its rules and set to work. Shortly after this I was removed to another sphere of action, and I can claim but little credit for the part I took in the matter. But the work of the Association went on, and three years afterwards Sir Ashley Eden had an opportunity, when at Sonapur, of publicly reviewing it in a reply to an address there presented to him. He expressed his unqualified satisfaction at the way the Association had fulfilled their promises, and at the success which had attended their efforts. He quoted largely from the successive reports of district officers, who one and all bore testimony to the improved relations between planters and rayyets, to the very large measure of reform which had been introduced, and to the effective interference of the Association when necessary. Not less emphatic was the testimony borne by Sir Rivers Thompson. Since I have succeeded to the charge of the province, I have had frequent opportunities of enquiring into the state of affairs, and have been glad to recognise officially the obligations under which the Government is to the Association. I have recently had occasion, for quite other purposes than my present reply, to go through all the recent annual reports of the Patna Division, and have read the references to indigo and to examine a large number of indigo *sullas*, and what I find generally to exist is this. The price given for indigo plant has been raised 30 per cent. nay, often more—the demand for land has been restricted to three cottahs in the bigah, which is willingly given; the indigo rayyet is protected from any enhancement of his rent. The impressment of and insufficient payment for carts, ploughs, and labour have absolutely ceased. The planters and their assistants have bound themselves not to retain possession of *zeerut* lands after the expiry of the lease, and many cases which would otherwise have involved protracted,

ruinous litigation, have been settled through the influence of the Association, which has been found powerful enough to compel restitution when their member was in the wrong. On the other hand, the annual reports which used to devote pages to reporting on the relations between planters and the rayyets, and to the affrays and troubles which arose out of them, now refer to the subject only in a few brief sentences, generally stating that the relations are satisfactory, and alluding to the Association as an important part of the administrative machinery of the province. On the principle that the better your digestion works, the less is the attention you pay to it—this absence of reference to indigo disputes is significant; but for this reason and especially "because offences must needs come," and only three-fourths of factories in Behar are under the Association, I should be glad to see more space devoted to the subject. Anyway, your record is satisfactory. I am far from saying that there are no elements of danger and unsatisfactory features remaining in the indigo system. But I recognise the difficulty of removing these, and am satisfied that the Association has worked for thirteen years with perfect loyalty and steadfastness of purpose in the direction of improvement and in hearty co-operation with the authorities, and its history is one of good work well done, for which the Government cannot too warmly tender its acknowledgments. And now I have to ask how were these results brought about? In the first place, the material was there. The majority of the planters were honest men, who recognised not merely the expediency of putting their house in order, but the justice of the reforms demanded, and were willing to bind themselves by a self-denying ordinance if once the way was shown. But what is every one's business is no one's business, and each individual would be tempted to say, Why should I set up as a reformer and do otherwise than my neighbours to my own certain detriment? Some motive, however, was wanted to bring into action the latent energy and good feeling that existed. I am, I believe, not wrong in saying that from the day when Mr. Hudson became General Secretary till now, he has supplied this motive power, and it is to his energy, straightforwardness, and well-earned influence that the marked success of the Association has been due. I should be glad to learn that every factory in Behar had joined the Association, but in the meantime I recognise that your influence and your example must act beyond your own limits, and indirectly affect those who have not joined you. In conclusion, while again thanking you for your address, and for the extremely kind feeling you have displayed towards me personally, I can only add that your good work is recognised by Government, and express my hope that you will continue to work more energetically in the direction of reform, and that you will receive the full support and co-operation of the local authorities; and lastly, while wishing you all possible prosperity, to bid you, not as Lieutenant-Governor, but as an old friend of most of you, a sad farewell. (Loud applause.)

#### KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND.

The Editor of the "INDIAN MIRROR" begs to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following sums in aid of the above Fund:—

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**CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.**  
FORM E.  
ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.

NOTICE UNDER ACT II. (B. C.) OF 1888.

NOTICE is hereby given that the valuation of

Ward No. 13—Bounded on the north by Dhurumtollah Street, south by Kyd Street, Free School Street, and Ripon Street, east by Wellesley Street, and west by Chowringhee Road.

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Ward No. 15—Bounded on the north by Ripon Street, south by Theatre Road, east by Lower Circular Road, and west by Wellesley Street and Wood Street.

between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

Any person, desiring to object to the said valuations must, within fifteen days from this date, deliver at the Office of the Commissioners a notice in writing, stating the grounds of his objection.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman will proceed to hear the objections.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
16th December 1890.

**CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.**

Sealed Tenders for supply of Miscellaneous Stores during the Quarter ending 31st March 1891, will be received by the Vice-Chairman, and will be opened by him, in the presence of tenderers who may wish to attend, at 2 P.M., on the 22nd instant.

Forms of Tenders and copies of list stores required can be had on application.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

(Sd.) U. N. SINGHEE,  
Superintendent of Stores.

15th December 1890.

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**The Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Company, Ltd.**

*Proceedings of the Second Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of the Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Company, Ltd., held at the Registered Office of the Company, No. 2, Commercial Buildings, on Saturday the 13th December, 1890, at 3 P.M.*

**PRESENT:**

Baboo Toolsy Dass Roy.  
" Brojo Nauth Dutt.  
" Rajendra Nauth Sett.  
" Woorna Churn Ghosal.  
" Bahary Lal Pyne.  
" N. C. Bural.  
" Chunni Lal Sinha.  
Mr. R. D. Metha.  
" P. J. Schollay.

Mr. R. D. Metha was invited to take the chair.

The notice convening the meeting was then read and the following resolutions were proposed.

**RESOLUTION I.**

Proposed by Baboo Toolsy Dass Roy.

Seconded by Baboo Brojo Nauth Dutt.

That the Directors' report be adopted, and accounts to 30th November last as laid before the Shareholders be passed as correct.

Carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION II.**

Proposed by Baboo N. C. Bural.

Seconded by Baboo Bahary Lal Pyne.

That Messrs. Lovelock and Lewis be elected Auditors of the Company for the ensuing year on a remuneration of Rs. 200 per annum.

Carried unanimously.

This concluded the business of the Ordinary Meeting which then resolved itself into an Extraordinary General Meeting and passed the special resolution of which due notice had been given to the shareholders.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting separated.

R. D. METHA.  
Chairman.

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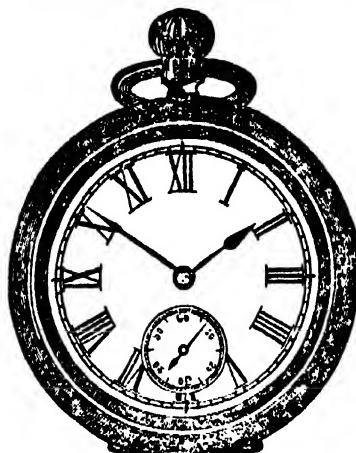
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**Rivers Steam Navigation Co. "Limited."**

This Company's Steamer "**NEPAUL**", will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday, the 23rd instant.

All cargo for shipment by the above vessel should be sent to the Company's Godowns at Juggannauth Ghat, not later than 5 P.M. of Saturday, the 20th instant.

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The steamer "**THIKAK**" of this line will leave Calcutta for Cachar on the 23rd instant (Tuesday) for which cargo will be received until 5 P.M. of Saturday the 20th instant.

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**GOALUNDO**

and

**DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM**

**DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.**

A daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, *i. e.*, packages not weighing over half a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. train (Madras time) from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

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All particulars as to rates of freight and passage by all the above mentioned Services to be had on application to—

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Calcutta, the 18th December, 1890.

**REIS & RAYYET**

(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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AND

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Business Communications (post paid) to be directed to "The Manager," and Literary Communications and books and pamphlets (carriage paid) to "The Editor" of "Reis & Rayyet."

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. IX. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1890.

} No. 454

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### AN EVENING'S ROMANCE.

CLOSER draw the curtain's fold,  
For the night is bitter cold ;  
Earth and sky alike are dreary,  
And my heart and eyes are weary  
Of the mist and clung all day  
(Like a veil of saddest gray,  
Heavy and funereal,)  
O'er the ash-trees, bare and tall,  
O'er the dark green firs, that stand  
Like grim mourners, hand in hand,  
Round about an open tomb,  
Saddened with a changeless gloom.  
I am weary of the sight  
Of those larch-boughs lung and light,  
Waving, waving to and fro,  
With a motion sadly slow,  
While the wind sighs out amain,  
Like a human soul in pain.  
As upon some sandy shore  
When the tempest's rage is o'er,  
And the breeze's trumpet-tone  
Sinketh to a whispered moan,  
Some pale form may lie outspread,  
Lone, and ocean-stained, and dead—  
Some young girl, whose flowing hair,  
Strewn in mournful beauty there,  
(When the waters come and go  
With a tranquil ebb and flow,)  
Rises on each wavelet's crest,  
Drops when sinks the wave to rest,  
Even so those branches bare,  
Float upon the moaning air.

We will turn from thoughts like this  
To a fairy realm of bliss—  
*It's?* Alas ! I am alone !  
He, whose voice's kindly tone  
Aye responded to mine own,  
Wanders far away ; and those,  
Who from dawn to daylight's close,  
Flitting oft from room to room,  
Chased away the wintry gloom  
With the music of their feet,  
And the sound of laughter sweet ;  
Those gay sprites, those children fair,  
Bright-haired, blue-eyed, laughing pair  
(She whose ready fancy still  
Summons blithest scenes at will,  
Hears the swallow's coming wings,  
Sees gay flowers and summer things,

Where my sad eye only sees  
Withered plants and leafless trees ;  
And that younger one, so bright  
With her spirit's sunny light,  
That a stranger's eye will dwell  
On her face, as if the spell  
Of her happy beauty won  
Ev'ry heart it shone upon ; )  
Each within her little nest  
Lieth wrapt in joyful rest.  
Yet, to-night, with spirit free,  
Lone and silent though I be,  
I will dream a poet's dream,  
Sitting by the fire's red gleam.  
I will gaze with joyful glance  
On the woods of old Romance—  
Those wild woods that never fade,  
Flinging everlasting shade  
Over paths of living green,  
Winding, hoary stems between ;  
Leading oft to nooks apart,  
Where no sunbeam e'er can dart  
Through the leafy screen above,  
Whence the voice of hidden dove  
Low replieth to the fall  
Of the waters musical  
Welling from a fountain clear,  
Calmly glad as all things near.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Now along a pathway wide  
(Whence diverge on either side  
Lesser paths, with flowers bestrown,  
Or with burnished moss o'ergrown,)  
Comes a war-horse' stately tread :  
High he rears his graceful head,  
And the grass is flecked below,  
As he moves, with foam like snow.  
Sleek his coat, and black as night,  
Save that one small star of white  
Gleams upon his brow : dark red  
Are his housings, thickly spread  
With a maze of golden thread ;  
On his bridle glitter fair  
Wroughten gold and broid'ry rare.  
Bears he forth a youthful knight,  
Armed and ready for the fight.  
He in garb of mail is drest,  
And above his jewelled crest  
Milk-white plumes are floating free,  
Stainless as his fame can be.  
O'er the dappled turf he rides,  
And anon a sunbeam glides  
Through the boughs above his track,  
And its light is given back

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given any other being unnecessary, and likely to cause confusion.*

By his armour's dazzling sheen ;  
Then through depths of shades serene,  
Where dark cedars o'er them bend,  
Steed and rider calmly wend.

Now, in thought, some long-past fight  
Flashes o'er the warrior's sight,  
And his lance he proudly shakes,  
While a muttered war-cry breaks  
From his parted lips ; and now  
Dear remembrance of the vow,  
Uttered by a voice as sweet  
As the hidden streams that fleet  
Where the shadow deepest lies,  
Bringeth softness to his eyes.  
While his heart with fondness thrills,  
At the thought of those far hills,  
Where the lady of his heart  
In her sadness dwells apart.  
Suddenly a bitter wail  
Rises on the summer gale.  
Bound to succour all who need,  
Lo, the knight hath turned his steed  
Down a walk bestrewn with showers  
Of the linden's yellow flowers !  
Dim the light that passeth through  
Interwoven branch and bough ;  
Heavy is the air beneath  
With the blossoms' scented breath ;  
Drowsy with their toil the bees  
Hang in clusters on the trees,  
Moving on, from time to time,  
With their pleasant summer chime,  
Answered by a merry note  
From the leaf-hid cuckoo's throat.

Soon, beyond the linden shade,  
Sees the knight a turf glade,  
Folded in with mountain peaks,  
Down whose sides in glitt'ring streaks  
Many a singing streamlet flows :  
In the midst, in still repose,  
Lies outspread a crystal pool,  
And within its waters cool,  
Mirrored sleeps the quiet sky ;  
And a pearly cloud sails by—  
E'en as if an angel flew  
O'er the depths of calmest blue.

But a woful sight is now  
'Neath the cedar's whisp'ring bough ;  
Stretched upon the turf lies one  
Whose last battle-deed is done.  
Falls the red sword from his hand,  
Broken like a willow-wand ;  
Helm and breastplate, all unbound,  
Lie beside him on the ground ;  
And the life-blood welleteth slow  
From a wound upon his brow.  
At his head a lady fair,  
Kneeling, with her long bright hair,  
Strives to staunch the wound—in vain !  
Gasping sigh and sob of pain  
Echo back her saddest fear,  
And she feels that death is near.  
Wildly weeps she in her woe,  
O'er his face the hot tears flow ;  
Yet he speaks no loving word—  
He whose heart was ever stirred  
By the lightest grief that stole  
O'er the sunshine of her soul !

Swift the wand'ring knight draws nigh,  
Gazing with a pitying eye  
On the lady's tear-stained cheek ;  
Words of cheer he fain would speak,

But he feels how vain they were  
In that hour of wild despair.  
Quickly from his steed he springs,  
Lance and shield aside he flings,  
And the scarf his lady wove  
(Precious token of her love)  
From his gallant breast unwinds,  
And about the stranger binds.  
Vain his care—he writhes no more—  
One deep sigh and all is o'er !

Then he strives with gentle speech  
That sad lady's ear to reach,  
Praying her, in brief, to tell  
How such cruel hap befell ;  
And at last, in accents weak,  
Strives she all the truth to speak,  
Pausing many a time to weep  
O'er her hero's bloody sleep.  
Tells she how for many a day  
They had wandered blithe and gay ;  
Tells she how her sire held sway  
O'er a lovely land that lay  
On the sunny Indian shore ;  
Tells she how that warrior bore  
From her gentle mother's side  
Her, his fond and wedded bride.  
Wrought he many a deed of fame  
For the love of his dear dame ;  
Strong and ready was his arm,  
Rescuing the weak from harm,  
Laying low each wicked wight,  
As became a stalwart knight.  
But, at last, a paynim hold,  
With a shield of fretted gold,  
And a lance of magic might,  
Met him there in deadly fight :  
Powerless the paynim's arm,  
But for help of magic charin ;  
Strong in that unearthly strength,  
He had won the day at length.  
Bent he o'er his porstrate foe,  
When the lady's shriek of woe  
Brought the Flow'r of Knighthood near,  
And the clatiff fled in fear  
(Warned of old to keep aloof  
From that armour, magic-proof.)  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Hark, the clock !—an hour hath sped,  
And my sunny dream is fled—  
Fled while I as yet could see,  
Dimly, how the end would be ;  
Ere the knight had laid the corse  
Gently on his own war-horse,  
And had passed adown the dell  
To a holy hermit's cell ;  
Ere the hermit's cares had shown  
Life, in truth, was not yet flown—  
And the lady's tears fell fast,  
When the hour of woe was past—  
Weeping more in joy's excess  
Than she'd wept in bitterness !  
Passed those phantoms of the brain,  
Never to be seen again—  
Save, perhaps, in dreamy trance,  
'Mong the woods of old Romance !

*Holloway's Pills.*—Nervousness and want of Energy.—When first the nerves feel unstrung, and listlessness supplants energy, the time has come to take some such alternative as Holloway's Pills to restrain a disorder from developing itself into a disease. These excellent Pills correct all irregularities and weaknesses. They act so kindly, yet so energetically on the functions of digestion and assimilation, that the whole body is revived, the blood rendered purer, while the muscles become firmer and stronger, and the nervous and absorbent systems are invigorated. These Pills are suitable for all classes and all ages. They have a most marvellous effect on persons who are out of condition ; they soon rectify whatever is in fault, restore strength to the body and confidence to the mind.

## NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THIS is a busy and brilliant time in India. Christmas week has been enlivened and made memorable by a more than royal—an imperial connection. On Tuesday the Prince Imperial of Russia, in the course of his Imperial Grand Tour to the East, reached our shores and stepped on our soil. The Indian sensation of the season centres in *primus in Indis*—the Western Gate for all comers by the sea, great or small.

That gate seems to labour under a chronological curse. Some freak of destiny always interferes with people keeping time. Comers are invariably before or behind. If last year His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor landed in advance by two hours of his appointment, this year His Imperial Highness the Czarewitch landed full two hours and a half beyond the fixed time. If the one by haste robbed a spectacle and lost a triumph, the other by delay spoiled a popular enjoyment, disgusted the officials and demi-officials who were on duty to receive the great stranger, and distressed all.

THE final forecast of the rice crop in Bengal for 1890 is hopeful. Since the date of the Agricultural Department's first report, there has been copious and seasonable rain over the whole province, improving the prospect of the crop considerably. In only a few districts of North and East Bengal, damage to the extent of 2 to 3 annas has been caused by excessive rain and floods. With this exception, a full average crop may be safely expected throughout Bengal. The tracts in which there is cause for watchfulness on the part of the local authorities are the Sudder and Chuadanga Sub-divisions of Nuddea, the Bongong and Jhenida Sub-divisions of Jessore and the Sudder and Sewan Sub-divisions of Sarun, where, owing to the floods, the outturn is likely to fall short of 8 annas.

The quantity of rice available for export in the coming year, calculated upon the statistics of the last year, is put down by Mr. Finucane at the same figure as that of the last, as the present year's outturn of the crop is expected to be nearly equal to that of 1889.

MR. P. C. LYON having joined the Staff of the Lieutenant-Governor as Private Secretary, Mr. H. Luson acts as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments. It is hoped he will be judicial enough and judicious in his new appointment.

ON the principle, we believe, of once vested cannot be divested, the Secretary of State has ruled that the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin, the junior member of Council, will continue as Provisional Governor of Madras, until the arrival of Lord Wenlock, the Governor elect, notwithstanding the return in the meantime of the senior member the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes.

A PARAGRAPH is going the round announcing not only a cure but a most simple and apparently effectual cure for that dreaded disease—diphtheria. It is fathered upon an English physician who is named as "the celebrated Dr. Field." It is said that, during an epidemic, a few years ago in England, while men were dying on all sides from diphtheria, although attended by the best physicians, Dr. Field's patients all quickly recovered. The disease is so rapid in its prognosis, that he was compelled to be his patients' apothecary and nurse. He carried his drug on his professional round. It was simple, though, if sufficiently ominous—brimstone and fire! Provided with a quantity of commercial sulphur, and his quiver filled with a number of goose-quills, Dr. Field went forth to fight the Demon Diphtheria in the epidemic-stricken district, and, by the blessing of God, was able to command victory in every instance. Such a record of unfailing success, without a single exception, is remarkable. In fact, the story rather strikes one as rather too good to be true. At any rate, the account is clearly no advertising trick. As the Faculty are powerless in presence of the enemy, and patients and patients' friends in their desperation are ready to seize at any stray straw for protection, we think we should be wanting in duty if we neglected to lay the recipe before our readers, from a conceit of philosophy or contempt of the means as inadequate to the end in view. So we quote the mode:—

"He put a teaspoonful of flowers of sulphur into a wineglassful of water and stirred it with his finger instead of a spoon, as the sulphur does not readily amalgamate with water. When the sulphur was well

mixed he gave it as a gargle, and in ten minutes the patient was out of danger. Brimstone kills every species of fungus in a man, beast, and plant in a few minutes.

Instead of spitting out the gargle, he recommended the swallowing of it. In extreme cases, in which he had been called just in the nick of time, when the fungus was too nearly closing to allow the gargling, he blew the sulphur through a quill into the throat. After the fungus had shrunk to allow of it, he then gave the gargle. He never lost a patient from diphtheria."

So much for the brimstone treatment. Now for the fire!

"If a patient cannot gargle, take a live coal, put it on a shovel, and sprinkle a spoonful or two of flowers of sulphur or some stick brimstone upon it, then let the sufferer inhale the fumes, and the fungus will die."

BARMO Rameswar Proshad Narain Singh, of Mukshudpore, in the District of Gya, early in the year, paid Rs. 15,000 towards the Lady Doctors' fund. He closes the year with another donation of Rs. 9,000 "to be spent in providing a building for the accommodation of the Lady Doctor attached to the Gya branch of Lady Dufferin's Fund and of native *pardanashin* ladies who do not wish to go to the common hospital for treatment." The occasion for this last liberality was the visit of Sir Stuart Bayley to Gya. At any rate, it is the wish of the donor that the donation should be connected with the late Lieutenant-Governor's name.

A BARBER in Ceylon committed the freak of shaving only the half of a Mussulman's head. For declining to shave the other half, the Mussulman went to Court charging the barber with mischief. No process was issued but the judicial advice was to have the unshaved half shaved.

THE long expected and promised reduction of mail postage is announced at last. From the first day of January 1891, letters from British India to any part of the United Kingdom will be charged at the rate of two and a half annas, instead of four and half annas, for every half ounce or fraction of half an ounce in weight. For the same charge, letters will be carried between Aden and any other part of British India, in either direction. The new rate applies to letters that will be posted in India after this week's mail, that is, despatched by the mail steamer leaving Bombay on Saturday the 3rd January 1891.

THE Senate of the Calcutta University is anxious to make the University something more than an examining body and to introduce election into its constitution. Towards those ends, it has adopted some resolutions asking the Government to amend the Incorporation Act. Lord Lansdowne has already anticipated the Senate partially. It was announced at the last Convocation, that the Degree holders would be allowed the liberty of nominating Fellows. As will be seen in the advertisement in another column, there will be a meeting, on the 1st January next, of the M. A.'s and holders of corresponding degrees in other Faculties, to choose from among themselves two gentlemen for recommendation for Fellowship of the University.

The University means to inaugurate the New Year with the exercise of the new right. In its eagerness, it forgets that the New Year's Day is a public holiday under law.

A GREAT hardship is about to be caused to plucked B. A. students, who had prepared themselves to appear at the ensuing examination to be held in February, by a recent Resolution of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University. These students were, under the rules as hitherto interpreted, only required to complete a course of continuous study for six months and, relying upon that interpretation, they had taken their admissions in affiliated institutions on various dates in September after the 1st of that month. The old interpretation hitherto followed by all the Colleges is now set aside by the Syndicate. Without questioning the correctness of their interpretation or their wisdom in adopting it, we should only ask them not to give it effect this year, as by that means a number of students, who had no notice of the change before taking their admissions and indeed before their preparations for the examination had been far advanced, will be unjustly prejudiced.

UNDER the new powers taken last year, by Act XV of 1890, the Governor-General in Council has fixed 70 millions of rupees as the amount of the coin and bullion received for currency notes which need not be retained and secured as a reserve to pay such notes.



A NEW rule has been added to the existing rules under the Indian Emigrants' Health Act I. (B. C.) of 1889. It came into force from the 24th instant and runs thus :—

"Every Agent forwarding emigrants to Cachar or Sylhet by steamer or country boat, from or through Goalundo, shall cause the emigrants, previous to embarkation or continuation of journey, to be placed for inspection before the Government Medical Officer appointed for that purpose at that port of embarkation."

THE Government of Bengal has taken to blundering as regards the Holidays. On the 3rd December, it notified three days' general not public Mahomedan holidays for the year 1891, namely,

Eed-ul-zoha, 17th July.

Mohurrum, 15th August.

Fatiha-doaz-dahum, 16th October.

This week, the *Calcutta Gazette* corrects that notification and allows five days, thus :—

Eed-ul-fitr, on the 11th May if the moon be not visible on the 9th May. If the moon is visible the holiday will fall on the 10th May, which is a Sunday.

Eed-ul-zoha, on the 17th July, or, if the moon be not visible on the 7th July, the holiday will fall on the 18th.

Mohurrum, on the 16th and 17th August, or, if the moon be not visible on the 7th, on the 15th and 16th August. The 16th August is a Sunday.

Futti-doaz-dahum, on the 17th October, or, if the moon be not visible on the 5th October, on the 16th October.

SUSPICION upon suspicion! Crime upon crime! Public murder piled upon private murder! Murder none the less foul—nay, murder all the more outrageous for being the irrevocable vengeance of the blind Justice of the State! Last week, we noticed a criminal organization at Warsaw for massacre of the innocents. This week, it is our painful duty to record a judicial and gubernatorial murder of an innocent man in the same province—in the Novomeskovesky district. A sergeant was found murdered. The culprit could not be traced. A victim must be found. The Police were at work, and suspicions fell upon a young officer, named Perioff, son of a millionaire and a tea merchant at Moscow. The young man was tried, found guilty of the murder, and condemned to death. As soon as the father came to know of it, he telegraphed offering 200,000 roubles as bail for one week's respite. The Governor-General Gurko was firm. He would not allow any time for reopening the enquiry or for any attempts to save the young life, and ordered immediate carrying out of the sentence of court. So young Perioff expired on the gallows, for a crime of which he was immediately after proved to be innocent. The very next day of his ignominious death, a Jewish woman came forward and accused her husband of the crime which had already been expiated by the blood of Perioff, and the husband confessed that he had murdered the sergeant on suspicion of criminal connection with her.

At the opening of the winter session of the Lolesworth Club in the East of London, Lord Coleridge thus spoke of public speaking :—

"He would first, however, point out that fine language was worthless unless it was founded on thought, and thought had little value unless it was supported by knowledge and fact. It was said that eloquence had left the Bar, only lingered in Parliament, and was almost leaving the pulpit. But he had listened at the Bar to Sir Alexander Cockburn, to Bethell, to Lord Cairns, and to the greatest of all the advocates who, in his time, had adorned the profession, and was supreme in the art of forensic speaking, Sir William Erle, and he had no doubt that all these great men would agree with him in dissenting from that proposition so far as the Bar was concerned. Then it could hardly be said of a Parliament, which still numbered Mr. Gladstone among its members, and which but lately had, either in rapt silence or amid tempestuous applause, listened to Disraeli and Bright, that eloquence had departed from its portals. He was fully convinced that eloquence had lost none of its power in the Parliament of Great Britain. As to the pulpit, he had in past years, Sunday after Sunday, hung upon the almost inspired lips of the great Cardinal whom all England the other day followed to his tomb. Although he had himself never heard the late Canon Liddon or the Bishop of Peterborough, their names alone proved that eloquence had not deserted our churches. Language was the vehicle of thought and was the distinguishing feature which marked mankind off from the rest of the animal creation, and clearness of thought was therefore indispensable to the proper and effective use of language. He would conclude with the words of a wise and witty man—the present Bishop of Oxford. The Bishop and an excellent Professor were both members of the Hebdomadal Council at Oxford, and after a debate one day they walked home together. The Professor said to the Bishop

that he was afraid he had been talking rather too much, as no doubt was the case. 'But,' continued the Professor, 'after all, the great distinction—isn't it?—is that a man can talk, but an ape cannot.' 'I don't know,' replied the Bishop, 'had you not better put it that an ape cannot hold his tongue, but a man can.' That precept of the Bishop he intended to follow."

## NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Parnellites and anti-Parnellites are still fighting like cats. Their grammar of warfare is sound, or rather their zoology. At Kilkenny, they could not, without obvious impropriety, fly at each other like cocks or dogs. There were several riotous meetings at Johnstown, in the neighbourhood of that habitat of the famous heroes of the feline race, over the local election. The Police interfered and prevented a collision. Mr. Parnell, finding no chance for his candidate Mr. Scully began abusing Sir John Pope Hennessy. But his denunciation was without vivacity or point—mere rage in words at random. Mr. Parnell called Sir John "a mongrel skinner." Mr. Parnell was never an artist in the nomenclature of vituperation like old Cobbett. But he ought to have done better than that against a man he hates for his pure life and fears as a rival. That "skinner," however, carried the election, by a majority of 1,147 votes, polling 2,503 against his opponent's 1,356, and will give Mr. Parnell further trouble when they meet at Phillippi. Mr. Scully has questioned the result, alleging undue influence of the priests. With vulgar effrontery, Mr. Parnell's followers proceeded to turn that defeat into a triumph. Mr. Parnell was not ashamed to receive an ovation after the poll and allowed himself to be chaired. He, in his turn, cheered up his supporters attributing the defeat of Scully to conspiracy and declaring his intention of continuing the fight for justice. Everything that goes against him is conspiracy with him. The courts are leagued against him. Mr. Gladstone and the Gladstonians have maliciously combined for his destruction. His own party have conspired his ruin. If hotel-keepers charge him that only shows a deep-laid plot. He breathes an atmosphere of treason. There is an ambush in every street and every lane against him. If he believes what he says he is truly to be pitied.

THE Yule Tide was ushered in Great Britain by a heavy fall of snow, for full 24 hours, on the 19th instant, and the season is terribly severe. At Nottingham, the river Trent is frozen over, so is the Severn at Worcester. The Upper Thames too is frozen. For five days, London was enveloped in snow, frost and fog—to the detriment of business specially in the docks and to the misery of the people. Dr. Barnardo's London Homes containing nearly four thousand waifs appeal to Englishmen in India for funds—for a generous Christmas gift, and a special telegram says that hundreds of street children are homeless and foodless.

A BUENOS AYRES telegram flashes a doleful wail from Cordova in the Argentine Province, where the canal burst destroying hundreds of houses and drowning one hundred people.

THERE is a general wages strike on the Scotch railways. The mineral traffic is wholly and passenger traffic partially suspended. It is at present confined to the North British line. Nine thousand hands are idle. Already the cities in Scotland are suffering from a scarcity of food and coals and factories are closing for want of fuel.

DOCTOR Koch has made further progress in his new discovery. The State buys up his lymph-making establishment. He receives one million marks immediately and another million from the yearly profits on the sales of lymph.

SIR Joseph Boehm, Sculptor-in-ordinary to the Queen, was found dead in his studio on the 12th, by the Princess Louise who had been on a visit to him. His remains were interred, on the 20th, at the Painters' Corner, St. Paul's Cathedral, beside the remains of Sir Edwin Landseer. The funeral was attended by the Princess Louise and representatives from the Queen and the Prince of Wales and the leading members of the Royal Academy of which he was a member.

The deceased had a strange career. A Hungarian by race, he was born in Vienna in 1834. His was no case of young genius under difficulties struggling with adversity at training time and even after fighting for existence with an inappreciative harsh world. Comfortably born, he had all the advantages of education and good bringing-up. Son of the Superintendent of the Austrian Mint, he was destined for his father's place. But the endless coins and medals in his father's cabinet and in the state mint, which he necessarily saw every day, and which he was encouraged to see constantly and to examine, fed a latent instinct for art. In stimulating in his son a love of not numismatology but coinage and coining, the father only developed young Boehm's taste in the direction of moulding substantial forms, so that he took up the art that deals with subjects in thorough relief. Among his untaught exercises, he executed such drawings of coins and medals for his father that the old man was delighted at such assistance so early, and at the prospect of finally, and soon enough, being able to retire in favour of such a successor of his own blood. These anticipations proved vain. The son was too great an artist to drudge as a mint modeller or even to be content to be the Superintendent of all the mints in Europe. The spell of beauty drew him on. He longed to feast on Nature and the works of man and to learn the mysteries of their influence and add works of his own. Sent out at a liberal outlay to complete in England his literary and scientific education begun in Austria, he divided his three years in the British Isles between Art and Science. Returning home, he entered the Imperial Mint with assured prospects. He now devoted himself with single-minded zeal to his love. No wonder he soon achieved a remarkable success. In 1856, when he was only twenty two, he won the Vienna Prize and, what was of the utmost practical importance to him, he obtained the privilege of exemption from the conscription. By this he had acquired such confidence in himself and such credit in his family that he allowed himself, and was reluctantly allowed, to abandon office in quest of fame and fortune in the exercise of Art. Vienna being too far in the rear of the empire of civilization, he sought the great world of Western Europe. So in 1862, he went to Paris. After a brief stay there, he finally settled in England. Next to Vienna he knew, and was known in, London best. He came home among the British, and he naturalised—that is, *artificialised*—himself here. The foreigner became an Englishman in law. Coming well-provided with funds, a gentleman by birth and education, and of excellent talk, in fluent English, he was easily admitted into society. His recognition as an artist soon followed. He had the good fortune of interesting the Royal Family. That is not necessarily a tribute to worth. The late Baron Marochetti too had been the favoured of English Royalty and aristocracy, and though certainly derided beyond his demerits, he was a poor statuary. It would seem as if our Royal Family in their appreciation wanted to make amends for their bad taste in having made so much of that Italian. The Hungarian was worthy of all regard. He challenged admiration by his grasp of subject, his boldness of treatment, and his technical skill. To him Art itself is indebted for much of the revived interest in sculpture. His claims are admitted on the Continent. He was recognised as a master in Italy itself, so contemptuous of the art pretensions of other nations. He was elected to the Academy of Florence in 1875, and to that of Rome in 1880. In England, he rose from Associate to Academician. He was more than a mere artist—he was one of the leading oracles of the day in art. And a right wise oracle was he. He was no extremist either in Pre-Raphaelitism or Idealism, but dead equally against conventionalism and inane formalism. He insisted on sincerity—on reality if you will, but not the vulgar realism so much in vogue at this moment on both sides of the Channel. And he educated the taste of his generation with a variety of choice works of every description instinct with life and meaning yet beautiful with a chaste beauty. As the favorite sculptor of Royalty and aristocracy, he has illustrated the annals of contemporary England with monuments, great and small, in marble, bronze or terra cotta. He has executed more colossal statues than any artist. He is wellknown in the East. We owe to his genius some of the most splendid works of art which adorn our great cities, the equestrian statue of the Prince of Wales in Bombay, the colossal statues of Lord Napier of Magdala, and of Lord Northbrook, the former equestrian, in Calcutta, the colossal statue of Sir William Gregory in Colombo, and last not least the fine Ashley Eden, in Calcutta, in marble, condemned to exposure to all the vicissitudes of Tropical weather. Happy was England to attract such a foreigner. In the great Maggyar, Sculpture has lost its highest exponent.

Now that the municipal elections are over, it is for the district authorities to analyse their character and redress any inequalities in representation which may be found to have resulted from them. It is for this purpose Government has wisely reserved in its own hands the power of nominating one-third of the Municipal Commissioners after the people have elected their larger proportion. But this object is likely to be frustrated if the authorities are blindly led by the retiring Chairmen in making nominations. Perhaps there is a precedent for this in the practice of the Calcutta Municipality as well as that of other municipalities under official Chairmen. But this should be no precedent, as there is a world of difference between an official and a non-official in deciding upon personal claims. A non-official retiring Chairman in making his recommendations is likely to have selfish and party ends in view which an official is always independent of. An official's tenure of office is sufficiently secure and he does not care so much for a following as for good men and true to work under him. The non-official, on the contrary, has only an eye to the continuance of his power or the ascendancy of his party. This being the case, the District Magistrate cannot be too careful in receiving counsel from such an interested quarter. We hear the Government Commissionerships are already put up for sale. *Assure me of your vote for my re-election as Chairman, and I make you a Government nominee.* Such is the way in which retiring Chairmen are reported to be going about in search of accommodating colleagues in the Boards about to be formed. We fear there is truth in the reports. The practice, in at any rate the district of 24-Pergunnahs from the introduction of Local Self-Government, has been to leave the nominations almost entirely to the Chairman. During a short period in which Mr. Skrine was in charge of the Municipal department of this Magistracy under Mr. Forbes, then on tour, there were indications that the practice would not be continued, but with the return of Mr. Forbes it was revived. All we can say is, if this is the actual practice, the sooner it were abandoned the better for municipal interests.

At Howrah, a great wrong is threatened on the Mahomedan community. The inequality of municipal representation due to election is too great to be redressed by any means. Out of 20 elected seats in the Municipality, 19 have been carried by the Hindus, the remaining one having fallen to a European. Of the 10 appointed Commissioners on the last Board, one was a Mahomedan and, it is reported, even this one representative of Mahomedan interests is going to be removed in favor of a Hindu. This is nothing less than an outrage, and we dare say Government will not allow it.

THE Universities have been far from an unmixed good in this country. They have no doubt given a powerful impetus to the numerical progress of education. The standard of education also, as judged by the course of studies and the examinations held, has been elevated. But the culture attained by the *alumni* lacks depth and solidity. The methods of instruction and examination encourage superficiality and this from the top to the bottom of the system. We are not unaware of the fact that there are scholars turned out by the Indian Universities who will hold their own with the graduates of any Universities in the world, but these are exceptional instances produced in spite of the system rather than by it. This superficiality has been constantly on the increase till there is now no educational effort of any kind unaffected by its blighting influence. The evil is a serious one, and it behoves the leaders of thought and opinion and action in the country to ponder the question and set to work to find out a remedy. We are therefore glad to find the attention of a practical thinker like the Ruler of the Upper Provinces has already been turned to the subject. Speaking the other day at the Canning College, Sir Auckland Colvin referred to this great defect of University education. That education is one-sided and develops the memory at the expense of the understanding, and Sir Auckland called upon the University authorities to endeavour gradually so to shape the course of studies by the manner and matter of the examinations as to remove the reproach of unsoundness. The remedies he suggested are the true ones. The matter as well as the manner of the examinations should be modified and that—as he wisely said—gradually.

THE activity of modern legislation has been always a topic of ridicule. Laws are manufactured with the rapidity of mills, and no wonder the

products are sometimes so careless that they must soon give place to others. Thus the Legislature had an interminable work of making, repealing and amending, which made Artemus Ward wonder that Parliaments should meet in winter to undo the work of the previous summer and meet again winter and summer to repeat the same course of making and unmaking. That the statute book should be swelled to inordinate bulk in consequence of this never-ending activity is nothing but natural. The multiplicity of the laws is due also to causes independent of the perfunctoriness of their makers. The ever-increasing variety and complexity of civilized life make a constant demand upon the law giver. As we live we outgrow past conditions and there must be a continual process of legislative renewal to suit the altered circumstances. This has been at work in our Indian legislatures from the beginning till the time has come when, in the words of Sir Andrew Scoble, the Statute Book must be cleared of dead matter. The same necessity has occurred in Bengal, and thus we have the Obsolete Enactments Bill in both the Imperial and the Provincial Councils. Mr. Allen in charge of the Bengal Bill fully described its scope by calling it the waste-paper basket of the Bengal Council.

THE natives of India are avenged. After all the ridicule heaped by the Anglo-Indian journals upon the native press and public for their anxiety respecting the visit of the Heir of All the Russias, here comes the London *Spectator* with an article from the pen of one of the most brilliant of living writers and about the deepest speculator on Asiatic politics, the keynote of which is thus given at the very outset:—

“Rather hard on the chickens, to be compelled to welcome the fox in their own farm-yard, and to be exceedingly grateful for the honour done to them by the visit. That, we fancy, will very nearly express the feeling of the Anglo-Indians, when they see from Lord Salisbury's speech that the heir to the throne of all the Russias is actually on his way to make a tour through India, during which they will be obliged to play the attentive, and greatly complimented hosts.”

The same writer gives an old anecdote of how thirty years back a Russian *savant* was not permitted to travel in India for fear of the consequences to British sovereignty. And now the second man in Russia comes in in state and is welcomed by the rulers of India and allowed to be suitably received by the Princes and people.

THERE are indications unmistakable of a religious revival in our midst. Whilst only a decade before, Hindu students under English education were as a rule found ashamed to conform to the daily religious observances of a Hindu and never cared to bow to the figures of Hindu deities they met on their way, the very reverse is the case with the generation of students living now. The change has come about quietly. Not only is one not ashamed of Hinduism but it is openly and decently professed. There is no ostentation. There is no aggressiveness. There are perhaps none of the signs of a violent reaction. We cannot refrain from one regrettable feature among a section of the rising generation, viz., a tendency to asceticism which is doing much harm to society. The tendencies at work originating from an impulse given by the famous Hindu teacher Dwayananda Saraswati culminated probably in the late Hindu gathering at Delhi. An organized movement for the promotion of the Hindu religion has been determined upon at this gathering and all friends of the cause look forward with interest to the further steps that are taken to give shape to the scheme of the leaders. In the Punjab the revivalistic movement has taken a more practical turn. The object aimed at here is to correct the denationalising effects of English education, and both Hindus and Sikhs are founding schools where, in addition to the education required to equip the scholars for the business of life, religious instruction is given with the object of preserving their character and manners from the undesirable influences which a purely foreign secular training is found to exercise. Colonel Holroyd, Director of Public Instruction in the Province, notices these movements in the report which he has just written. The Hindu movement is led by the Arya Samaj and essays the revival of the pure Vedic religion. The Sikhs have established an institution with objects similar to those the Mahomedan founders of the Aligarh Institute have in view. “The proposed institution,” says Colonel Holroyd, “whilst affording a liberal education suited to the spirit of the age, will supply religious instruction, foster the national sentiments, and do all that may be possible to keep alive the valuable characteristics

of the Sikh people, which seemed doomed to extinction in the absence of any decided effort for their preservation: as there is a strong tendency under existing conditions for the rising generation of Sikhs to become merged in the Hindu community by whom they are surrounded.” Another movement has been set on foot by the Pandits of Benares with the object of having school-text books purged of every thing likely to shake the belief of the Hindu students in their own national faith. All these signs point to a movement in the national mind which shows the strong conservatism of our people.

THE question has been raised in America, To whom does a fallen meteor belong? In the Forest City in Iowa, a meteor fell with a terrifying hissing followed by a fierce flame. The fragments were picked up by those who chanced to be present, and one of these was sold for 100 dollars. This raised the cupidity of the owner of the land whereon the meteor fell, and he claims the “find” as his. The matter has gone to Court.

THE Indian Congress began its sittings yesterday in Calcutta at the Tivoli Gardens. The Delegates who mustered some 1,400 strong were received by Mr. M. Ghose who, in giving them cordial greetings, entered upon a vigorous defence of the movement from the criticisms of its opponents. On the motion of Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, which was seconded in Urdu by a Mussulman nobody presumably hailing from the North-Western Provinces and supported by the Patriot of the South, Rao Sahib Anand Charlu Bahadoor, Mr. Pherozshah Mehta, the fixed Chairman, was beguiled to his throne. The Chairman's *role* was ably performed by Mr. Mehta, who delivered an address of striking ability, showing culture and a wide range of contemporary reading. He spoke with great moderation, and if he could not altogether get over the vein of an advocate, it was always subdued. With two finished speakers like Mr. Ghose and Mr. Mehta, yesterday's audience at the Congress numbering 4,000 with delegates and visitors had a sufficient oratorical treat. In the meantime, the zeal of the congressists has received a damper from the Bengal Government, which has issued a circular pointing out that the presence of Government officials even as visitors to the Congress is undesirable, while their taking part in the proceedings is absolutely prohibited. Sir Charles Elliott has shown if not the courage of his convictions, at least loyalty to the Government of India. The thing ought to have been done long since. Certainly, some effective test was needed to differentiate the Congress from an idle Mela or a mere debating club. To-day, Baboo Kali Charan Banerjea amused the gathering in the character of Jehu in charge of the omnibus Resolution carrying all the previous talk of the Congresswallas. The younger of the Ghose Brothers managed to wreck much of his English reputation. Of the English speakers, Mr. Caine failed to make any impression. Mr. Yule spoke some weighty words.

No end of public entertainments at Calcutta this season! There is no embargo on the Christmas holidays as on the Doorga Poojas, and Christmas is more than lively. The chief caterer is, of course, Mr. Miln. The latest arrival is Mr. Fillis with his circus and menagerie, comprising lions, elephants, camels, cheetahs, baboons, &c. Performing camels are a novelty in Calcutta, and Mr. Fillis comes with high credentials. So large and well-assorted a zoological collection was never before gathered in one company. His circus opens on Monday. Particulars will be found in the advertisement in another page.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 27, 1890.

### THE LATE ELECTIONS.

DISSATISFACTION is felt among the more sober and respectable classes at the results of the late municipal elections in the province. There are complaints of various kinds—of irregular attendance on the part of the polling officers—of wrongful force

exercised by candidates upon voters—of the employment of threats and corruption,—all leading to vitiate the results. The elections being over, the Magistrate might well claim some respite, but far from it. Petitions are pouring in from all quarters for setting aside such elections and ordering fresh ones. At Naihati, the interests of candidates are said to have been prejudiced by the elections of three different wards being conducted by one officer on the same day, necessitating the proceedings being prolonged till after dark. At South Barrackpore, an old Commissioner of Agurpara has been displaced owing to the late attendance of the polling officer—the Assistant Superintendent of Police. The same thing occurred in North Barrackpore, and for the same fault on the part of the same man, the likelier candidate has not only been defeated but his canvasser has been ordered to be criminally prosecuted. As to the merits of the new elected candidates, there is the same complaint almost everywhere. In Sukchar, in the South Barrackpore Municipality, the old Vice-Chairman has been defeated by an untried man—one Tarafdar. At Sooree, the popular Chairman yields his place to a shop-keeper. Old Commissioners have lost their place more or less as a rule, and if there are exceptions as at Bali, there are probably exceptional circumstances to account for them. The most striking case of the whole elections being monopolised by one family through the influence of *prestige* and a kind of feudal power took place at the Zemindary town of Uttarpara. A correspondent of the *Indian Daily News* writes of it :—

"Of the total number 12, eight new Commissioners have been elected. They almost all belong to one and the same family—the family of Abraham. The following is the genealogical table :—

- No. 1. Chairman.
- No. 2. Cousin. His father's second brother's son.
- No. 3. and 4. Two brothers, cousins. His father's youngest brother's sons.
- No. 5. Cousin. His father's sister's son.
- No. 6. Brother-in-law of No. 2, and is at present on leave, and will shortly rejoin his appointment at Chittagong.
- No. 7. Is a *hereditaire protégé*.
- No. 8. A servant's nephew.

A servant's servant.  
Servant, Madam.  
*Shakespeare."*

A parallel instance has occurred at Muktagacha, where five of the six elected seats have been carried by the Achariya Chowdhuries.

The candidates elected are generally raw and indifferently material. The qualifications of voters have been pitched too low and the more respectable voters having been swamped on former occasions by the unwashed, unkempt rabble, they are getting more and more indifferent in the matter. They can hardly be brought to attend the polling booth, and thus the field is left entirely to the ignorant people who little realize the importance of the power their franchise gives them. The evil is not a small one, and we look forward with great misgivings to the future of Local Self-Government under the election system as it is. An amendment of the law appears to be unavoidable, if a collapse is not courted. The qualification of voters must be raised, and that of candidates for election made distinct from that of voters as under the Calcutta Municipal Act. An educational qualification for the latter, if not for both, is also necessary. Other alterations are also called for, and we believe a desire for the revision of the rules of election is now visibly stirring the public mind. Our own information about the late elections is of the same character from all places. The better candi-

dates have been rejected in favor of those who stood on about the same social footing with the rank and file of the electors. The effect of this upon the better sort of men who had been induced on the present occasion by a regard for public interests to stand cannot but be to make them shun future candidature. A municipality, for instance, is in a bad way, and a re-cast of its *personnel* is required to arrest its degradation and give a higher moral tone to its management. With such end in view, men of knowledge and character had in some places been prevailed upon to stand—only to be defeated. Under the elective system framed as it is, their defeat is now surprising. The system is not without its recommendations. At any rate, it is the only check upon the abuses of a bureaucratic despotism or an alien autocracy. But its details are bad and the working worse, and it is having a continually deteriorating influence upon the electors. Men who headed the polls at previous elections now find the tables entirely turned. The explanation is easy. The voters want men with whom they can mix on equal terms of familiarity. They also find that their votes have a marketable value, and poor as they are, they see no reason why they should not turn them to account in these days of hard living. They find there are candidates ready not only to pay them but to flatter them—to make all sorts of promises of relief from taxation and other reliefs—and they say to themselves, why not give a trial to these in preference to others from whom they are always divided by a wide gulf of social distinction and who never stoop to those electioneering devices of which they have now got a relish. For the rest, the dignity of a Municipal Commissionership has been lowered. It could never enter into the heads of the voters at first that any body and every body might under the law be a Municipal Commissioner. They had always been accustomed to see the office filled only by the higher gentry. But the encroachment upon the sacred precincts of the Municipal Board in occasional instances in past years, has broken the spell, and they now go in for men of their own social status without fear or hesitation. These are principles of general application which have operated more or less in all the recent municipal elections. But especial causes were also at work to affect the elections in particular places. For instance in a manufacturing town near Calcutta there were two Factory Europeans among the candidates, and they carried away almost all the votes of the factory work people and of carters and porters. These votes were far from being freely given but were obtained by coercion. In an election contested under such circumstances, perhaps the defeated candidates are entitled to congratulation on their failure, for the lesser the votes, the greater must be one's credit for fairness. Where votes are given for a price or under force, their number must bear an inverse proportion to the real merit, or at any rate the honesty of the candidates. We have no objection to the Factory being represented adequately. It is the best paying holding and is entitled to an influential voice in the expenditure of the Municipal Fund. It is a pity, however, they take no interest in the work. In the last Board they never attended except when the Chairman had stuck in the mud and had to be pulled out of it and, that being done, they would retire from the meeting. They have got themselves in the new Board to do the same function, *viz.*, to prop up the same man's posi-



tion. There would not be much to blame in this either, if the person to whom they were so staunch were worthy of the support. His incapacity is a matter of general notoriety in the town and yet the admiration of these Europeans continues unabated. Were this not the case, we would regard their return by election or by nomination with pleasure. Europeans, whatever their deficiencies, soon make them up and improve with their position. We would even like the idea of their occupying positions of command in the municipality, but unhappily, as things are, their connection is as blighting an influence as that of their idol. This is however far from being an exceptional case. It is coercion of one kind here—while at other places, as at Utterpara, it is of another. We think some legal remedy should be provided for it. The evil is too great to be met merely by the appointment of Commissioners reserved in the hands of Government as an antidote to the vagaries of that fickle instrument—Election.

We have dwelt at such length on the subject to show the imperative necessity of correcting the effects of election by the Government nominations, so far as it may be possible to do so by that means.

#### THE DRAMA IN CALCUTTA.

WE are once more fortunate in having, even though for a brief season, a theatre of the higher drama among us. We have now at the Corinthian a company able to represent with fidelity and force the grand old Elizabethan plays. Mr. George Miln, the leader of this histrionic band, is an actor of a calibre rare in any country, one who, under the auspices of a liberal and intelligent lessee, might contest the highest honours of the profession in any capital. He has, to begin with, all the prime physical requirements of a tragedian, bone and sinew, muscle, nerve, wind, in a stately figure. Bating the slightest occasional disposition to rant, he is a powerful declaimer. His is no declamation of an attitudinising elocutionist, but the delivery of a real character—a hero in fact—who suits his voice to the action, and his action to the dramatic situation. He is at the head of a good company with some actors and actresses of considerable pretensions and distinct promise. He is a careful manager too. It is difficult in a place like Calcutta, which has had no Shakespearean representation for many years, to present the plays of the great dramatist with accuracy of external details and the required accessories, so as to produce the full illusion. Mr. Miln has done his best to overcome the disadvantages of what in the domain of the liberal arts, is a provincial capital at best. His *début* was somewhat of a disappointment on this head. Since then he wisely thought fit not to depend entirely on the "properties" of the place of amusement selected by him. He has had new scenes painted. And now he is giving performances which no man or woman of any pretensions to culture ought to miss. To the educated members of native society who inherit and cherish the cultured tastes of their predecessors, caught from the teaching and example of the Anglo-Indian critics, connoisseurs and amateurs of other days—the Horace Hayman Wilsons, Charles Trevelyan, Macaulays, Parkers, Stocquellers, Richardsons, Torrenses, Humes, Bellevs—specially those who do not expect to visit London, New York, Boston, San Francisco or Melbourne—this company is a godsend. To Indian students in particular who are studying English literature and European history and manners, this is an opportunity for easily picking up the most valuable knowledge, an opportunity which they would be culpable to neglect. Years of attendance in the class room and of plodding through endless commentaries, one conflicting with another, and at lifeless notes, which usually shirk the real difficulties, cannot give the vivid impression—the true understanding—that the dramatic spectacle will impart.

On Tuesday, they played for the third time the Merchant of Venice with eminent success. The house appears to have been ill kept and it has not been properly cleaned and washed for such high class entertainments and elegant society. In consequence, the lighting

loses half its effect, with a tendency to make darkness visible. But the get-up on the stage was good. When the curtain disclosed the 3rd scene in Act I., with the canal and the bridge in the distance under a Southern sky, one seemed transported to Venice. The Court of Justice was good too. Jessica was a dainty little Jewess, in appropriate costume. But the other women were dressed like modern Europeans. Above all, Portia as the Doctor of Law was not sufficiently disguised. The intrusion of the white tunic through the long black gown too rudely suggested the prominence of an interesting limb of the softer sex for the illusion sought to be created. But Shylock was most tastefully done up, in accordance with the actor's conception of the character. It is a noble figure, weighted with years and their mellowing grace, not weighed down by age and its cares and infirmities. Whether "this was the Jew that Shakespeare drew" or "mighty" Marlowe conceived (in his Jew of Malta,) he was a true Mediterranean Hebrew. With his delicate curls he looked like an ancestor of the Disraelis who came from Southern Europe. It thus goes without saying that Mr. Miln follows Kean. How different Herr Bandmann's miserable stooping old wretch, bowing and cringing! Far be it from us to detract from the honour of that great personation. But, without doubt, the Kean exhibition of Shylock, like the Coleridge view of Othello, is the more pleasant and perhaps better worthy of the Poet. And it was presented to perfection. Mr. Miln's Shylock is a masterpiece of acting such as we do not hope to see rivalled—at any rate within our opportunities. The great speech expressive of the identity of Jew and Gentile and, we may in this country add, of Asiatic and European, of Christian and Hindu or Mussulman, was delivered with burning incisiveness. The Jew's conduct in Court as the champion of the strict letter of the law was truly remarkable. Portia, we must confess, was rather disappointing in the earlier scenes. Indeed, we hardly wonder if she failed in the difficult prose dialogue at the beginning (Act I., Scene 2.) Such laboured stuff as "If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do" and the rest of it was inexpressibly tedious in the delivery. She was more in her element in the verse. Her voice seemed unequal to the demand. However she improved as the action proceeded, and at last agreeably surprised all with some good speaking and acting.

Yesterday, before a fairly filled house, Mr. Miln gave his second performance of Macbeth. The chief rôle was of course filled by Mr. Miln who as the Thane of Cawdor surpassed himself. His success was simply unprecedented—in Calcutta, at any rate, in this generation. His conception of the character of the hero does not differ in the main from the one play-goers and students are familiar with, but, as in other plays, he departs in some of the details, and his original touches were highly striking. From beginning to end, his acting was superb. The passion of Macbeth was vividly represented. How a brave simple but superstitious mind was first stirred to ambition by the prediction of a triad of witches, how the agitation was kept up by the unnatural woman his wife, until he reluctantly consented to kill his kinsman and master the King, who was so kind to him, while a guest under his own roof, how he shrank from the deep damnation of the deed and was goaded to it by his serpent Eve, and all the ulterior consequences on his feelings, life and fortunes were brought out as distinctly and delicately as the most exacting taste could wish.

The audience was kept spell-bound throughout by the wizard. Step by step the interest of the business advanced till a tremendous effect was reached. At every speech and each change of colour, we thought we saw through the heart of the brave good man going to the bad and sinking deeper and deeper in the mire. If we might venture on a suggestion to so profound a meditator on the creations of Shakespeare, we should say that in his rendering Macbeth and his Lady were too loud after the murder when common caution required silence. The courtiers at the banquet too seemed paralysed even before the self-detection of the usurper. But these, if anything, are mere spots in the sun. Miss Kate Douglas as Lady Macbeth was a surprise of high excellence. In fact, this was the play that was best acted all round. All the characters were well rendered. Mr. Harry Hill as Duncan was truly kinglike. Mr. J. B. Atholwood was an appropriate Banquo. Above all, Mr. W. J. Montgomery's Macduff was an important part exceptionally well rendered.

## Public Papers.

## DEFAMATION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

No. 30Pub./1678, dated Simla, the 5th September 1890.

From---C. J. Lyall, Esq., C.I.E., Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

To---The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In a General Order of the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 15th March 1847, it was laid down that a Government officer is at liberty, if his public conduct in the transaction of his official duties is impugned, "to seek redress through the usual official channel by an appeal to the Government he serves, and that the Government so appealed to will afford him every opportunity of vindicating his character." Though the matter has since that date been dealt with in a confidential paper, no subsequent orders regulating the course to be followed by Government officers for the vindication of their acts as public functionaries have been generally circulated, and the result is that the practice in this respect is not uniform in all Provinces. The Governor-General in Council therefore deems it desirable to prescribe the procedure which should be generally observed in future. I am accordingly to convey the following instructions, with the request that their purport may, with the permission of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, be conveyed to the officers serving in the different branches of the administration in Bengal.

2. It is a standing order that, without obtaining the authorization of the Government to which he is immediately subordinate, no officer of Government is permitted to have recourse to the Courts for the vindication of his public acts, or of his character as a public functionary, from defamatory attacks. In giving authority to institute proceedings, the Local Government concerned will decide whether the circumstances of the case are such that the Government should bear the costs of the proceedings, civil or criminal, or leave the officer to institute the prosecution or suit at his own expense; and in the latter case it will also determine, in the event of the matter being decided by the Courts in the officer's favour, whether he should be recouped by Government the whole or any part of the costs of the action.

3. I am to explain that the ruling above laid down does not affect an officer's right to defend his private dealings or behaviour in any way that he may be advised; but his official reputation is in the charge of the Government which he serves, and it is for that Government to decide in each case whether the institution of proceedings to vindicate his public acts or character is necessary or expedient.

## NATIVE PASSENGER SHIPS.

No. 4940.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

STATISTICS AND COMMERCE.

## RESOLUTION.

Simla, the 16th October 1890.

Read the correspondence mentioned below raising certain questions connected with the working of the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887 :---

I.---Regarding the treatment of vessels with three decks (between-deck, main deck, and upper or shade deck), the number of passengers to be carried by such vessels, and the allotment of space in vessels carrying native passengers :

From the Government of Bengal, No. 830 (Marine), dated the 25th March 1890, and enclosures.

To the Government of Bengal, No. 1782, dated the 15th April 1890.

From the Government of Bengal, No. 1386 (Marine), dated the 26th May 1890, and enclosures.

From the Government of Bengal, No. 2317, dated the 29th August 1890.

Proceedings of the Government of Madras, No. 300---1, dated the 12th August 1890.

From the Government of Madras, No. 336, dated the 16th September 1890.

II.---Regarding the provision of medical officers on board native passenger ships carrying large numbers of passengers :

From the Government of Madras, No. 33, dated the 28th January 1889, and Nos. 104 and 105, dated the 19th March 1889.

To the Governments of Bombay and Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Burma, No. 1151, dated the 6th March 1889.

From the Chief Commissioner of Burma, No. 125---22-M.S., dated the 7th May 1889.

From the Government of Bombay, No. 3257, dated the 13th August 1889, and No. 2523, dated the 28th June 1889.

From the Government of Bengal, No. 2168, dated the 21st September 1889.

From the Government of Bengal, No. 1047, dated the 23rd April 1890.

III.---Proposals made by the local authorities in Bombay arising out of the foundering of the S.S. *Vaitarna* in November 1888 :

Report of the Court of Enquiry, dated the 13th December 1888.

Report of the Port Officer of Bombay, dated the 2nd February 1889.

To the Government of Bombay, No. 1578 dated the 25th March 1889.

From the Government of Bombay, No. 3214 dated the 9th August 1889.

From the Government of Bombay, No. 2383, dated the 16th June 1890, and enclosures, and No. 2657, dated the 15th July 1890.

IV.---Regarding the provision of life-saving appliances on native passenger ships :

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No. 8 (Statistics), dated the 23rd January 1890.

To the local Maritime Governments, No. 986, dated the 26th February 1890.

From the Government of Madras, No. 159, dated the 25th April 1890.

From the Government of Bengal, No. 117-T., dated the 11th July 1890.

From the Chief Commissioner of Burma, No. 362---27-M.S., dated the 14th July 1890, and enclosures.

From the Government of Bombay, No. 206, dated the 30th August 1890, and enclosures.

RESOLUTION.---The question raised by the Government of Bengal in the correspondence included under the first of the heads mentioned above extends over a wider range than the treatment of three-decked vessels of the type described. That question may be thus stated : Vessels with a lower deck (between-deck) and upper deck (poop and main decks) have been altered by running a covering (or shade deck) over the main deck, and shutters have been attached to the sides of the main deck for the purpose, as stated by the owners, of sheltering the passengers on that deck in rough weather. As the vessels stood originally, the main deck was an upper deck, and the owners contended that the attachment of shutters to it made no material difference, and that they should be allowed to continue to treat it as an upper deck, the shade deck being regarded as an additional upper deck.

2. The Government of Bengal considered that this contention was inadmissible, and that the closing in of the sides with shutters practically converted the main deck into a between-deck. Thus whereas the owners claimed that such a vessel should be treated as one with two upper decks and one between-deck, the Government of Bengal ordered that it should be treated as a vessel with one upper deck and two between-decks.

3. The order in the case issued by the Government of Bengal was withdrawn on the advice of the Advocate-General that it was not legally competent for the local Government to issue such an order under the terms of the Native Passenger Ships Act. The case is now referred for decision by the Government of India, and in referring it the Government of Bengal expresses the opinion that, if the main deck and the shade deck are both treated as upper decks, the vessels will be able to carry more passengers than they should be allowed to carry; that, in fact, the law and the rules now in force permit of the carriage of an excessive number of passengers; and that they should be amended in such manner as to provide more space for passengers carried on each deck.

4. The questions thus raised are of the first importance alike to the owners of the vessels engaged in this extensive trade and to the Government whose duty it is to require that suitable provision shall be made for the safety and reasonable comfort of native passengers. As regards the classification of the main deck, the Government of Madras has already given a decision contrary to the decision proposed by the Government of Bengal, and such a large proportion of the native passenger traffic is carried on from and to Madras ports that the opinion of the Government of that Presidency is entitled to great consideration in all matters affecting the traffic. Only the Government of Bengal has as yet complained that the law and rules as to the allotment of space permit overcrowding.

5. The question of the treatment of a main deck when covered by a roof and closed at the sides can only be decided after actual investigation of the facts and conditions. Is it the fact that the attachment of shutters deprives the passengers on the main deck of light and air to such an extent as practically to make that deck a between-deck, and to require that additional space on the awning deck should be allotted to the main deck passengers? Or, on the other hand, do the shutters merely improve the conditions of the main deck, giving the passengers additional shelter while they retain all the advantages of an upper deck? The question has given rise to so much controversy between the Government of Bengal and

the managing agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company that it is expedient that it should be fully investigated by competent and impartial authorities. His Excellency in Council has accordingly come to the conclusion that the most satisfactory way of dealing with the two questions in issue will be to refer them to a special Commission of Enquiry for consideration. It is proposed that the Commission should consist of a member or members to be nominated by each of the local Governments which are concerned with the native passenger traffic, namely, the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal, and the Chief Commissioner of Burma. With them should be associated three or four non-official members, representatives of the large shipping companies identified with the same traffic. These companies have their head-quarters at Calcutta and Bombay respectively, and the Chamber of Commerce of each city should be invited to nominate the gentlemen whom it considers most representative of the interests concerned. The Commission will be presided over by Surgeon-Major A. S. Lethbridge, M.D., C.S.I., Inspector-General of Jails in Bengal.

6. The Commission will enquire into the facts at such ports as it considers necessary, and will invite and receive evidence from witnesses. It will probably not be necessary that the non-official members of the Commission should travel with the Commission to any places outside the limits of the Presidency in which they are nominated, but the same facilities for doing so should be given to them as will be given to the official members if they wish to accompany the Commission on its tour. The President will decide, in communication with each local Government, whether or not it will be necessary for any local official member to travel beyond the limits of the administration by which he is nominated.

7. The Commission, after making all needful local enquiries, will return to Calcutta, where it will hear such further evidence as may be placed before it, and settle its report for presentation to Government.

8. The Governor-General in Council considers that it is expedient to take advantage of the appointment of a Commission to refer to it for consideration the other questions touching the operation of the Native Passenger Ships Act which are now before the Government of India.

Of these, the first is a proposal to require the attendance of a medical officer on board native passenger ships. This proposal has been more than once pressed on the Government of India, but has been set aside on the grounds that a medical officer is not required for the passenger traffic beyond Indian limits, this being quite trifling except in regard to pilgrims and emigrants, for which classes the law requires the appointment of a medical officer; and that for passenger traffic within Indian limits there is no real need of a medical officer, the longest voyages being between the Madras and Burman coasts, occupying more than five days only at certain seasons of the year. Most of the traffic is conducted on what are termed in the Act "short voyages," being voyages of not greater duration than 120 hours, and will be seen from the table appended to this Resolution. The Government of Madras now proposes that a medical officer should be required on every vessel, irrespective of the duration of the voyage, when the number of passengers carried exceeds 200; the Chief Commissioner of Burma would require one only on a long voyage when the vessel carries more than 300 passengers; the Government of Bombay would also require one only on a long voyage, but would fix the minimum number of passengers at 100; and the Government of Bengal proposes that a medical officer should be required on every vessel proceeding on a voyage of greater duration than 48 hours, irrespective of the number of passengers.

It will be left to the Commission to endeavour to reconcile these conflicting proposals, and make a recommendation which shall be acceptable alike to the Government and the carrying Companies.

It should consider whether a medical officer is required or not; if required, what class of medical officer should be employed, and in what classes of vessels.

9. With these three questions the Commission may also expediently consider the other less important questions raised in the correspondence. These are (1) whether the passenger space in the between-decks of a vessel should be divided by a rail or rope in order to prevent such a calamity as occurred on board the steamer *Bhandra* when a number of passengers were killed and wounded by being hurled from side to side of the vessel as she rolled heavily in the trough of the sea; (2) whether a luggage rack should be required in such spaces, the space so assigned for luggage to be deducted from the space measured for passengers; (3) whether boats and life-saving appliances should be required in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Trade for passenger vessels; and, if not, whether any, and what, modifications are required in the existing rules. The suggestions of the Port Officer of Bombay made in connection with the foundering of the *Vesta* may also be considered.

10. The Commission will also enquire into any other cognate matters that may be brought before it, or which it may itself consider proper to be examined. In dealing with all these questions, the Commission will bear in mind that the Government is not desirous of imposing on the traffic any restriction which is not essentially required to secure for the passengers the minimum space and quality of accommodation which are necessary for comfort, health, and safety, or which will involve increased expenditure in the form of higher fares in excess of the means of the persons who ordinarily use the vessels in question.

11. On intimation from the local Governments and the Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta and Bombay of the names of the gentlemen whom they propose to serve on the Commission, it will be formally constituted.

## FORMATION OF THE COMMISSION.

No. 5605.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

### RESOLUTION.

Calcutta, the 29th November 1890.

Read---Resolution No. 4940, dated the 16th October 1890.

RESOLUTION.---In the Resolution read above, the Governor General in Council decided to appoint a Special Commission to consider and report on certain questions which have arisen in connection with the working of the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887. His Excellency in Council is now pleased to direct that the Commission, to be styled "The Native Passenger Ships Commission," be constituted as follows:---

President:

SURGEON-MAJOR A. S. LETHBRIDGE, M. D., C. S. I.

Members:

W. B. Bestic, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Marine Department.

Surgeon-Major D. W. D. Comins, Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta.

James L. Mackay, Esq., of Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co. (British India Steam Navigation Company).

Captain H. A. Street, H. M. I. M., Presidency Port Officer, Madras.

H. B. H. Turner, Esq., of Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co. (Asiatic Steam Navigation Company).

H. W. Uloth, Esq., Superintendent, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Captain G. Wilson, H. M. I. M., Port Officer, Rangoon.

A Member to be nominated by the Government of Bombay.

## FILLIS' CIRCUS.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

FILLIS' CIRCUS & MENAGERIE,  
COMPRISING

Performing Lions, Elephants, Camels,  
Cheetahs, Baboons, &c.,

ARRIVED ON THE 26TH DECEMBER,  
AND

Will open on the 29th.

A Magnificent Stud of over Forty  
Horses and Ponies.

THIRTY-FIVE LADY AND GENTLE-  
MAN ARTISTES,

From the best European Establishments.

FILLIS' GREAT CIRCUS arrived in Calcutta on Friday, December 26th, and perform in the Magnificent Tent erected on the Maidan,

Monday, December 29th. The Magnificent Stud of Horses and Ponies will be on view during the interval in the stables erected on the ground, and lighted throughout with the Electric Light. Also the Lions, Elephants, Cheetahs, Baboons, &c., in a house built expressly for them, and lighted by Electricity.

FILLIS' Combination has been universally acknowledged to be one of the finest Circus Companies it is possible to get together. The troupe made a triumphal entry into the town on the day of their arrival.

The following letter was received by Mr. Fillis from Major-General W. C. Durham Massy, C.B., Commanding the troops in Ceylon:--

"Colombo, 10th December, 1890.

SIR,—

I am sorry I am prevented by circumstances from acceding to your request, but your entertainment is so popular and successful that it requires no one's special permission.

I have been twice to see it, and consider it the best Circus I have ever seen out of Europe.

Yours faithfully,

(SIGNED) DURHAM MASSY,  
Major-General.

To

MR. F. E. FILLIS."

### Prices of Admission.

Boxes, containing 4, 6, & 8 chairs, Rs. 4 per chair. Stalls, Rs. 3. Reserve Stalls, Rs. 2. First Second Class, Rs. 1. Children, 1/2 Adult.

Monday, December 29th.

Box plan at the Circus Office on the Maidan. Carriages to be ordered at half past three.







"IT RECOMMENDS ITSELF."  
All who suffer find sure relief from

### LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM



#### The Greatest Pain Cure Extant.

It has driven out from the system. **Acute Rheumatism and Rheumatic Gout**, after years of semi-helplessness and suffering; while in **ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, FACEACHE, SPRAINS**, it is the surest and safest remedy in their severest and most

in affording instantaneous relief in **Neuralgia in the Head, Face and Limbs**, almost too numerous for **CREDENCE**. It is also subject to **HEADACHES** and the **TOOTHACHE**, and its application

its effect is so rapid and its use so generally recommended

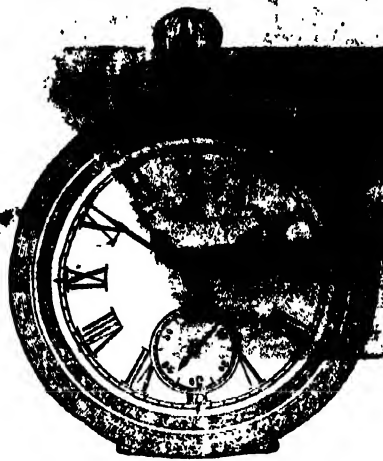
#### Marvellous Sore Throat Cure.

This wonderful Medicine and let the world for itself. **Little's Oriental Balm** is used by the best Physicians in the world in their practice. It has pronounced a blessing in thousands of its intrinsic virtue, it has achieved a popularity which no similar preparation has ever before attained.

Sold in Bottles at 7 Re. each

### Cheapest and Perfect Time Keeping Watch in the World.

All our Watches Guaranteed for 2 years.  
**PRICE RS. 6-8.**



A strong accurate Keyless open-face Watch in nickel silver case.

Runs 30 Hours with one winding, short wind, Regulated to a minute a month. Bold hands and figures, enameled dial, sunk second hand, set from outside. It has a jewelled visible compact escapement. Can be repaired by any watch-maker for a trifle. Is a thoroughly reliable Machine-made Watch, in velvet lined spring case.

Do. Do. Ladies' Wrist Watch. Price... 8 8  
Do. Gent's Lever movement, fully jewelled Chronometer balance to prevent variation in extremes of temperature. Price ... 13 0  
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#### Chain.

White Metal Albert Chains, standing acid. Of all Patterns ... 1 4  
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### Rivers Steam Navigation Co. Limited.

This Company's Steamer "SCINDE" will leave Calcutta for Assam on Tuesday the 30th instant.

For further particulars apply to the above vessel.

and

#### DAILY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE FROM DHUBRI TO DEBROOGHUR.

A daily service is maintained from Goalundo and Dhubri for passengers and light goods traffic, i. e., packages not weighing over half a ton. The steamer leaves Goalundo on arrival of the previous night's 9-30 P. M. train (Madras time) from Sealdah, and Dhubri on arrival of the mails.

Goods Upward or Downward from and to almost all stations can be booked through from or to Calcutta via Goalundo or Kannia with the Eastern Bengal State and connected Railways—Passengers and Parcels via Kannia only.

All particulars as to rates of freight and passage by all the above mentioned Services to be had on application to—

**MACNEILL & CO.**

Agents,

1-2, Clive Ghat Street.

Calcutta, the 24th December, 1890.

**REIS & RAYYET**  
(PRINCE AND PEASANT)











8.10.53